



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY
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GaBAI sa Pag-unlad ng Paghahayupan

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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

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SUBJECT: PROCEDURES ON THE RECOGNITION AND DECLARATION OF AVIAN INFLUENZA-FREE STATUS OF INFECTED PROVINCES

Pursuant to the World Organization of the Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2021) and the Avian Influenza Protection Program, Manual of Procedures (2020), in order to facilitate the recognition and declaration of previously disease-affected areas due to Avian Influenza (H5 or H7), the following procedures are hereby provided for the information and guidance of all concerned:

1. A Local Government Unit (LGU), through their Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) may apply for the official reinstatement of Avian Influenza (H5 or H7) freedom of disease-infected municipalities/cities when all of the following conditions are met:
 - a. Negative Avian Influenza (AI) test results of one (1) kilometer and seven (7) kilometer quarantine and surveillance area/s;
 - b. Completion of Stamping-out, Cleaning and Disinfection of affected poultry housing structures per the Avian Influenza Protection Program, Manual of Procedures (2020) (ANNEX 1);
 - c. For infected commercial farms: BAI Certification of Avian Influenza-free status of the farm after successful completion of 35-day restocking period with sentinel birds.
2. The PVO shall submit the following documents to the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI):
 - a. Letter of intent signed by the Local Chief Executive;
 - b. Recommendation letter from the DA Regional Field Office;
 - c. Certification from the PVO that the required Stamping out, Cleaning & Disinfection, and the 1-km and 7-km surveillance were completed;
 - d. Results of Avian Influenza Test Results of the 1-km and 7-km areas;
 - e. Proof of biosecurity and control measures.
 - f. For commercial farms: BAI Certificate of Avian Influenza-free status of the farm;

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3. If the confirmed cases came from a pasture-based system (grazing) and restocking of sentinel poultry is not applicable; the LGU shall submit the requirements listed in items 2.a to e;
4. The BAI- Avian Influenza Task Force shall review the documents, validate the information provided and recommend the approval or disapproval of the application;
5. An endorsement for the recognition and declaration of Avian Influenza-free status of the Province shall be transmitted by the BAI Director to the DA Secretary for his consideration.

Done this 27th of June 2022.


REILDRIN G. MORALES, DVM, MVPHMgt.
Officer-in-Charge, Director

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ANNEX 1. AVIAN INFLUENZA PROTECTION PROGRAM, PROCEDURES ON CLEANING AND DISINFECTION, RESTOCKING WITH SENTINEL POULTRY, AND DECLARATION OF A DISEASE-FREE AREA

Section 1. Cleaning

- 1.1. The surfaces of the interior and the exterior of the poultry house, cage and/or teepee shall be thoroughly washed with water and detergent.
- 1.2. Manual scrubbing of all surfaces shall be done to effectively remove any remaining manure or dirt adhering to these surfaces.
- 1.3. The order of the washing shall be roof first, followed by the wall, and then the floor. This shall be implemented in all houses or confinements.
- 1.4. The washing of any poultry equipment shall be done within the area where the poultry was housed.
- 1.5. All other structures in the Infected Premises shall be adequately cleaned.
- 1.6. An authorized veterinarian shall assess the adequacy of cleaning prior to the start of disinfection activity.

Section 2. Disinfection

- 2.1. The order of disinfection of any poultry structure shall be roof first, followed by the wall, and then the floor.
- 2.2. For backyard poultry, use of a knapsack sprayer for spraying the surroundings with an approved disinfectant can be done.
- 2.3. Only approved disinfectants and dilution shall be used. All surfaces shall be thoroughly soaked with the disinfectant solution (see Annex 4a and 4b).
- 2.4. Caustic soda shall be applied liberally on the surface of the burial site.
- 2.5. Aerial spraying with a virucidal disinfectant shall be done after disinfection of all surfaces.
- 2.6. Other structures in the Infected Premises shall be disinfected.
- 2.7. A final disinfection of the poultry housing structure shall be done 14 days after the first disinfection.

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Section 3. Restocking with Sentinel Poultry

- 3.1. There shall be a rest period of 21 days prior to restocking with sentinel poultry/birds.
- 3.2. Restocking of sentinel poultry/birds with at least 300 heads per farm (for commercial poultry operation) or at least 30 heads per household (for backyard poultry operation) shall be done in the Infected Premises. On the other hand, restocking of sentinel poultry is not applicable for pasture-based system (grazing).
- 3.3. BAI shall provide sentinel poultry/ birds, feeds and vaccines. Age and type of the sentinel poultry/birds will be determined by the TWG.
- 3.4. The sentinel poultry/birds shall be given the basic vaccination program for IBD, IB and ND.
- 3.5. The sentinel poultry/birds shall be grown to a minimum period of 35 days.
 - 3.5.1. Observe sentinel animals for clinical signs daily.
 - 3.5.2. Thirty (30) oropharyngeal or cloacal swab samples shall be taken on days 7, 14, 21 and 35. For backyard farms, minimum of ten (10) birds shall be sampled.
 - 3.5.3. These samples shall be tested using RT-PCR for H5 or H7.
- 3.6. Any incidence of unusual high mortality shall be monitored daily by the LGU veterinary office (PVO) and reported to BAI-AHWD and/or DARFO.
- 3.7. In the event that signs are indicative of a potential repeat of infection in the Infected Premises, the growing of the sentinel birds shall be immediately terminated. The same procedure as in the Stamping Out activity shall be implemented.
- 3.8. Upon completion of the 35-day period and confirmation by BAI-VLD-ADDRL of the absence of the AI virus, the premises shall be subjected to cleaning and disinfection (Section E.1 and E.2) in preparation for repopulation.

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Section 4. Declaration of a Disease-Free Area

- 4.1. The Director of BAI shall declare freedom from disease of a previously infected premises when no indication of infection is detected in the sentinel population.
- 4.2. The declaration shall be based on RT-PCR test results from BAI-VLD-ADDRL or the DA RADDL.

Section 5. Repopulation

Repopulation of the previously Infected Premises shall be carried out upon issuance of AI Clearance by DA-BAI based on results of growing the sentinel animals.