

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
July 2009**

**COMPARTMENTS
FOR PROTECTION AGAINST
AVIAN INFLUENZA and NEWCASTLE DISEASE
IN POULTRY BREEDING COMPANIES
IN GREAT BRITAIN**

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR
MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS
IN HATCHERIES**

“Compartment means an animal subpopulation contained within one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to ... specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade”

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2008 edition.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS IN HATCHERIES

NOTE: The paragraphs in bold type apply only to the GB Enhanced Standard. Paragraphs in plain type apply to both the EU Standard and the GB Enhanced Standard.

Definitions:

The “company” means the company making the application for compartment status.

The “producer” means the enterprise producing and supplying the packaging materials (Section 7).

Heightened Risk Period’ means any time when an outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease has been confirmed within Great Britain; or when the hatchery falls within an EU protection, surveillance or restriction zone. (Note that, regardless of compartment status, all premises will remain subject to general disease control regulations under national and EU legislation).

The “External Operator” means an independent rodent control company which has a contract with the compartment company to carry out rodent control on site (Section 9).

“Visitor” means any person who enters a premises who is not employed by the company to work at those premises as their principal work location. Note this means that a company employee whose principal work location is elsewhere is therefore defined as a visitor and must sign the visitor record accordingly. (Section 8).

In all the following Sections, the Company’s written management Protocol must contain the listed provisions as a minimum.

1. DISINFECTION OF COMPANY VEHICLES

- 1.1 **Specify the location of the vehicle disinfection facility.**
- 1.2 Specify the cleaning procedure of the external parts; the wheels and wheel arches are critically important.
- 1.3 **Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant for external parts.**
- 1.4 Specify the cleaning procedure for the cargo compartment.

- 1.5 **Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant for the cargo compartment.**
- 1.6 **Specify the cleaning procedure for the driver's cab; the foot wells are especially important.**
- 1.7 **Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant for the driver's cab.**

2. DISINFECTION OF INTERNAL AREAS AND FIXED EQUIPMENT

- 2.1 Written instructions must specify the areas to which they apply, e.g. incubators, hatchers, chick processing lines, reception bays, loading out bays, specified fixed equipment.
- 2.2 Description of physical procedures for litter and dust removal, degreasing, washing, disinfecting, and drying out.
- 2.3 **Specify disinfectant type, and concentration, and method of application.**
- 2.4 **Specify routine maintenance procedures to be conducted during 'down time'.**

3. DISINFECTION OF REUSABLE EQUIPMENT

- 3.1 Specify the items of equipment concerned, e.g. egg trays and trolleys for transport of eggs from farms to hatchery.
- 3.2 Specify the location of the cleaning procedure (there may be different locations and processes for different types of equipment).
- 3.3 Detail of the disinfection procedure.
- 3.4 **Specify the type of disinfectant and its concentration**
- 3.5 Specify the place and method for storing the equipment after disinfection and prior to use, so that it is protected from contamination.

4. EGG INTAKE: FROM SOURCES OUTSIDE THE COMPARTMENT

NB: It is the responsibility of the Company to demonstrate that there is no possible risk of introduction of infection by the externally sourced eggs.

- 4.1 Procedure for ensuring that the source is disease free: testing of the flocks of origin prior to delivery, independently verified biosecurity standards, etc.

- 4.2 Disinfection of the eggs at point of collection, and again prior to entry to the hatchery.
- 4.3 Procedures to keep the eggs separate and isolated on entry to the hatchery, through to their setting in incubators.
- 4.4 Incubators and hatchers dedicated to the out-sourced eggs. However the out-sourced eggs may be placed in incubators or hatchers together with compartment- sourced eggs, provided that all of them then undergo the same post-hatching quarantine procedures.
- 4.5 Procedures to keep the newly hatched chicks separate and isolated from all in-house chicks in the processing lines; recommended procedures would be to hatch on separate days, or to put the out-sourced chicks through the processing lines last, immediately prior to wash-down.
- 4.6 **Procedure to place chicks on rearing sites in isolation from any other chicks, until they have completed 21 days quarantine with satisfactory clinical results.**
- 4.7 **Laboratory tests to be carried out during the quarantine period to demonstrate the freedom of the consignment from AI and ND viruses. Recommended procedure is serology at 14 to 21 days on a sample selected at 95%confidence/5%prevalence. Also virology on any dead or diseased chicks.**

5. HEIGHTENED RISK PERIOD: EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

- 5.1 **Visitors: If an HPAI outbreak has occurred within 50 kms of the premises within the past 3 months, all visitors should be prohibited, except those that are essential for the welfare or survival of the birds. Routine maintenance by outside personnel must be suspended. However the visit ban shall not apply to official visits by officers of the veterinary authorities for the purposes of disease control or other statutory functions.**
- 5.2 **Vehicles: all vehicle entry to the premises should be prohibited, except those that are essential for the operation of the hatchery. Company vehicles on egg collection journeys should be routed through areas well away from the suspect or infected zones. A risk assessment should be made and if appropriate additional decontamination procedures should be applied to all vehicles which have to come onto the site.**
- 5.3 **Staff and Equipment Movements between Compartment sites: all movements to be banned except where absolutely necessary.**

Separate sites to be treated as far as possible as isolated units.

- 5.4 Risk Assessment to the whole Compartment: in the case of compartments comprising more than one premises, the entire structure of the compartment must be reviewed to assess increased levels of risk to other sites within it, and appropriate measures taken.

6. MONITORING OF HATCH DATA AND CHICK VIABILITY

- 6.1 Written procedure to be followed by hatchery manager for recording of hatch figures and chick viability for every batch of eggs.
- 6.2 Specify how and where the daily record shall be kept.
- 6.3 Specify normal ranges of hatch and viability rates to be expected.
- 6.4 Action levels: specify level of substantial and unexplained departure from the expected ranges which must trigger an immediate report to company vet or other higher management level. Specify to whom report must be directed, and alternatives in case of absence.

7. PACKAGING MATERIALS: PRODUCTION, STORAGE AND USE

- 7.1 **The company must have a written arrangement with the producer to confirm that:**
- 7.1.1 'One-use' packaging materials must be new, clean and unused;
- 7.1.2 Packaging materials must be delivered to the hatchery in wrapping which protects them from contamination;
- 7.1.3 The wrapping itself must also be clean and free from any contamination at the time of delivery into the hatchery;
- 7.2 The packaging materials must be stored in the hatchery in conditions which prevent any risk of contamination by wild birds or vermin.

8. PERSONNEL: ENTRY CONTROLS

- 8.1 It must be forbidden for any person to enter the high biosecurity area by any route other than the hygiene barrier, and the physical design of the premises must reinforce this.
- 8.2 An agreement signed by every member of staff that they will not work with, keep, or have direct contact with any collection of poultry or hobby or pet birds, and will inform management prior to entering the

high biosecurity area if they have had such contact outside this compartment within the previous 72 hours.

- 8.3 A statement signed by every visitor that they have not visited, worked with, or had any other form of direct contact with poultry or hobby or pet birds, except for birds within this compartment, during the 72 hours prior to their visit to the premises.
- 8.4 A record in permanent and easily accessible form of the attendance of every staff member, and the presence of every visitor to the site.
- 8.5 **A written account of the procedure at the hygiene barrier for removing outdoor clothing and shoes, leaving bags or rucksacks on the 'dirty' side, showering, and donning clean protective indoor clothing.**
- 8.6 **Instructions to staff about controlling infection risk when bringing personal items (lunch boxes, mobile phones, newspapers etc) into the high biosecurity area.**
- 8.7 **A procedure for disinfecting tools or equipment brought on site by outside maintenance workers, inspectors, etc.**
- 8.8 **A procedure to mitigate risk if it is necessary for emergency reasons for personnel to enter the premises with less than the prescribed 72 hours bird-free time.**

9. RODENT CONTROL

- 9.1 **Specify who is responsible for rodent control operations on site. It may be company employees, or an external operator. If the latter, there must be a written contract with the operator which covers the details below as a minimum.**
- 9.2 Number and location of bait sites.
- 9.3 Type of bait.
- 9.4 Frequency at which bait sites are checked.
- 9.5 Describe responses which will be initiated if there is evidence of increasing rodent activity.

10. STAFF: TRAINING AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOPs)

- 10.1 A written programme for induction training of newly engaged staff.

- 10.2 A written schedule of the biosecurity issues to be covered during induction training.
- 10.3 A written schedule of the critical control points to be highlighted during induction training.
- 10.4 **Details of any relevant biosecurity external qualifications which staff will be required to study and attempt, e.g. NVQs.**
- 10.5 **Details of any in-service top up training that staff are required to undergo.**
- 10.6 **Specific SOPs to be provided and individually tailored to each area of work.**

11: VEHICLES: ENTRY CONTROLS FOR DELIVERY OR COLLECTION

- 11.1 Specified entry and exit gates.
- 11.2 Description of the decontamination area, and the equipment provided.
- 11.3 Procedure for decontamination/disinfection of tyres and wheel arches within the decontamination area.
- 11.4 **Record of decontamination/disinfection maintained on site and signed off by responsible member of staff for each vehicle visit.**
- 11.5 **Procedure for driver to contact on-site staff without entering any high biosecurity area.**
- 11.6 **Procedure to define and control the areas to which the driver has access.**
- 11.7 **Procedure for loading/unloading at the interface with the high biosecurity area (which would normally be delivery/loading out bays).**
- 11.8 How and where the record is kept of the vehicle visit, to show: date and time, owner of vehicle, registration of vehicle, driver name, cargo, last address visited, date and time of visit to last address, and manager's confirmation of decontamination.