

General Directorate for Food

OFFICIAL VACCINATION PLAN
HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)
FACT SHEET 6 – BIOSECURITY MEASURES

Vaccination operations under the official plan must be carried out in accordance with strict biosecurity procedures. The official order of 29 September 2021 already requires biosecurity measures *"to be applied by operators and animal professionals on farms holding poultry or captive birds in the context of prevention of animal diseases transmissible to animals or humans."*

THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

Given their activities involving livestock, poultry vaccination firms and poultry containment and collection firms are deemed to be "animal professionals" under the terms of regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 March on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law'). As such, these companies are under obligations to *"take action to minimise the risk of the spread of diseases in the context of their occupational relationship with animals and products"*, and obligations relating to their *"level of knowledge of animal health"* notably with regard to *"biosecurity principles"*.

On the basis of that regulation, the official order of 29 September 2021 requires that operators (holding or owning flocks) and animal professionals apply biosecurity measures in order to reduce the risks of introduction, transfer and spread of pathogens.

CORPORATE TRAINING:

Article 13 of the official order of 29 September 2021 requires that poultry vaccination and containment companies have in place a team leader with *"specific knowledge in the area of animal health and biosecurity acquired through specific training."*

It is therefore mandatory for all companies providing poultry vaccination and collection (containment) services to ensure that every team working on farms has a trained team leader able to ensure that biosecurity requirements are correctly applied by the personnel working under their authority.

PRE-VACCINATION MEASURES:

1. Managers of vaccination firms (and, where applicable, poultry containment firms) must ensure with regard to farmers:

“Availability in the establishment of personal biosecurity equipment, the means for handwashing and the cleaning and disinfection of materials and equipment for use by their personnel. Where these are lacking, such means shall be provided by the company to all workers”: Article 13 of the ministerial order of 29/09/2021.

2. Operators (holders and owners of flocks) must inform vaccination firms in advance where flocks on which vaccination operations are to be carried out:
 - show symptoms or issues leading to possible suspicion of disease,
 - are affected by a disease other than a regulated disease,
 - are the subject of suspected or actual infection by a disease, whether or not a regulated disease.

BIOSECURITY MEASURES AT THE LOCATION OF OPERATIONS:

In the case of poultry vaccination and containment firms, the basic principle is *“to adhere to the measures laid down in the biosecurity plan for the establishments in which they are providing their services”*: Article 13 of the ministerial order of 29/09/2021.

1. Rules governing vehicle movement:

OBJECTIVE: To reduce the risk of contamination due to vehicle movements around poultry rearing areas.

Article 5 of the official order of 29/09/2021: *“Only vehicles essential to the operation of the establishment shall enter the working area.”*

2. Rules governing movement of workers: Entry into the poultry rearing area

OBJECTIVE: To reduce the risk of contamination of poultry due to human vectors.

Article 8 of the official order of 29/09/2021: *“All persons entering the poultry rearing area shall wash their hands and don clothing – shoes and garments – reserved for the rearing area and removed on leaving that area. Hands must be washed on leaving the rearing area. Movements into and out of each production unit must not be a source of contamination for the birds present nor a source of spread of pathogens. All persons must use a system permitting achievement of this objective. In the case of operations involving handling live or dead birds, the owner or holder must ensure that workers are informed of the biosecurity rules they must follow and that they are equipped with clean clothing specific to use on the farm concerned. Owners and holders of poultry may rely on procedures specific to the company on whose services they have called, and, in this case, a prior agreement shall be formally included in the biosecurity plan.”*

3. Movements of workers: Exit from the poultry rearing area:

OBJECTIVE: To reduce the risk of transfer of pathogens to other flocks by human vectors.

All exits from the poultry rearing area, including for work breaks taken outside that area, must be via the hygiene lock and in adherence to a strict procedure for personal equipment removal and handwashing.

4. Equipment management (vaccination-containment):

OBJECTIVE: To reduce the risk of flock contamination and transfer of pathogens to other flocks by items entering the poultry rearing area.

Article 8 of the official order of 29/09/2021: *"Materials and equipment used in production units must be regularly cleaned and disinfected, including prior to changes of production unit."*

OPERATIONAL TRACEABILITY:

OBJECTIVE: To ensure that it is possible to detail the chronology of the operations carried out by each firm in the event of an epidemiological investigation arising from a later sanitary issue.

Article 13 of the official order of 29/09/2021 requires that poultry vaccination and containment firms *"keep a register recording the locations, dates and identities of personnel present during each operation. This register must be held available for examination by the competent authorities."*

For more information:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law').

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FR/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32016R0429>

- The official order of 29 September 2021 concerning biosecurity measures to be applied by operators and animal professionals in establishments holding poultry or captive birds in the context of prevention of animal diseases transmissible to animals or humans

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000044126719>