



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**  
Visayas Ave., Diliman Quezon City 1101

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**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

NO. 38  
Series of 2022

**SUBJECT : RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE MANDATORY REGISTRATION OF PIGEON RACING CLUBS AND ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF FREE STATUS FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA FOR REGISTERED PIGEON CLUBS**

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**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) issued a Memorandum dated March 2, 2005 requiring all pigeon establishments, i.e. farm or premise where pigeons are kept or reared, to be accredited by the Animal Health Division before they can be issued a shipping permit, including actual inspection of pigeon establishments and Newcastle disease control program;

**WHEREAS**, Section 5.9.5 of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order No. 5, Series of 2019, provides the guidelines for local movement of racing pigeons and requires Certificate of BAI Accreditation of pigeon racing association;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Avian Influenza Protection Program and DA Administrative Circular No. 8 series of 2021, which provides the lists of notifiable animal diseases in the country and guidelines on reporting to the Veterinary Authority, Avian Influenza (AI) Type A subtypes H5 and H7 are reportable to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI);

**WHEREAS**, DA issued Memorandum Circular (MC) Nos. 5, 6, 12, 16, and 27 series of 2022 on February 24, 2022, March 7, 2022, April 6, 2022, May 11, 2022 and June 30, 2022, respectively, which provide guidance and movement restrictions in several poultry related commodities across different regions in the Philippines and slowly easing the restrictions of pigeon transport and racing from a total ban to allowing movement but with limitations;

**WHEREAS**, BAI MC No. 10, Series of 2022 was issued to temporarily suspend the Pigeon Club Certification in relation to the abovementioned DA MCs and to address the numerous reports received by the Bureau on continuous pigeon transport, racing, training and breeding despite the banning;

**WHEREAS**, there is a recent detection of Avian Influenza Type A Subtype H5N1 in pigeons from a private pigeon loft in Laguna;

**WHEREAS**, additional safety measures are necessary to prevent further spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the remaining disease-free areas in the country and to keep the traceability of the pigeon club members and enthusiasts;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 138, mandates the Local Government Units to implement the full devolution of powers and resources mandated by the 1991 Local Government Code, which shall include provision of basic veterinary services, in accordance with Section 17(g) through the issuance of Veterinary Health Certificate or Veterinary Clearance;



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**WHEREAS**, BAI MC No. 29, Series of 2022 was released to provide guidelines on the issuance of Certificate of Free Status - Avian Influenza;

**IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING**, BAI reiterates the registration of Pigeon Racing Clubs and its members, stipulating additional requirements as means to safeguarding the public health and resuming the process of Certification ONLY in preparation for the pigeon training and racing events, to wit:

### **SECTION 1. REGISTRATION OF PIGEON RACING CLUBS**

1.1. All Pigeon Racing Clubs involved in rearing, maintaining, training, racing, selling, transporting and trading pigeons shall secure a Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club from BAI or DA - Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) concerned:

#### 1.1.1. Requirements for application of Pigeon Racing Club:

- a. Completely filled-out Application Form
- b. 1x1 ID picture of the Owner, Manager, President of the Club
- c. Copy of Business Name Registration with DTI or SEC
- d. Copy of notarized Employment Contract/ Memorandum of Agreement of the licensed Veterinarian
- e. Copy of valid PRC and PTR of the Veterinarian
- f. Copy of Certificate of Attendance on Animal Welfare Seminar Conducted by BAI/ DA-RFOs or other BAI-recognized Organization
- g. Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) or Certificate of Non-coverage (CNC) from DENR
- h. Pigeon Health, Biosecurity, Vaccination and Medication Program signed by the club veterinarian
- i. List of Pigeon Racing Club Members (Annex 1) attaching the following:
  - i. Copy of Local Government Veterinary Clearance or equivalent LGU Registration for each member
  - ii. One (1) Valid Government-issued ID (any of the following):
    - Passport
    - PRC ID
    - Driver's License
    - SSS or GSIS UMID
    - National ID
    - Barangay Clearance
    - NBI Clearance
- j. Copy of Avian Influenza Laboratory Test results

#### 1.1.2. Application Process (see Annex 2):

- a. All required documents shall be submitted to the BAI-Animal Health and Welfare Division or via DA-RFO Regulatory Division concerned.





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- b. ONLY application with complete requirements shall be endorsed for sample collection and issuance of test result.
- c. The Pigeon Racing Club member lofts shall be subjected to sample collection and actual inspection prior to the issuance of Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club as per the following guidelines:
  - The number of member lofts to be subjected for sample collection and actual inspection shall be based at 2% Prevalence Rate using the CANNON, R & ROE, R. (1982) sampling table as reference (Annex 4).
  - The number of samples to be collected per loft shall be as follow:

Total No. of Pigeons	Sample Size
1-49	3
50-299	20
300 and more	30

- d. Club veterinarians shall issue a Veterinary Health Certificate (Annex 3) attesting that the loft has been inspected and complied with the animal health and welfare minimum requirements, and which shall be concurred by the Local Government Veterinarians.
- e. BAI-AHWD will process all initial applications and renewal of application in the National Capital Region and will issue Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club. Concerned DARFO shall be responsible for the processing of renewal of applications.
- f. Independent pigeon racing lofts/ facility with valid BAI Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Facility shall no longer be required to secure a Certificate of Pigeon Racing Club Lofts.

## **SECTION 2. ISSUANCE OF ANIMAL DISEASE MONITORING FOR PIGEON RACING CLUBS AND CERTIFICATE OF FREE STATUS FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA**

- 2.1. All Pigeon Racing Clubs applying for the Certificate of Registration shall comply with the AI test and shall submit the prescribed number of samples for testing following the guidelines issued by the AHWD-Veterinary Epidemiology Section.
- 2.2. Screening tests for AI shall be conducted for the purposes of animal disease monitoring. Reactors shall be confirmed using Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Testing shall be conducted in any Government Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories and any private Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories accredited by the BAI Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory.



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2.3. The Certificate of Free Status (CFS) for AI shall be issued by BAI/ DARFO upon receipt of the following requirements:

2.3.1. Valid NEGATIVE laboratory test results for AI (1 month from the time of sample collection); and

2.3.2. Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club

2.4. The validity of the CFS-AI shall depend on the prevailing issuance pertaining on the local movement.

**SECTION 3. SCHEDULE OF FEES**

Services	Fees	Validity
Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club  Initial Renewal	Php 300.00 per club Php 900.00 per club	One (1) Year Three (3) Years
Animal Disease Monitoring for Pigeon Racing Club	No charges	6 months
CFS-AI	No charges	Depending on the prevailing issuance for movement

**SECTION 4. ISSUANCE OF ANIMAL-EVENT ORGANIZER/VETERINARIAN REGISTRATION AND ANIMAL-EVENT CLEARANCE**

4.1. All Pigeon Races shall be considered as Animal-Event.

4.2. Only Pigeon Racing Club with valid Animal Disease Monitoring Certificate shall be given clearance upon compliance with other requirements for Animal-Event Clearance.

4.3. Issuance of Animal-Event Organizer/Veterinarian Registration and Animal-Event Clearance are governed by the BAI MC No. 17, Series of 2022.