

**ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR DAY OLD BIRDS AND HATCHING EGGS OF POULTRY TO BE EXPORTED TO JAPAN FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

This document defines the animal health requirements for day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry to be exported to Japan from the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the U.S.).

**Definitions**

**“Poultry”**

means chicken, quail, ostrich, pheasant, guinea fowl, turkey and birds classified in the Anseriformes order (such as duck and goose).

**“Exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry”**

means day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry, as defined above, to be exported to Japan from the U.S..

**“The Japanese animal health authority”**

means the Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Japanese Government.

**“The competent authority of the U.S.”**

means the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS).

**“Premises of origin”**

means premises in which the breeding flocks of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are housed and/or the hatchery to which the hatching eggs of poultry from the breeding flocks of the exported day-old birds of poultry are consigned.

**“Highly pathogenic avian influenza (referred to as HPAI)”**

means infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of high pathogenicity as defined in the World Organization for Animal Health (hereinafter referred to as WOA) Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

**“Low pathogenic avian influenza (referred to as LPAI)”**

means infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of H5 and H7 subtypes other than HPAI virus.

**“Affected states”**

means states in which control areas and/or surveillance zones are established in the event of a HPAI outbreak.

**“LPAI-affected zone”**

means zone in which zone within 10 km of a LPAI-affected premises where an infection of LPAI has been confirmed.

**“Affected county”**

means a county a HPAI affected premise is located.

**“Notifiable Avian Influenza (referred to as NAI)”**

means HPAI and LPAI as defined above.

**“Newcastle Disease”**

means infection of poultry caused by the Newcastle Disease virus as defined in the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

**“Outbreak”**

means identification of the pathogens of the disease, detection of specific antigens of the pathogen of disease, detection of specific ribonucleic acid of the pathogens of the disease in domestic poultry. In addition, in the case of NAI, detection of antibodies is also regarded as an outbreak unless it is found to be a seropositive case, as defined below.

**“Seropositive case”**

means a case where only the specific antibodies of NAI were detected, without manifestation of clinical signs, and confirmation that the case is not classified as an outbreak, as a result of an immediate epidemiological investigation and all the necessary laboratory tests to rule out an outbreak (the test to isolate the pathogen, the test to detect the specific antigens and the specific antibodies.).

**“Control area”**

means a radius of at least 10 km around the HPAI affected premises as established by the competent authority of the U.S.

**“Surveillance zone”**

means an area of at least 10 km wide circumferentially along the perimeter of the control area, as defined above, as established by the competent authority of the U.S.

## **1. General requirements**

- (1) NAI and Newcastle Disease must be designated as notifiable diseases in the U.S. In cases where an outbreak or a suspicious outbreak is detected, it must be notified to the competent authority of the U.S. without delay.
- (2) If an outbreak of NAI is detected or suspected, or the specific antibody of NAI is detected, the competent authority of the U.S. must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authority and suspend the export of day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry to Japan.
- (3) The United States has a surveillance program for early detection of NAI that aligns with the guidelines of the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code and is recognized as appropriate by Japanese animal health authorities.
- (4) Vaccination against NAI is prohibited in the United States, except for the vaccination of rare or endangered birds under the official supervision of the competent animal health authority of the United States.

## **2. Requirements regarding HPAI**

- (1) The U.S. has been free from HPAI for at least 28 days before the day of shipment of exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry.
- (2) In lieu of item 2-(1), if the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the requirements as described in points a), b), c), d) and e) below are fulfilled, based on the information provided by the animal health authorities of the U. S., and the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry fulfill the conditions described in points f) and g) below, they are eligible for export to Japan from the states which the animal health authority of Japan recognizes as free from HPAI (defined as states, other than HPAI affected states).
  - a) The outbreak was detected without delay by early notification from the affected premise and/or surveillance.
  - b) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc., and stamping out with disinfection are being implemented or have been completed at the affected premises.
  - c) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc. and an appropriate surveillance for NAI are being implemented in any control area established after the outbreak of HPAI. If the established control area includes part of a neighboring state of the state where an infection of HPAI has been confirmed, appropriate measures to prevent the spread of HPAI to the neighboring state are being implemented.
  - d) Immediate epidemiological investigation is implemented, or is completed, to identify epidemiologically-linked premises of affected premises and determine the presence or absence of NAI outbreak; if new cases of NAI outbreak are detected through the testing, measures described in (2)-b) and (2)-c) are implemented.
  - e) Premises of origin are not located in the affected states.
  - f) Exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry must be transported without

passing through affected states. If they pass through affected states in the U.S., the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are loaded under the competent authority of the U. S. (including USDA accredited veterinarians) supervision onto secured, environmentally controlled vehicles which confer vector protection and preclude contamination by avian influenza virus during transit, for the direct transport from the premises of origin to the exporting port.

- g) Before shipment to Japan, the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are stored in clean and secure packaging and containers, and transported in a safe and sanitary manner, in order to avoid contamination with any pathogens of infectious animal diseases.
- (3) If the Japanese animal health authority has reason to suspect unsuccessful containment of the infection in the affected state - i.e., case(s) where infections are continuously confirmed in multiple states, condition 2-(2) may not apply at the discretion of the Japanese animal health authority, after consultation with the competent authority of the U.S.
- (4) If the conditions as described in item 2-(2) are fulfilled, and if the Japanese animal health authority has confirmed that based on the information provided by the animal health authorities of the U.S., the outbreak is an isolated case and has not been caused by the horizontal transmission among farms, but by direct or indirect contact with infected wild birds, and, as a result, has concluded that the outbreak is appropriately controlled in the affected county, the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry which fulfill the conditions as described in points a), b) and c) below, from the area in the affected state, other than the affected county, are eligible to be exported to Japan.
- a) Premises of origin are not located in the affected county.
- b) Exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry must be transported without passing through affected counties. If they pass through affected counties in the U.S., the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are loaded under the competent authority of the U.S. (including USDA accredited veterinarians) supervision onto secured, environmentally controlled vehicles which confer vector protection and preclude contamination by avian influenza virus during transit, for the direct transport from the premises of origin to the exporting port.
- c) Before shipment to Japan, the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are stored in clean and secure packaging and containers, and transported in a safe and sanitary manner, in order to avoid contamination with any pathogens of infectious animal diseases.
- (5) If the conditions as described in item 2-(4) are fulfilled, the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are eligible to be exported to Japan from the affected county once the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the absence of an HPAI outbreak for 28 days after the stamping out policy (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected premises) is completed by the competent authority of the

U.S.

- (6) If the animal health authority of Japan has reason to suspect unsuccessful containment of the infection in the affected county – i.e., case(s) where infections are continuously confirmed in the area other than the affected county which does not have epidemiological link to the affected county, then item 2-(4) does not apply.
- (7) If the conditions as described in item 2-(4) are not applied, the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are eligible to be exported to Japan from the affected state once the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the absence of an HPAI outbreak for 28 days after the stamping out policy (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected premises) is completed by the competent authority of the U.S.

### **3. Requirements regarding LPAI**

- (1) The U.S. has been free from LPAI for at least 28 days before the day of shipment of exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry.
- (2) In lieu of item 3-(1), if the Japanese animal health authority has confirmed the requirements as described in points a), b), c), d) and e) below are fulfilled, based on the information provided by the competent authority of the U.S., day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry fulfill the conditions described in points f) and g) below, they are eligible to be exported to Japan from areas other than any zone within 10 km of an LPAI-affected premises in the state where an infection of LPAI has been confirmed (hereafter referred to as "free zones"):
  - a) The outbreak was detected without delay by early notification from the LPAI-affected premise and/or surveillance.
  - b) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc., stamping out with disinfection, or controlled marketing are being implemented, or have been completed at the LPAI-affected premises.
  - c) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc. and an appropriate surveillance for NAI are being implemented in any control zone established after the outbreak of LPAI. If the established control zone includes part of a neighboring state of the state where an infection of LPAI has been confirmed, appropriate measures to prevent the spread of LPAI to the neighboring state are being implemented.
  - d) Immediate epidemiological investigation is implemented, or completed, in order to identify epidemiologically-linked premises of LPAI-affected premises and determine the presence or absence of NAI outbreak; if new cases of NAI outbreak are detected through the testing, measures described in (2)-b and (2)-c are implemented.
  - e) Premises of origin are within free zones.
  - f) Exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry must be transported without passing through LPAI-affected zones. If they pass through LPAI-affected zones in the U.S., the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are loaded under the

competent authority of the U.S. (including USDA accredited veterinarians) supervision onto secured, environmentally controlled vehicles which confer vector protection and preclude contamination by avian influenza virus during transit, for the direct transport from the premises of origin to the exporting port.

- g) Before shipment to Japan, the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are stored in clean and secure packaging or containers and transported in a safe and sanitary manner, in order to avoid contamination with any pathogens of infectious animal diseases.
- (3) If the conditions as described in item 3-(2) are fulfilled, the day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are eligible to be exported to Japan from zones within 10 km of the LPAI-affected premises, once the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the absence of LPAI outbreak for 28 days after the stamping out policy (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected premises), or the depopulation by controlled marketing (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected premises) is completed by the competent authority of the U.S.

#### **4. Requirements regarding seropositive case**

- (1) If the competent authority of the U.S. confirms a seropositive case, the date of confirmation and the seropositive region where the seropositive case was identified must be notified to the Japanese animal health authority immediately.
- (2) The Japanese animal health authority may suspend the import of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry from a seropositive region when they recognize the confirmation of the seropositive case in the U.S.
- (3) The exportation of day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry derived from the seropositive region can be resumed when the Japanese animal health authority confirms that 28 days have passed since the confirmation of the seropositive case or sooner if the Japanese animal health authority agrees after consultation with the U.S. that an adequate epidemiological investigation has shown that the detection was only of isolated seropositive antibodies and not an active infection of avian influenza.

#### **5. Requirements regarding the premises of origin**

- (1) There has been no evidence of clinical signs of, Newcastle disease, Pullorum disease (*Salmonella* Pullorum), Avian infectious bronchitis, Avian infectious laryngotracheitis, Infectious bursal disease (gumboro disease), Fowl pox, Fowl typhoid (*Salmonella* Gallinarum), Respiratory mycoplasmosis, Marek's disease, Avian salmonellosis (restricted to *Salmonella* enteritidis and *Salmonella* typhimurium, the same shall apply hereinafter), Avian leukosis, Avian tuberculosis, Leucocytozoonosis, West Nile virus infection, Duck hepatitis (only applied to the exported day-old birds of ducks), Duck virus enteritis (only applied to the exported day-old birds of ducks and geese) and Fowl Cholera (infectious disease of poultry caused by a bacterium, *Pasteurella multocida* with acute

septicemia) on the premises of origin for at least 90 days before the shipment of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry to Japan.

- (2) There has been no evidence of clinical signs of Avian influenza (infectious disease caused by influenza A virus) on the premises of origin for at least 28 days before the shipment of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry to Japan.

## **6. Requirements for examination**

- (1) With regard to Pullorum disease, Fowl typhoid and Avian salmonellosis either of the following must be satisfied:

a) The exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry originate from premises under an approved salmonella control program with oversight by the competent authority of the U.S., which certifies the premises of origin as negative to tests for pullorum disease, fowl typhoid, and avian salmonellosis.

**or**

b) At the premises of origin of exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry, the culture test must be performed for Pullorum disease, Fowl typhoid and Avian salmonellosis with negative results under the supervision of the competent authority of the U.S. The sampling protocol is described in Annex1. The samples to be taken as below;

a. On the premises in which the breeding flocks of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry are housed

- fresh feces or dead birds (including culled birds)

and

- Environmental samples such as drag swab, litter, fluff and dust

b. At the hatchery to which the hatching eggs of poultry from the breeding flocks of the exported day-old birds are consigned

- meconium or dead in shell

And

- dead birds (including culled birds)

And

- Environmental samples such as drag swab, litter, fluff and dust

- (2) With regard to NAI the following must be satisfied:

a) The exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry originate from premises under an approved program for Avian Influenza with oversight by the competent authority of the U.S., which meets the requirements of the NPIP AI

Clean Standards.

or

b) Under the supervision of the competent authority of the U.S., at the premises of origin, testing for NAI, as follows must be conducted with negative results. The sampling protocol is described in Annex1.

a. Haemagglutination Inhibition test, agar gel immunodiffusion, or ELISA test on serum every 90 days

**And**

b. PCR virological test or virus isolation by the inoculation of embryonated fowls eggs on feces, respiratory swab, cloacal swab, meconium, dead in shell, dead birds or culled birds once within 30 days prior to export

- (3) The exported day-old birds are healthy or show no signs of infectious diseases of poultry based on examination conducted under the supervision of a government veterinary officer (including USDA accredited veterinarians) , within 24 hours prior to shipment to Japan.
- (4) The exported hatching eggs of poultry shall be disinfected with an effective disinfectant beforehand and packed directly from the hatchery into clean and new disposable boxes for export under the supervision of the competent authority of the U.S.

## **7. Requirements for transportation**

- (1) The containers used for transportation of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry must be either made of new material or thoroughly disinfected with an effective disinfectant prior to use, under the supervision of the competent authority of the U.S.
- (2) The loading place of the vehicles, aircraft, etc. transporting the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an effective disinfectant prior to use, under the supervision of the above stated authorities.
- (3) The exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry must be transported without contact or mixed with other birds and/or hatching eggs of poultry unless they are of equal health status to the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry.

## **8. Inspection Certificate**

The competent authority of the U.S. must issue an inspection certificate for all the

exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry, stating the following items in detail in English:

- (1) Statements regarding 1(1), (3), (4), 2(1), 3(1) , and 5 to 7. In case that the examination is conducted in accordance with 6(1)(b) and 6(2)b), sampling dates, kinds and the number of samples on each occasion during 90 days prior to the shipment of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry to Japan.
  - a) When the United States is not free from HPAI and the item 2-(4) is not applied, the certificate shall also certify the conditions in 2-(2)-e) to g) above.
  - b) When item 2-(4) is applied, the certificate shall also certify the conditions in 2-(4)- a) to c) above.
  - c) When the U.S. is not free from LPAI, the certificate shall also certify the conditions in 3-(2)-e) to g) above.
- (2) Date of vaccination, type, volume and name of the manufacturing plant of the vaccines in cases where the exported day-old birds or the breeding flocks of the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry were vaccinated.
- (3) Name and address of the premises of origin.
- (4) Date of issue, name and title of signer.

## **9. Others**

- (1) In the event that NAI is detected in the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry, by examinations conducted during the quarantine period, the said day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry can be slaughtered / destroyed by the animal quarantine service in Japan. The competent authority of the U.S. must confirm and report of the absence of NAI at the premises of origin to the competent authority of Japan. Until reported, the competent authority of Japan considers the state and/or county in which the premises of origin is located as the affected state (including LPAI-affected state) and/or county.
- (2) In the event that any infectious diseases are detected during the quarantine period in Japan, other than the items mentioned above, of the stated animal health requirements, returning or culling out of said day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry may be ordered by the animal quarantine service in Japan.
- (3) Exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry to be exported to Japan must be transported directly to Japan. If exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry transit a third country, it must be certified by the animal health authority of the third country or the captain of aircraft that the exported day-old birds and hatching eggs of poultry were moved hygienically without coming into contact with other animals at a designated control area in the airport.

## **Annex 1**

### **The Sampling protocol for examination for Pullorum disease, Fowl typhoid, Avian salmonellosis and NAI**

1. The total number of samples must be taken from at least 30 birds for a flock (building) (at least 60 birds for a premises). In a flock containing fewer than 30 birds, all birds in the flock must be tested.
2. All samples should be selected at random.
3. The frequency of sampling should be at least at monthly intervals (only for examination for Pullorum disease, Fowl typhoid and Avian salmonellosis).
4. All samples should be fully marked and identified as to the date of sampling and the flock to which the samples relate.
5. Samples should be stored in a refrigerator between 1°C and 4°C and submitted for testing immediately (not more than 5 days).
6. All samples should be examined in a laboratory authorized for that purpose by the competent authorities of the U.S.