

OIE Code Chapter on Avian Influenza

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission Report – October 2006

General Comment: The United States supports the changes to the Chapter on Avian Influenza proposed by the Code Commission. We believe that these changes both strengthen the Code Chapter and help clarify some of the language found in the Articles. In addition to the proposed changes, the United States submits the following comments for consideration:

Article 2.7.12.1.

2. ...

4. For the purposes of international trade, a country should interpret an occurrence of infection with either LPNAI or HPNAI virus in birds other than poultry according to the Terrestrial Code and should not impose immediate trade bans.

Rationale: Many countries continue to apply indiscriminate and scientifically unfounded restrictions and prohibitions when a country reports even a low pathogenicity NAI virus in birds other than poultry. For this reason, the United States encourages the Code Commission to be explicit about both low and high path notifiable strains in the new proposed text.

Article 2.7.12.21.

Regardless of the NAI status of the country, *zone* or *compartment* of origin, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for products of poultry origin intended for use in animal feeding, or for agricultural or industrial use

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. these *commodities* come from poultry which have been kept in an NAI free country, zone or compartment since they were hatched or for at least the past 21 days; or
- ~~2.~~ these *commodities* have been processed to ensure the destruction of NAI virus (~~under study~~);
3. the necessary precautions were taken to avoid contact of the *commodity* with any source of NAI virus.

USA Comments – TAHSC October 2006 Report

Article 2.7.12.22.

Regardless of the NAI status of the country, *zone* or *compartment* of origin, *Veterinary Administrations* should require:

for feathers and down (from poultry)

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. these *commodities* come from poultry which have been kept in an NAI free country, zone or compartment since they were hatched or for at least the past 21 days; or
- ~~2. these *commodities* have been processed to ensure the destruction of NAI virus (~~under study~~);~~
3. the necessary precautions were taken to avoid contact of the *commodity* with any source of NAI virus

Article 2.7.12.23.

Regardless of the NAI status of the country, *zone* or *compartment*, *Veterinary Administrations* should require for the importation of:

meat or other products from birds other than poultry

the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the *commodity* has been processed to ensure the destruction of NAI virus (~~under study~~);
2. the necessary precautions were taken after processing to avoid contact of the *commodity* with any source of NAI virus.

Comment: The United States made a similar request when we commented on this issue following the March 2006 Report. Many of the “products of poultry origin” under Article 21 are protein hydrolyzates and pose no risk of AI transmission. Similarly, in Articles 22 and 23, which pertain to feathers and down and meat or other products from other than poultry, respectively the processing methods have heat processing temperatures and times which are more than sufficient to ensure the inactivation of the avian influenza virus. Currently, there are many countries which continue to restrict trade on products such as pet food that may contain poultry material, because Article 21

USA Comments – TAHSC October 2006 Report

remains “under study”, even though the time and temperature processing parameters for such products far exceeds those listed in the HPAI Inactivation Guidelines Appendix.