Investigation Procedures Following a Report of a Disease Outbreak in an SPF Flock which Supplies SPF Eggs or Chickens for Use in Vaccine Production

Procedures used to investigate embryonated eggs or chickens intended for use in veterinary biologic preparation which are suspected carry to infectious agents as described in **Veterinary Services Memorandum No. 800.65**.

1. When a report of a potentially infected flock is reported to the CVB by a licensed establishment, SPF supplier, or others means is received the CVB-IC Compliance Section Leader, Investigation Manager, or other member (or Acting member) of the Inspection and Compliance Management Team (ICMT) should be contacted within 2 hours of receipt of report.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN WITHIN 1 BUSINESS DAY OF THE REPORT

2. A VBI will be opened following the procedures described in the current version of ICSOP0016, *Investigation and Processing of Alleged Violations of the Virus-Serum-Toxin Act*.

3. The assigned Biologics Specialist (Specialist) will contact the source of the eggs or chickens (supplier) and ask for the following information:

   *Identification of source flock(s).

   *Identification of disqualifying disease or other agents deemed inappropriate by APHIS, e.g. CAV.

   *The date of the last negative test (use the **date blood collected**) result, or the onset of clinical signs. (The suspect period for CAV begins 3 weeks prior to last negative test).

   *The date of first positive test (use the **date blood collected**) result. (Suspect period for CAV ends the day after two weeks following the first positive test.)

   *List of licensed establishments that received suspect materials.

   *Date the licensed establishments were notified of the disqualifying disease or other agents deemed inappropriate by APHIS, e.g. CAV.

   *Number of eggs/chickens shipped to each establishment.

   *Date of shipment(s) and associated invoice number(s) if available.

   *Lay date for each shipment (more relevant than a shipping date). (Use this date to determine egg/chicken usage for producing product. The lay date must be prior to, or after, the suspect period in order to use eggs/chickens from a suspect flock for production without testing – see below.)

4. The Specialist will contact the appropriate Poultry Disease Expert to determine or confirm the suspect period (see above for calculating suspect period).

5. The Specialist will contact the APHIS official liaison(s) of the licensed establishment(s) and verbally verify:

   *The date they were contacted by the egg/chicken supplier about the outbreak.

   *Confirm the name of the supplier.

   *Identification of disqualifying disease or other agents deemed inappropriate by APHIS, e.g. CAV.

   *The flock number(s) involved.

   *The suspect period dates determined by the CVB. For CAV the suspect period begins three weeks prior to the last negative CAV test of the affected flock and ends after the two weeks following the first positive test. **Remember:** The test dates are based on when the blood is collected from the flock, **not** the dates of the test. **Note: In order to communicate the suspect period dates established by CVB to the firm, the CVB will need to obtain the test dates from the supplier prior to the call to the firm.**

   *The list of bulks and serials produced with suspect eggs/chickens. (In the case of bulks provide the bulk identification number and associated product code(s).)

   *The disposition of all eggs/chickens received from suspect flock during suspect period.

   Communicate eggs/chickens from the suspect period may not be used to produce licensed product if they were not inoculated prior to the time the supplier notified the firm of the outbreak. **Note: Eggs/chickens with a lay date at the beginning, within, or at the end of the suspect period must meet this criterion for use in production. Do not tell firm eggs/chickens need to be destroyed due to CAV outbreaks.

6. The Specialist will confirm verbal notification to the affected licensed establishments with a **letter transmitted by fax and by mail**. The letter must include the following information:

   *Name of supplier.

   *Suspect flock identification.

*Identification of disease agent.

*Suspect period as determined by the CVB.

It should also request the following information:

*Inventory of suspect eggs or chickens sourced from the identified flocks received during the suspect period. Firm may need to submit updates.

*Date they were informed of the disqualifying disease or other agents deemed inappropriate by APHIS, e.g. CAV, by the supplier.

*List of all serials produced from suspect eggs/chickens.

*List of all bulk antigens produced from suspect material.

*Disposition of all suspect material received during the suspect period including:

*The number of eggs/chickens used in biological products.

*The number of eggs/chickens used for purposes other than production of biological products, e.g. QC testing, or R&D.

*The number of eggs/chickens discarded.

*The firm's policy for handling eggs or chickens suspected to be infected with a disqualifying disease agent/ or CAV.

*Provide a time frame in the letter for the firm to respond to the request for the above information.

*Procedures for licensed products prepared during the suspect period include:

*Products prepared from eggs or chickens sourced during the suspect period are to be tested at the bulk stage (harvest) rather than final product prior to inactivation. Testing must be performed exactly according to the PCR protocol **provided with this letter**. If the protocol is not followed, the product is suspect and product may not be released. The PCR protocol is an uncontrolled copy which may be copied for internal use, but further distribution of this document outside of your firm is not authorized.

*When submitting bulk samples for testing, provide a list of bulk lot numbers and associated product codes so a special test request (STR) number may be assigned to samples of each bulk.

*Each bulk must be associated with a product code under which it was prepared in order to submit samples for testing at the CVB.

*Samples must not be submitted without an STR number.

*Prior to submitting samples, CAV test results for each bulk should be submitted on an APHIS Form 2008 (Form 2008) under the associated product code accompanied by bench records, including gel photos. Each Form 2008 should be marked, "Other, BULK," in Section 12 of the Form 2008.

*After bench record and testing results are reviewed by CVB, your firm will be notified of the STR number assigned for the specific bulk.

*An APHIS Form 2020 should be used to submit samples using the associated product code and bulk lot number along with a CVB assigned STR number.

*The VBI number (VBI-##-###) should be noted in Section 11, Remarks, of each Form 2008 that is submitted for bulks or final products affected by this CAV outbreak. (**Note: Form 2008s must not be submitted for final product prior to testing of bulk.**)

*Refer to the Veterinary Services Memorandums 800.65 and 800.89. Because CAV is environmentally stable, firms must make every effort to prevent CAV contamination of biological products within their establishment.

*Instruct the firm to refer to the Veterinary Biologics Investigation (VBI) number when submitting data to CVB regarding the outbreak.

7. The Specialist will contact the appropriate Poultry Disease Expert to discuss appropriate testing protocol the firm will use to determine if the antigens prepared from the suspect material can be used in product.

8. The Specialist will provide timely notification to the CVB Laboratory (Virology Section), the Animal Resources Unit (M. Crocheck), and the Diagnostic Virology Section (NVSL) of the outbreak.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN THROUGHOUT THE INVESTIGATION

9. The Specialist will forward to the licensed establishments the protocol to be used on bulk lots or serials produced from suspect materials. Samples of suspected bulks may be requested for confirmatory testing by CVB-PEL. The Specialist will notify the licensed establishment that bulk antigens or serials produced from suspect materials that test negative to the disease agent by the supplied protocol may be considered eligible for release. This notification should specify that the appropriate VBI number be referenced in the remarks section of the Form 2008.

10. The Specialist will place all serials (if known) prepared from the suspect material on hold release until testing has been completed satisfactorily using the supplied protocol.

11. The Specialist will routinely follow up with the licensed establishments to ensure timely progress. At minimum, the firm should submit quarterly summaries of antigen usage from suspect materials and a final report when all suspect material has been either destroyed of utilized in final product.

12. Prior to an in-depth inspection, the Specialist will provide a list of bulk antigen lots and serials produced from suspect materials to the Team Leader. The Team Leader may audit records involved and, if done, prepare a summary for the VBI folder.

13. The Specialist will evaluate the suspect material shipment inventories provided by the supplier with the information provided by the licensed establishment. When all of the suspect material has been accounted for, the investigation may be closed.