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Bia agus Mara**
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

SCHEDULE OF CONDITIONS FOR EGG PACKING CENTRES SEEKING DESIGNATION IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK OF NOTIFIABLE AVIAN INFLUENZA

(as defined in Council Directive 2005/94/EC)

Annexes 1 and 2

ANNEX 1 - GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR DESIGNATION

The following conditions must be complied with at all times by egg packing centres seeking designation

The implementation of stringent biosecurity measures in both the egg packing centre and during egg collections are essential in order to qualify for designation. Conditions that must be implemented at all times in order to receive provisional approval of designation include the following:

1. PREPARATION OF WRITTEN STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) should be prepared detailing the step by step process in key risk areas identified by the egg packing centre where the virus could potentially be obtained or spread. These SOP's must be made available for inspection to DAFM staff when requested. SOP's which available for inspection by an official from DAFM include:

- Collection of eggs from holdings located in the Protection or Surveillance Zones (PZ or SZ)
- Vehicle driver biosecurity measures during an avian influenza outbreak
- Handling of eggs from the PZ and SZ upon arrival in the centre and the management of equipment and vehicles used for these collections
- Cleansing and disinfection protocols for vehicles and premises during an avian influenza outbreak
- Procedures for personnel to minimise potential transmission of the virus on the premises
- Record keeping for traceability of eggs from source to destination
- Personnel or visitors who may have poultry or other birds at home
- Personnel moving between live poultry area and other operational areas of the premises during an outbreak of avian influenza (where applicable)



2. RECORD KEEPING

NB. All records listed below should be kept for a minimum of 2 years and made available upon request by an official from DAFM.

- A list of egg suppliers to the egg packing centre must be kept up to date and will be required for the process of designation. A list of all supplies of eggs collected or received detailing the supplier premises, the dates of deliveries, the dates when the eggs were laid on the laying premises and the number of eggs in each batch.
- Records must be kept at all times of the consignments dispatched from the egg packing centre and the destinations of all eggs that leave the egg packing centre to allow for forward tracing in the event of an avian influenza outbreak.
- Records of contaminated waste disposal including rejected or broken eggs sent for processing from the egg packing centre should be kept detailing dates of waste consignments dispatched and their destinations.
- Keep records of all visitors to the egg packing centre detailing their names and contact details including telephone numbers, dates of visits and areas of the plant that they visited for tracing purposes.

ANNEX 1 - GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR DESIGNATION *continued*

The following conditions must be complied with at all times by egg packing centres seeking designation

3. EGG PACKING PREMISES



- An up to date map or sketch of the premises site layout is required for the designation inspection. It should detail all access and biosecurity points on the packing centre premises.
- A map or sketch of any automatic egg conveyor systems if used is also required.
- All buildings used for storing, grading and packing eggs must be bird proof.
- A vermin control programme must be maintained and implemented.
- Facilities must exist for the disinfection of all vehicles entering and leaving the site at the entrance and exit of the site premises
- Disinfection points must be available at the entrances and exits of all buildings on the site
- Facilities for the cleansing and disinfection of collection vehicles, trolleys, trays, pallets and any other equipment used to transport eggs to the egg packing centre must be available.
- Facilities for the separation of equipment and storage of eggs from the restriction zones must be available.
- If there are live poultry on the same site as the egg packing centre, then boundaries between the two areas should be clearly marked and biosecurity measures put in place.



4. MANAGEMENT OF EGGS

- An egg packing centre must achieve and activate final approval of designation from DAFM in order to accept eggs originating from a poultry holding or egg packing centre located in a Protection Zone (PZ) or Surveillance Zone (SZ)
- Facilities must be available for the cleansing and disinfection of all vehicles and equipment used in the transport of eggs such as trolleys and pallets and this process must be checked and recorded
- A system must be in place which can identify the source of all eggs and the equipment used to transport them to the egg packing centre

5. PERSONNEL AND VISITORS



- All staff and visitors must wear visibly clean overalls. These overalls should not leave the packing centre except for laundering.
- Ensure that there is a sufficient supply of clean or disposable overalls available at all times
- Footwear must be visibly clean and disinfected before entering and leaving the egg packing centre.
- Hands should be washed regularly and particularly on entering and exiting buildings where eggs are stored, graded or packed.
- It is not recommended that personnel come into contact with live poultry or other captive birds outside of the packing centre. In situations where this is unavoidable, a written SOP should be provided to them detailing additional biosecurity measures that should be taken e.g. change of clothes, hand washing, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) etc.

ANNEX 2 – SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF DESIGNATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED DURING AN OUTBREAK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA

The following conditions must be complied with in addition to those listed in Annex 1 during an outbreak of avian influenza.

1. EGG PACKING CENTRE PREMISES



- Disinfectant points must be maintained and used at the entrance and exits of all buildings
- Disinfection points must be maintained and used at all entrances and exits for all vehicles entering and leaving the site premises
- The disinfectant used must be from an [approved list of disinfectants](#) by DAFM

2. PERSONNEL AND VISITORS



- Disposable gloves and overalls should be worn by staff handling eggs, and handling and disinfecting equipment arriving from the restricted zones e.g. pallets, trays etc.*
- Staff in the egg packing centre should not enter areas where there are live birds. If it is absolutely necessary, for example for essential maintenance, then additional biosecurity measures should be taken when moving between the two areas e.g. separate overalls, disinfect footwear, wear disposable gloves and wash hands.
- If it is necessary for staff to move between the packing area and an area where live birds are kept during an avian influenza outbreak, then they must follow a written SOP which has been approved by the DAFM.

3. MANAGEMENT OF EGGS



- All equipment including pallets and trays from holdings in the restricted zones must be clearly identified and traceable to the original holding and kept separate from any such equipment originating from non-restricted zones e.g. colour code, label etc.
- Where possible use disposable packaging including Keyes trays for all eggs from the restricted zones. If possible, keep a sufficient supply in stock in advance of any potential outbreak.
- If it is not possible to use disposable packaging, re-usable plastic Keyes trays may be used but only if they are free of all visible contamination and are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant and marked before re-use in the PZ or SZ only.
- All equipment used for the collection of eggs from the Protection and Surveillance zones including vehicles, pallets, trolleys and trays must be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- Any wooden pallets originating from a holding located in the restricted zones must be marked and returned to the same holding.
- Ensure that Category 1 animal by-products disposal arrangements are in place to dispose of heavily contaminated waste from eggs that originate from holdings in the restricted zone to approved animal by-products plants. Unprocessed egg waste including shells originating from holdings in a restricted zone must not be spread on land or used as animal feed.
- Ensure that disposal arrangements are in place for clean used disposable packaging e.g. recycling, municipal waste.
- The source of all eggs must be immediately identifiable regardless of where in the egg packing centre they are located.

ANNEX 2 – SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF DESIGNATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED DURING AN OUTBREAK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA *continued*

The following conditions must be complied with **in addition** to those listed in Annex 1 during an outbreak of avian influenza

- Eggs must only be accepted from premises in Protection and Surveillance Zones that comply with the following conditions:
 1. The premises maintains and implements written biosecurity measures to ensure that all vehicles entering and leaving the premises are visibly clean of any dirt or faecal contamination
 2. The premises maintains and implements written procedures for the cleansing and disinfection of all trays, pallets and other equipment used to move eggs before they are used – this may be done in the egg packing centre
 3. Any gross contamination of the eggs is removed before they are loaded for dispatch
 4. The feed consumption of the poultry is monitored and recorded on a weekly basis and compared with industry norms
 5. The drinking water consumption of the poultry is monitored and recorded on a daily basis where possible and compared with industry norms
 6. All poultry on the premises are inspected at least once per day and morbidity and mortality levels are monitored and recorded.
 7. Egg production levels are recorded on a daily basis and compared with industry norms. Any unexpected decrease in egg production is reported to the Private Veterinary Practitioner responsible for the premises.
 8. All animal remedies used on the premises are in date, stored securely and are used and have their use recorded in compliance with the Animal Remedies Act (2007).

4. ROUTE



- All collections of eggs in the Protection and Surveillance Zones must be brought **directly** to either
 - (a) an egg packing centre designated by DAFM or
 - (b) an egg processing plant or
 - (c) premises for disposal (as animal by-products)
- Plan the collection route to avoid driving near the infected holding if possible
- Keep a record of all routes taken in the restricted zones and the collection details including location, date and time

4. TRANSPORT VEHICLE



- Use dedicated trucks for egg collections in Protection and Surveillance that do not collect from other areas where possible.
- Ensure that wheels, wheel arches and the under body of the vehicle are disinfected prior to leaving the premises in the restriction zone
- The exterior, interior and cab of the vehicle should be washed and disinfected on return to the egg packing centre after each collection from within the restricted zone.
- Always use an approved disinfectant according to the manufacturer's recommendations. A list of approved disinfectants can be found in the Animal Health and Welfare – Disease Control Section of the DAFM website [here](#).
- A backup means of disinfecting should be carried on the vehicle in the event of encountering substandard facilities for disinfection on the farm e.g. carry a knapsack sprayer, disinfectant wipes for the cab.

ANNEX 2 – SPECIFIC CONDITIONS OF DESIGNATION TO BE IMPLEMENTED DURING AN OUTBREAK OF AVIAN INFLUENZA *continued*

The following conditions must be complied with **in addition** to those listed in Annex 1 during an outbreak of avian influenza



6. VEHICLE DRIVER

- Disposable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) should be worn by the driver while on farms during collections of eggs.
- PPE should include disposable overalls, overshoes and gloves*
- Drivers should not come into contact with poultry or enter poultry houses on farms.
- All holdings in the restricted zones are required to maintain a visitor book which should be signed by the driver during each collection on that farm
- The driver should remove all disposable PPE and leave it on the farm before getting back in the cab
- The driver should then also wash their hands or use a hand sterilizer before getting into the cab
- The driver should disinfect their footwear in addition to the vehicle as described above at the farm entrance/exit before departure
- The vehicle driver is required to keep a record with them of the consignment being carried detailing the supplier name and address, date of movement, quantity, destination name and address.
- The driver may be requested to furnish these records upon request to an Authorised Officer or a member of An Garda Síochana and allow them to be copied/photographed by the Officer and provide his/her name and address.

NB. DAFM advises that the owners of egg packing centres should consult with an occupational health specialist regarding the necessity for personnel and visitors to wear appropriate PPE including a respirator in order to protect them from any zoonotic risk from the subtype of avian influenza that has been confirmed.

DAFM reserves the right to implement more stringent measures during an avian influenza outbreak than those described in these Annexes.