



**15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
**1994 - 2009**

**RSPCA: Freedom Food**

**Website:**

<http://www.rspca.org.uk/servlet/Satellite?pagename=RSPCA/FreedomFood/FreedomFoodHomepage>

**Based in:** United Kingdom

**Type:** Standard Setting Body\*; **NGO/Nonprofit**  
(\*Focused on Animal Welfare)

**Certification process:** Producers submit an application, which is followed by an audit completed by an assessor. The assessor's report is returned to Freedom Food's certification panel, which makes the final decision regarding certification.

**From the Freedom Food website:** "Freedom Food is a farm assurance and food labeling scheme set up by the RSPCA in 19694 to improve farm animal welfare and to address growing consumer demand for higher welfare produce."

**What they certify:**

- |                         |                        |        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| • Beef and Dairy Cattle | Laying Hens            | Sheep  |
| • Broiler Chickens      | Pigs                   | Turkey |
| • Ducks                 | Farmed Atlantic Salmon |        |

**Certifying aquaculture products since:** Unknown

**Aquaculture standards overview:**

The focus of Freedom Food's standards is animal welfare. Each standard has been made to uphold fish welfare, rather than sustainable or organic practices. However, best practices for animal welfare are often best practices for the environment, so these standards provide beneficial requirements in other categories as well. For example, extra care for surrounding ecosystems must be taken to avoid harming other species that deserve the same quality of life.

- **Therapeutants:** medications must not be used prophylactically; therapeutants permitted when necessary, but nonchemical methods are preferred
- **Water Quality:** precise requirements for water quality, especially during early stages; high water quality is a major priority; frequent monitoring required
- **Antifoulants:** nets must not be biofouled; no mention of antifoulants
- **Feed:** feed and feeding methods must be appropriate for species
- **Hormones & Growth Stimulants:** feed containing growth hormones is not permitted
- **Stocking Density:** **10-12kg/m<sup>3</sup>max** in fresh water enclosures; **15-17kg/m<sup>3</sup>max** in seawater enclosures

**Miscellaneous information:** Freedom Food Salmon Standards are very extensive and provide guidelines for humane treatment at every stage of life from egg to slaughter.