



Republic of the Philippines  
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## MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 46  
Series of 2022

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENT TO MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 24, SERIES OF 2022  
“LABORATORY SUBMISSION PROTOCOL FOR IMPORTED ANIMALS  
DURING THE MANDATORY 30-DAY QUARANTINE PERIOD”,  
PARTICULARLY HATCHING EGGS, DAY-OLD BIRDS, AND ALL LIVE  
BIRDS (POULTRY AND NON-POULTRY)**

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Animal Industry issued Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 24 s.2022 on June 14, 2022, providing guidance to all Veterinary Quarantine Officers (VQO) or the Animal Quarantine Inspectors (AQI) on the schedule, collection and submission of laboratory samples for animals during the quarantine period;

**WHEREAS**, position papers and appeal letters were sent by various stakeholders regarding the implementation of MC no. 24 and meetings were conducted to discuss their concerns specifically for poultry commodities;

**WHEREAS**, during the said meeting, an agreement was formed to create an addendum guideline to cater the needs of birds based on the World Organisation for Animal Health’s (WOAH’s) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, and the sampling size based on several sampling assumptions with limitations on availability of laboratory resources;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act 11032 (Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service and Deliver Act) directs government offices to evaluate and streamline its regulatory processes;

**WHEREAS**, based on the foregoing, BAI MC No.24 s.2022 is hereby amended as follows:

The WOA defines **poultry** as birds reared and kept in captivity for the production of any commercial animal products or for breeding for this purpose (eggs, meat, or feathers, etc.). **Non-poultry** birds are any species of birds kept in captivity for other reasons including those that are kept for shows, racing, exhibitions, zoological collections and competitions, including pet birds. Birds kept in a single household, the products of which are used within the same household exclusively, are not considered poultry.

All imported birds, HEs, and DOCs shall come from a country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza (as defined by the WOA), showed no clinical signs of disease on the day of shipment, kept in isolation prior to shipment, and transported in new or appropriately sanitized containers. The requirements indicated in the import terms and conditions of the specific commodity shall also be fulfilled.

### A. HATCHING EGGS FROM POULTRY

1. The importer shall submit a copy of the following documents to NVQSD Central Office and their corresponding Veterinary Quarantine Officer (VQO) or Animal Quarantine Inspector (AQI) at port of entry and at quarantine site, seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the indicated commodity: a copy of the schedule of setting the hatching eggs, the date of hatch, estimated hatch forecast and planned vaccination/medication program (Newcastle disease [ND], salmonella, etc.)



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2. In addition to the requirements indicated in the point of origin's import terms and conditions, the attestation declared and signed by the origin's veterinary officer or agency shall also include:
  - a. The hatching eggs (HEs) are sourced from avian influenza (AI) and ND free or ND vaccinated flocks;
  - b. HEs are sourced from a pullorum-free flock, (or sourced from birds over 4 months that tested negative with whole blood agglutination test);
  - c. The hatching eggs have had their surfaces sanitized in accordance with WOH standards, and;
  - d. If the parent flock is vaccinated against ND and/or salmonella, the type of vaccine used and date of vaccination shall be included.
3. There shall be **no testing** required upon arrival of the HEs at the port of entry, provided that the above-mentioned health attestations are satisfied. Otherwise, non-compliance may be subject to violation as stipulated in DA Administrative Circular no. 6, series of 2022.
4. After arrival, the 21-day mandatory quarantine period prior to dispatch shall be used to observe the health status for the imported hatching eggs until after they become hatched chicks, subject to periodic inspection by the corresponding VQO and AQI.
5. During the 21-day quarantine period and first seven-days post-dispatch of the hatched chicks, any performance parameter observed that is below acceptable health standard for hatching eggs and the hatched chicks shall be considered for case investigation and corresponding sample collection (as applicable).

## **B. HATCHING EGGS FROM BIRDS OTHER THAN POULTRY**

1. The importer shall submit a copy of the following documents to NVQSD Central Office and their corresponding VQO or AQI at port of entry and at quarantine site, at least seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the indicated commodity: copy of the schedule of setting the hatching eggs, the date of hatch, planned vaccination/medication program (ND, salmonella, etc.), and test results from country of origin
2. In addition to the requirements indicated in the point of origin's import terms and conditions, the attestation declared and signed by the origin's veterinary officer or agency shall also include:
  - a. A statistically appropriate sample of the parent flock birds was subjected, with negative results, to a diagnostic test AI, ND, and Salmonella, at the time of collection of the hatching eggs (**attach all test results**);
  - b. The HEs are sourced from HPAI and ND free or ND vaccinated flocks;
  - c. HEs are sourced from a pullorum-free flock (or sourced from birds over 4 months that tested negative with whole blood agglutination test), and;
  - d. The hatching eggs have had their surfaces sanitized in accordance with WOH standards.
- a. If the parent flock is vaccinated against ND and/or salmonella, the type of vaccine used and date of vaccination shall be included.



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3. There shall be **no testing** required upon arrival of the HEs at port of entry, provided that the above-mentioned health attestations are satisfied. Otherwise, non-compliance may be subject to violation as stipulated in DA Administrative Circular no. 6, series of 2022.
4. After arrival, the 30-day mandatory quarantine period shall be used to observe health status for the eggs until they are hatched chicks, subject to periodic inspection by the corresponding VQO and AQI.
5. During the quarantine period, any performance parameter observed that is below acceptable health standard for hatching eggs and the hatched chicks shall be considered for case investigation and corresponding sample collection (as applicable).

### C. DAY-OLD POULTRY

1. The importer shall submit a copy of the following documents to NVQSD Central Office and their corresponding VQO or AQI at port of entry and at quarantine site, at least seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the indicated commodity: copy of the planned vaccination/medication program (ND, salmonella, etc.) of the day-old poultry
2. In addition to the requirements indicated in the point of origin's import terms and conditions, the attestation declared and signed by the origin's veterinary officer or agency shall also include:
  - a. The day-old poultry (DOP) are sourced from HPAI and ND free or ND vaccinated flocks;
  - b. The DOP are sourced from a pullorum-free flock (or sourced from birds over 4 months that tested negative with whole blood agglutination test), and;
  - c. The DOP are hatched from eggs that had had their surfaces sanitized in accordance to WOAHS standards.
  - d. If the parent flock is vaccinated against ND and/or salmonella, the type of vaccine used and date of vaccination shall be included.
3. There shall be **no testing** required upon arrival of the DOP at port of entry, provided that the above-mentioned health attestations are satisfied. Otherwise, non-compliance may be subject to violation as stipulated in DA Administrative Circular no. 6, series of 2022.
4. After arrival, the 30-day mandatory quarantine period shall be used to observe health status of the DOP, subject to periodic inspection by the corresponding VQO and AQI.
5. During the quarantine period, any performance parameter observed that is below acceptable health standard for day-old poultry shall be considered for case investigation and corresponding sample collection (as applicable).



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#### **D. DAY-OLD BIRDS OTHER THAN POULTRY**

1. The importer shall submit a copy of the following documents to NVQSD Central Office and their corresponding VQO or AQI at port of entry and at quarantine site, at least seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the indicated commodity: copy of the planned vaccination/medication program (ND, salmonella, etc.) of the day-old bird/s, and test results from country of origin
2. In addition to the requirements indicated in the point of origin's import terms and conditions, the attestation declared and signed by the origin's veterinary officer or agency shall also include:
  - a. A statistically appropriate sample of the parent flock birds was subjected, with negative results, to a diagnostic test for AI, ND, and Salmonella, at the time of collection of the hatching eggs before hatching (**attach all test results**);
  - b. The day-old birds (DOB) are sourced from HPAI and ND free or ND vaccinated flocks;
  - c. The DOB are sourced from a pullorum-free flock (or sourced from birds over 4 months that tested negative with whole blood agglutination test), and;
  - d. The DOB are hatched from eggs that had had their surfaces sanitized in accordance to WOAHS standards.
  - e. If the parent flock is vaccinated against ND and/or salmonella, the type of vaccine used and date of vaccination shall be included.
3. There shall be **no testing** required upon arrival of the DOB at point of entry, provided that the above-mentioned health attestations are satisfied. Otherwise, non-compliance may be subject to violation as stipulated in DA Administrative Circular no. 6, series of 2022.
4. After arrival, the 30-day mandatory quarantine period shall be used to observe health status of the birds, subject to periodic inspection by the corresponding VQO and AQI.
5. During the quarantine period, any performance parameter observed that is below acceptable health standard for day-old birds shall be considered for case investigation and corresponding sample collection (as applicable).

#### **E. ALL LIVE POULTRY (other than day-old poultry)**

1. The importer shall submit a copy of the following documents to NVQSD Central Office and their corresponding VQO or AQI at port of entry and at quarantine site, at least seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the indicated commodity:
  - a. Copy of the vaccination, medication, treatment history of the flock 30 days prior to export. If the flock is vaccinated against ND and/or salmonella, the type of vaccine used and date of vaccination shall be included. Treatment procedures done for internal and external parasites shall also be included.
  - b. Copy of the planned vaccination/medication program (ND, salmonella, etc.) of the arriving poultry.



2. In addition to the requirements indicated in the point of origin's import terms and conditions, the attestation declared by the origin's veterinary officer or agency shall also include: The poultry are sourced from flocks that was monitored for AI, ND, and other important diseases, and was found to be negative.
3. After arrival, the 30-day mandatory quarantine period shall be used to observe the health status of the birds, subject to periodic inspection by the corresponding VQO and AQI.
4. Sample collection shall be made 7 to 14 days after arrival of the poultry in the declared quarantine site for the following diagnostic tests:

Disease and Diagnostic Test	Required Samples/ Transport Media	Remarks
PCR: Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease	Oropharyngeal or cloacal swab/ Viral transport media	Sample size (expected prevalence: 9%, CI%:95, and ST%:100) shall be calculated with entered population size using Survey Calculation Template (available at <a href="https://bit.ly/sample_calculator">https://bit.ly/sample_calculator</a> )
Bacterial isolation: Salmonella	Cloacal swab/ Cary-Blair transport media (Cotton swab should remain intact inside the media)	Upon provision of related certification/s: 1. No ND testing required for birds vaccinated against ND 2. No salmonella testing required for birds sourced from government recognized Salmonella-free farms (e.g. "Pullorum-typhoid Clean" flocks)

5. During the quarantine period, any performance parameter observed that is below acceptable health standard for live poultry shall be considered for case investigation and corresponding sample collection (as applicable).
6. In addition, all succeeding applications on Import Permit for the birds with a recent importation record must be supported with a scanned copy of the Notice of Quarantine Release of the last shipment, in addition to the usual import documents

**F. ALL OTHER LIVE BIRDS (exotic/pet, etc.) EXCLUDING PIGEONS & GAMEFOWLS**

1. The importer shall submit a copy of the following documents to NVQSD Central Office and their corresponding VQO or AQI at port of entry and at quarantine site, at least seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the indicated commodity:
  - a. Copy of the vaccination, medication, treatment history of the bird/s 30 days prior to export. If the bird/s is vaccinated against ND and/or salmonella, the type of vaccine used and date of vaccination shall be included. Treatment procedures done for internal and external parasites shall also be included.
  - b. Copy of the planned vaccination/medication program (Newcastle disease [ND], salmonella, etc.) of the arriving bird/s, as applicable.
2. In addition to the requirements indicated in the point of origin's import terms and conditions, the attestation declared by the origin's veterinary officer or agency shall also include:



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- a. the birds are sourced from flocks that was monitored for AI, ND, and other important diseases, and was found to be negative.
  - b. The bird/s have been kept in isolation facilities since they were hatched or for at least 30 days prior to shipment and showed no clinical signs of diseases;
  - c. A statistically appropriate sample of the birds are tested with AI, ND, and salmonella, with negative results within 30 days prior to export (**attach all test results**).
3. After arrival, the 30-day mandatory quarantine period shall be used to observe the health status of the birds, subject to periodic inspection by the corresponding VQO and AQI.
  4. There shall be **no testing** required upon arrival of the birds at the port of entry, provided that the above-mentioned health attestations are satisfied. Otherwise, non-compliance may be subject to violation as stipulated in DA Administrative Circular no. 6, series of 2022.
  5. During the quarantine period, any performance parameter observed that is below acceptable health standard for the imported bird shall be considered for case investigation and corresponding sample collection (as applicable).

#### **G. PIGEONS & GAMEFOWLS**

1. The importer shall submit a copy of the following documents to NVQSD Central Office and their corresponding VQO or AQI at port of entry and at quarantine site, at least seven (7) days prior to the arrival of the birds:
  - a. Copy of the vaccination, medication, treatment history of the bird/s 30 days prior to export. If the bird/s is vaccinated against ND and/or salmonella, the type of vaccine used and date of vaccination shall be included. Treatment procedures done for internal and external parasites shall also be included.
  - b. Copy of the planned vaccination/medication program (Newcastle disease [ND], salmonella, etc.) of the arriving bird/s, as applicable.
  - c. A signed and notarized affidavit regarding the list of all farms/quarantine sites where the bird/s will reside during the 30-day quarantine period (editable template available at [https://bit.ly/bird\\_affidavit](https://bit.ly/bird_affidavit)).
2. In addition to the requirements indicated in the point of origin's import terms and conditions, the attestation declared by the origin's veterinary officer or agency shall also include:
  - a. the birds are sourced from flocks that was monitored for AI, ND, and other important diseases, and was found to be negative.
  - b. The bird/s have been kept in isolation facilities since they were hatched or for at least 30 days prior to shipment and showed no clinical signs of diseases;
  - c. A statistically appropriate sample of the birds are tested with AI, ND, and salmonella, with negative results within 30 days prior to export (**attach all test results**).



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3. There shall be **no testing** required upon arrival of the bird/s at point of entry, provided that the above-mentioned health attestations and attached test results are satisfied. Otherwise, non-compliance may be subject to violation as stipulated in DA Administrative Circular no. 6, series of 2022.
4. The birds may only be released from port of entry upon submission of the signed and notarized affidavit regarding the list of all farms/quarantine sites where the bird/s will reside during its 30-day quarantine period to the corresponding VQO or AQI (editable template available at [https://bit.ly/bird\\_affidavit](https://bit.ly/bird_affidavit)).
5. The 30-day quarantine period shall be used to observe the health status of the birds, subject to periodic inspection by the corresponding VQO and AQI.
6. During the quarantine period, any performance parameter observed that is below acceptable health standard for the imported bird shall be considered for case investigation and corresponding sample collection (as applicable).
7. In addition, all succeeding applications on Import Permit for all live birds, gamefowls, and pigeons, including hatching eggs and day-old chicks with a recent importation record must be supported with a scanned copy of the Notice of Quarantine Release of the last shipment, in addition to the usual import documents.


For all commodities with required tests, the transport media shall be requested by the importer in the Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL) or Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories (RADDLs) at least five (5) days before arrival of the bird. Test kits and other materials not available in the corresponding laboratory shall be provided by the importer. The cost of testing shall be borne by the importer.

As stipulated in DA Administrative Order no. 22, series of 1993, the importer shall shoulder or provide the cost of transportation, lodging and meal expenses incurred by the DA-BAI VQO/ AQI during the periodic inspection of the birds at the farm/quarantine site during the 30-day quarantine period (as applicable). Should any shipment of birds arrive infected with dangerous communicable disease, all of the sick birds shall be placed under strict quarantine. No compensation shall be allowed for the birds destroyed.

All other procedures for sample submission not stated in this Memorandum shall still follow the guidelines of MC no. 24, s.2022.

For your information and guidance.

Done this 21<sup>st</sup> day of October 2022 at Quezon City.

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