

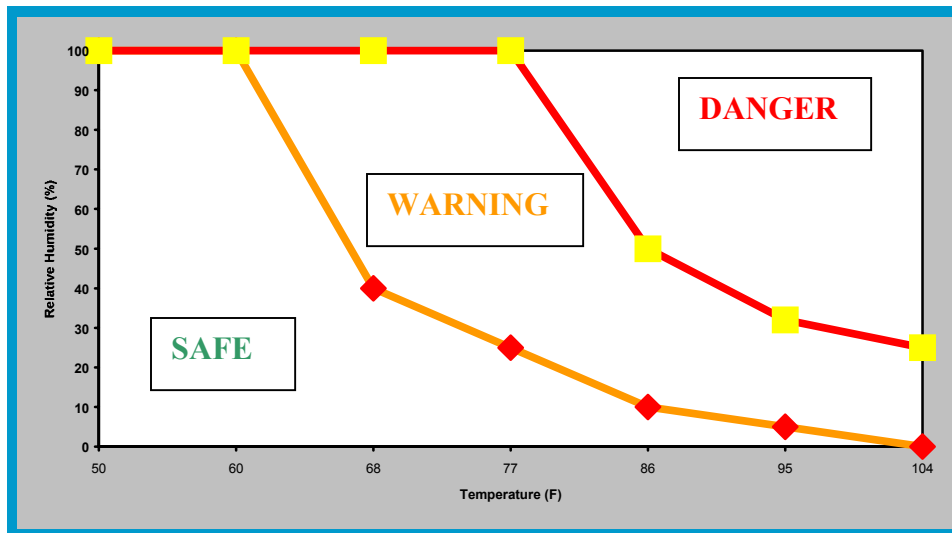


Worthwhile Operational Guidelines & Suggestions

BROILER PROCESSING TIMELY INFORMATION - MARCH 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL DURING PLANT HOLDING

Regardless of the transportation system used (i.e., coops, cages or drawers), each plant should have a written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for holding broilers in the plant, prior to processing. This is extremely critical from an economical (live weight shrink, downgrading, and DOA's), as well as from animal welfare standpoints. Holding sheds should be designed and constructed to totally shield the birds from the sun and extremes in weather (cold, rain and wind); should have high enough or sloped ceilings prevent trapping of hot air in summer months; should be equipped with effective ventilation capacity and high pressure fogging systems to cool the birds down. The SOP's



then will outline the operational guidelines to maintain bird comfort during pre-slaughter holding. Birds can die from both hypothermia and hyperthermia. However, as illustrated above, it is the combination of high temperatures and high relative humidity that creates the most serious and potentially lethal conditions for market age poultry.



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