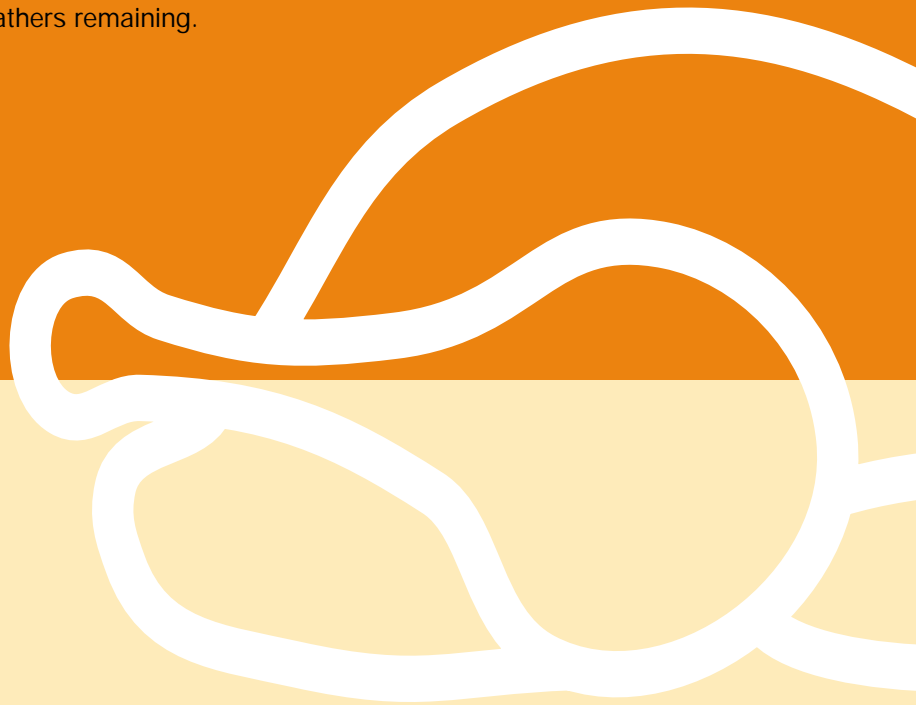


Duck –

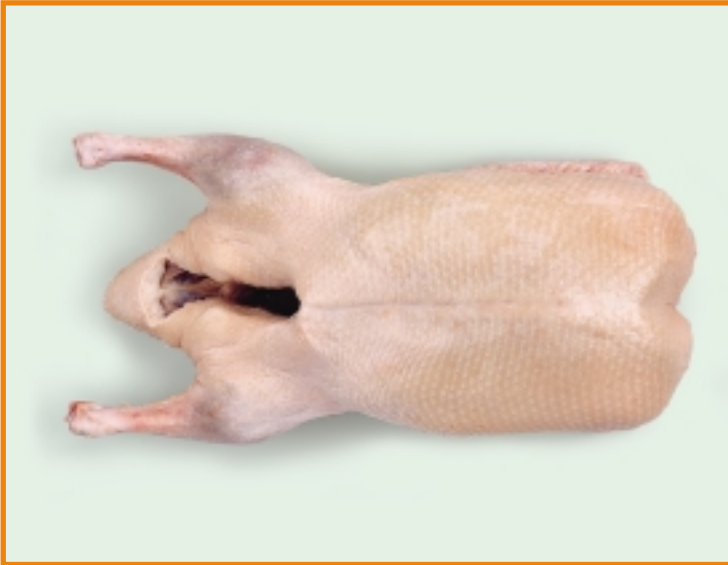
Anas platyrhynchos dom., Cairina muschata

<i>Terms</i>	<i>Definition</i>
Young ducks or duckling, young Muscovy duck	Bird in which the tip of the sternum is flexible (not ossified)
Duck, Muscovy duck, Mulard duck	Bird in which the tip of the sternum is rigid (ossified)

Ducks are waterfowl, and as such have a layer of down feather lying below the upper surface of contour feathers. This double layer of feathers is designed to be water repellent. Ducks also moult at about the time that they are normally ready for slaughter. The combination of these factors means high scald temperatures, vigorous mechanical plucking and the use of wax dips are all necessary. Outer contour feathers will be completely removed, but there may be a small amount of down feathers remaining.



Class A



Class A – Conformation of the whole bird is good. The carcass should be broadly symmetrical, with well-developed breast and fleshy legs. Ducks tend to have a 'creamy' coloured breast due to the layer of fat under the skin surface.

Class A

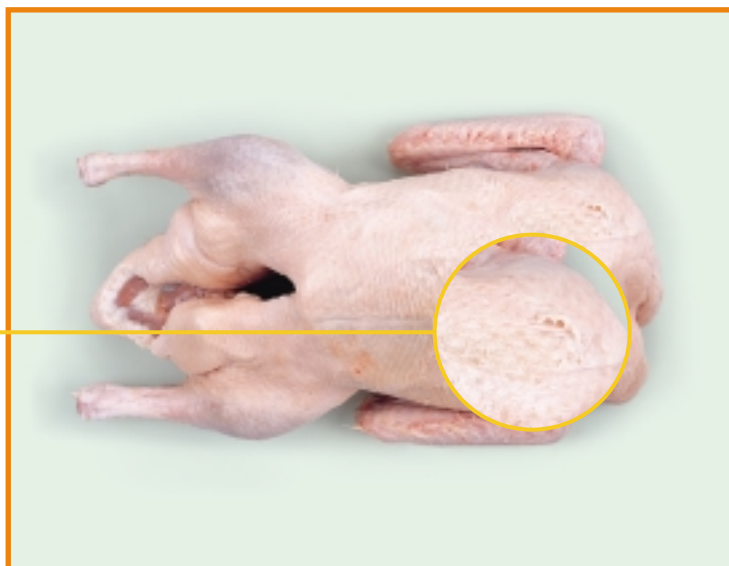


Class A – Some reddening of the breast is permissible, as shown in this example.

Class A

Class A – Harsh plucking practise results in complete removal of the epidermis and some abrasion of the fatty dermal layer, although this should not penetrate through to the flesh.

This is the maximum level of skin damage acceptable.



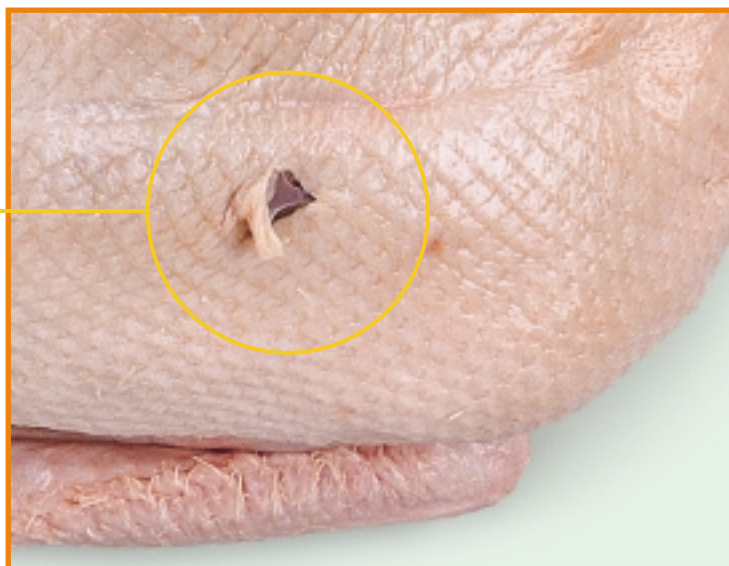
Class A

Class A – This example shows the maximum number of feather stubs for a duck carcass.



Grading failure

Ungraded – This is unacceptable, the skin is damaged and the flesh visible.



Class A



Class A – Wing – This is a good example of a Class A wing.

Class A



Class A – Some reddening of the skin on the wings is acceptable.

Class A

Class A – This is an excellent example of a Class A leg.



Class A

Class A – This example would be on the borderline between Class A and B



Grading failure

Ungraded – Large and/or deep bruises as illustrated here are unacceptable on either Class A or B birds.

