

# Recommendations for small houses



*Some free-range systems have 1 or several small houses (< 150m<sup>2</sup>) on the range. Due to the size of these houses, it may not be possible to use the method described previously in these guidelines*



## 1. Questionnaire

› **Only 1 house:** No change. Refer to p.2 (questionnaire) of the broilers form.

› **2 or more houses:** take care to add up the dimensions (width and length) of all houses reachable by the broilers. Also add up the dimensions of all equipments (eg. feeders, drinkers).



## 2. Animal behaviour assessment

As the houses are small, it may not be possible to define 3 different observation zones inside.

› **Only 1 house:** Observe at least 1 zone inside the house, and the other zones on the range.

› **2 houses:** Observe at least 1 zone inside each house, and the last zone on the range.

› **3 or more houses:** Randomly select 3 different houses. Each house is considered as a zone for behavioural observations.

*For detailed information, please refer to p. 3 (animal behaviour assessment) of the broilers form. If possible, do not enter to observe the animals inside the house (not to disturb the birds).*



## 3. Health assessment

As the houses are small, it is not possible to perform the transect walk but adapted sampling is proposed below:

› **Only 1 house:** On the app, the first transect width is equal to the house width and all birds inside must be observed. The second transect width is equal to 0 and no observation has to be carried out.

› **2 houses or more houses:** Randomly select 2 different houses. Each transect width is equal to each house width. Observe all the birds in each house.

In each house, walk slowly inside and gently push birds that do not move to assess their health status. Make sure to observe all the birds in the predefined houses to record each health issue.

*Vocabulary: 1 transect is considered as 1 house.*

*For detailed information, please refer to p.4 (assessment of health information) of the broilers form.*



## 4. Behavioural assessment on the range

No change. Refer to p.5bis and p.6bis (behavioural assessment on the range) of the broilers form.