



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 29
Series of 2022

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF FREE STATUS ON AVIAN INFLUENZA TYPE A SUBTYPES H5 AND H7 DURING THE AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Avian Influenza Protection Program and the Department of Agriculture (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, AI Type A subtypes H5N1 and H5N8 have been detected in poultry species such as quails and ducks since February 2022;

WHEREAS, DA issued Memorandum Circular 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;

WHEREAS, to ensure supply chain continuity and local food sufficiency, the movement of poultry related commodities will be allowed subject to additional safety measures to prevent the further spread of AI Type A subtypes H5 and H7;

WHEREAS, the Certificate of Free Status (CFS) for AI, issued by BAI and DA Regional Field Offices (RFO) as requirement for local transport of poultry and related commodities, shall be issued to avoid confusion and different interpretations of the AI laboratory tests and facilitate unhampered delivery of safe poultry products and healthy avian species to target destination;

WHEREAS, relative to the foregoing, the following guidelines on the issuance of the CFS for AI is hereby issued to provide guidance to all concerned:

A. Laboratory Testing

- Minimum of 30 serum and oropharyngeal/cloacal swab samples shall be collected randomly across the flock of BAI Registered Animal Facility;
- For farms with no BAI Animal Facility Registration Certificate, the sample requirements are as follows:

Total No. of population	Sample Size
10-15 birds	100 % of total population
15-49 birds	15 birds
50-299 birds	20 birds
300 and more	30 birds

As per Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Test and Vaccines of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE).



Agency letterhead

CERTIFICATE OF FREE STATUS
AVIAN INFLUENZA TYPE A SUBTYPES H5 AND H7

This Certification is based on the **NEGATIVE** Avian Influenza (AI) Type A subtypes H5 and H7 test results conducted by _____ with Laboratory Accession No. _____, collected on _____ and reported _____, submitted by the farm/owner as partial compliance to the requirements for the LOCAL TRANSPORT OF POULTRY AND RELATED COMMODITIES with the following details:

Name of Farm/Owner:

Farm Location

Barangay:

Municipality:

Province:

Details of species/commodities:

Animal Facility Registration/

LGU registration/RSBSA Registration No.:

Certificate Control Number:

Certificate Valid Until:

Issued this ___ day of _____ 2022.

By the Authority of the Office of the Director:

Signed:

Name of the Division Head

Division



- Screening tests for AI shall be conducted for the purposes of local movement. Reactors shall be confirmed using Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction; and
- Testing shall be conducted in any Government Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories and any private Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories accredited by the Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory.

B. Issuance of Certificate of Free Status (CFS) on AI to the Farms

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

A. BAI Registered Farms

1. Valid NEGATIVE laboratory test results for AI;
2. A photocopy of the Animal Disease Monitoring Compliance Certificate (ADMCC), also known as *Poultry Farm Certification* – for all poultry farms except commercial broiler farms; and
3. A photocopy of the Animal Facility Registration License to Operate (previously known as *Animal Welfare Certificate of Registration*) – applicable only for commercial broiler farms.

B. Backyard Farms

1. NEGATIVE laboratory test results for AI; and
 2. Photocopy of the Local Government Veterinary Certificate of Registration or Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA).
- The validity of the CFS-AI shall depend on the type of commodity and Memorandum issued by the DA with reference to the movement restrictions in several poultry related commodities across different regions in the Philippines.

C. Delegation of Authority to issue CFS-AI

- The Chief of the Animal Health and Welfare Division is authorized to issue/approve CFS-AI as a requirement for the local transport of poultry and related commodities;
- The Regional Executive Directors may authorize their respective Heads/Chiefs of the Regulatory Divisions of the DARFOs to issue/approve CFS-AI; and
- The template for CFS-AI provided in Annex 1 shall be adopted for uniformity.

This memorandum shall take effect upon signing and all other provisions in the current DA memorandum circulars related to Avian Influenza guidelines on the movement shall still be in effect.

Done this 6th day of July 2022.


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

*A food-secure and resilient Philippines
 with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk*

