



## APPENDIX 8 DEAD BIRD COMPOSTING

**Objective: to eliminate as much as possible infection or contamination spreading between sheds and between batches due to dead bird disposal**

Composting is the aerobic microbial breakdown of organic matter, usually incorporating a thermophilic phase<sup>2</sup>. The adoption of composting systems for poultry waste has received attention due to its ability to reduce litter volume, dispose of carcasses, stabilise nutrients and trace elements and reduce pathogens.

1. Rodents, cats, dogs, feral animals, scavenging birds and flies must be kept away from composting carcasses.
2. Composting areas must be away from sheds and boundary fences.
3. Composting area must be kept neat and clean at all times.
4. Cleaning and disinfection of equipment such as bins, buckets and wheelbarrows must be done before returning them to the production areas and when moving between sheds.
5. Adequate instructions/guidelines for safe composting must be available.

---

<sup>2</sup> Thermophilic phase—a phase during which there is a temperature rise in the compost sufficient to inactivate pathogenic micro-organisms