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Handbook On Design Of Poultry Slaughterhouse – Preface

APTEC Technology Consulting is located at 282, Divine Grace (POSAS), Omega 1, Greater Noida 201310A, U.P India.

This name and APTEC are the registered property of Alok's Poultry Technology Private Limited.

Telefax +91 120-4251620 Mob +919811049914 Website <http://apteec.in> e-mail rajalok@gmail.com, alok@apteec.in

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Preface

When we first thought of writing a handbook, we asked ourselves “Who reads handbooks? And if they do, how do they read them?” In the past we have ourselves referred to numerous handbooks, both from our virtual library and bookshelves and concluded that they share two essential qualities. The first is that you may indeed arrive at obscure and unexpected facts on the subject if you are diligent and tenacious. To do so, you must flip through the table of contents, index, glossary of terms and footnotes, only to discover that many of the facts may be outdated. The second is that most of them are written in an eminently unreadable style!

But flipping through so many disciplines and fields is exactly what **Google** does, more efficiently, as it wades through the greatest handbook ever created – the **internet**. And it throws up the latest facts – only requiring you to authenticate your findings. Does that then make handbooks in the familiar formats obsolete? Perhaps not. Because the same Google also displays endless lists of new **across-disciplines-handbooks** that were published in recent times. They are about more and more specialized fields. And because they cover matter across several disciplines that may be so rare and obscure that one could hardly imagine people in the whole world interested enough to invest in the high price tags they display. Yet several thousand obviously do!

Surely, the entrepreneur, manager, veterinarian and odd consultant interested in the mundane field of slaughter of animals for commercial ends can hardly be interested in purchasing such handbooks. Yet we have learnt through a quarter century of work in this field, that though it may be mundane; responsible planning, management, operation and troubleshooting in this field also requires a multi-disciplinary approach.

Can planners, managers, operators and consultants in this field be expected to plod through dry, and uninteresting text? Very unlikely! For this audience, a suitable handbook ought to be free-to-download and easy to read, grasp and retain. More like a narrative than a work of reference.

So it was that we developed our own special narrative style for our handbook. Something that could reside in laptops, ready to be perused like an easy-to-read story in airport lounges, in flights, at moments of leisure and the facts retained in memory because they were always presented in the form of anecdotes or familiar examples.

This then is our handbook. It will be uploaded, chapter by chapter, over this calendar year. Each upload will carry a date of compilation and revision. So every time you download, all the latest revised chapters will be received in your laptop.

We also noted that the A4 format chosen for the handbook does not do justice to the large engineering drawings that we often discuss. To solve this problem, towards the end we will also upload a zipped file containing all referenced engineering drawings in PDF format.

And all the while that this process goes on, we hope to receive comments, inputs, criticism and corrections from alert users. In the end, after completing this free version of the handbook, we may publish an expanded print or e-book version – if that is what users want.

Till then we will continue to use our user-friendly interpretation of the spirit of copyright laws, as we believe they ought to be interpreted in this information age, for purely not-for-profit, educational purposes. This belief is embodied in the following disclaimer

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