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AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POULTRY SCIENCE



# WORTHWHILE OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES & SUGGESTIONS

## Global Animal Partnership – Broiler Stunning Systems

Global Animal Partnership, often referred to as GAP, is a non-profit organization with a stated purpose of improving farm animal welfare. Currently, there are 85 companies that have committed to only purchase meat from chickens raised under GAP standards by 2024. What does this mean for broiler stunning systems?

GAP Slaughter Requirements	
10.1.1	All animals must be stunned and rendered insensible prior to slaughter.
10.1.2	Current annual third party animal welfare audit with a minimum score of 90% and pass all core criteria listed below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. At least 99% of the chickens must be properly stunned (on a sample of 300);</li><li>2. No more than 1% broken or dislocated wings;</li><li>3. If hung live, both legs must be shackled (1 in 500 is a failure);</li><li>4. No broken legs (1 broken leg in 500 is a failure);</li><li>5. No more than 1% bruised thighs and drumsticks;</li><li>6. No live chickens entering the scalders.</li></ol> Any bird found with a broken leg or wing should be euthanized immediately, rather than shackled.
10.1.3	Chickens that are dead-on-arrival (DOA) must not exceed 0.5%.

Table adapted from GAP 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Chickens Raised for Meat v3.0

Required broiler stunning system types are not currently specified within the latest version of GAP standards, so both electrical and controlled atmosphere stunning (CAS) systems are appropriate for use. However, all 85 companies listed as committing to GAP by 2024 have also publically stated commitments to obtain product from birds that have been processed utilizing controlled atmosphere stunning. Although controlled atmosphere stunning is not required for GAP certification, there appears an association between GAP and CAS commitments.



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