

**For Information on
31 October 2005**

LegCo Panel on Food Safety and Environmental Hygiene

**Preventive Measures Against
Avian Influenza Outbreaks Among Local Live Poultry**

Purpose

This paper sets out the measures taken by the Administration to prevent avian influenza outbreaks among local live poultry.

Introduction

2. Since 1998, Hong Kong has implemented a series of preventive and surveillance measures targeting the virus at source and its potential carriers, i.e. live poultry and wild birds, to guard against avian influenza outbreaks. These measures include:

- (1) Valid import documentation requirement for all imported birds;
- (2) Compulsory vaccination for all imported and local chickens;
- (3) Regulation of local farms with stringent biosecurity measures;
- (4) All chickens imported from the Mainland are required to come from registered farms and accompanied by health certificates;
- (5) Compulsory segregation of waterfowl and other poultry;
- (6) Implementing market rest days in wholesale markets and retail outlets to allow regular cleansings;
- (7) Tightened hygiene requirements for wholesale markets and retail

outlets; and

- (8) Comprehensive surveillance of human influenza and avian influenza that covers, inter alia, wild birds and pet birds sold in the market.

Recent Avian Influenza Outbreaks Outside Hong Kong

3. Since December 2003, a total of ten countries or places in Asia have reported avian influenza outbreaks. Recent reports also showed that avian influenza has affected parts of Europe. Under the circumstances, Hong Kong has followed the guidelines of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and stopped processing applications for import and re-export of poultry meat and live poultry from countries affected by avian influenza.

4. In view of the recent spread of avian influenza around the world, we have implemented or planned to implement the following measures to step up precautionary measures to guard against outbreaks of avian influenza amongst local live poultry:

- (1) Reduce the current maximum licence capacity of local poultry farms from 3.7 million chickens to 2 million;
- (2) Introduce a voluntary surrender scheme for live poultry farmers, wholesalers, retailers and transporters to encourage them to surrender their licences / tenancies and cease operation permanently; and
- (3) Preparing for the establishment of a regional slaughtering hub in Hong Kong; and
- (4) Other measures that strengthen our defence against avian influenza.

Contingency Measures in Case of Avian Influenza Outbreak in Hong Kong

5. As announced last year, we shall cull all chickens in Hong Kong in the event of two confirmed H5N1 cases in local poultry farms and thereafter, to

terminate the local live poultry trade on compulsory basis. We also announced our plan to cull all live poultry in Hong Kong's retail markets if there are two confirmed H5N1 cases in our retail markets.

Biosecurity Measures for Live Poultry Farms

6. According to *Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance* (Cap 139), all livestock keeping and related activities in Hong Kong are regulated by the licences issued by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD). For live poultry rearing, the AFCD imposes additional licensing conditions that require these farms to comply with specified biosecurity requirements (see Annex), including bird proof facilities and regulation on the movement of humans, vehicles and supplies amongst farms. Since 2004, two live poultry farms have had their licences revoked for breaching the biosecurity requirements.

Security Measures for Pet Birds

7. The AFCD regularly inspects pet bird shops to ensure their compliance with licensing conditions and to prevent avian influenza. Over 220 samples of bird droppings are collected every month from these bird shops to test for the presence of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The results have all been negative.

Pet Shops

8. Licences for pet shops are issued by the AFCD. The department would step up inspections to ensure compliance with licensing conditions, a satisfactory environment of the premises, health and welfare of animals as well as to detect any clinical symptoms of infection. As part of its avian influenza monitoring programme, the AFCD would also take samples of animal droppings for tests. All 5,322 samples collected in 2005 have tested negative.

Import of Pet Birds

9. Most of the birds (including pet birds) imported into Hong Kong require special permits issued by the AFCD. The department would only issue permits to birds from countries that show no signs or are not suspected¹ of being infected with HPAI. Moreover, the pet birds imported into Hong Kong must comply with the following conditions:

- (1) the birds to be imported must undergo a 14 day quarantine before export;
- (2) the birds must be tested for H5 and H7 during the quarantine period before shipment;
- (3) the birds must be examined and certified to be free of infectious diseases by official veterinary officials before shipment;
- (4) on arrival in Hong Kong, birds from countries or places that had a previous history of avian influenza but have since been declared free of avian influenza by the OIE for taking a stamping out policy; or from countries adjacent to infected places are subject to hold and test at AFCD facilities. They would not be released until a negative result is confirmed; and
- (5) pet birds from Mainland must come from two registered farms in Guangdong Province. These farms have been inspected by AFCD officers. The birds must be quarantined and tested five days before shipment and accompanied by health certificates detailing the test results. On their arrival, each and every consignment of birds will be tested by AFCD officers.

10. In 2004, a total of 24 consignments (50 birds in all) of birds that were imported without permits were detained and destroyed.

¹ "Suspected" covers cases where there are suspicious deaths under investigation in that country.

Surveillance Measures for Wild Birds

11. The surveillance measures of AFCD include continuous inspection and tests of samples of imported, local and wild birds.

12. Precautionary measures include surveillance of wild birds and testing samples of wild birds' droppings. Staff of AFCD have been conducting daily surveillance of wild birds in Mai Po Nature Reserve to detect any abnormalities. On discovering dead birds, they would immediately follow up and conduct tests to ascertain whether the deaths are caused by avian influenza.

13. In 2004, the AFCD and The University of Hong Kong have jointly tested about 14,800 samples of wild birds and birds from parks for H5 avian influenza virus. Between January and September 2005, about 7,000 bird samples were tested. All the wild birds' droppings tested negative for H5 avian influenza. In fact, the last positive test result for H5 avian influenza in wild bird dates back to the Chinese pond heron carcass collected from Lok Ma Chau in January this year

14. The AFCD has posted a notice at the entrance of Mai Po Nature Reserve reminding the public to maintain good personal hygiene; keep away from wild birds; avoid contact with wild birds, their nests, eggs, shed feathers and droppings. Any person who has touched birds or their droppings in the Reserve should cleanse with their own alcohol based hand sanitizers or disinfectant wet wipes.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
October 2005

個別農場生物保安規條

Biosecurity Requirements for Individual Chicken Farms

農場編號 LKXXX YYY 先生

個別農場生物保安規條是依據該農場的生物保安計劃問卷結果而訂定。本規條是飼養牌照規定的部份內容。

Based on the biosecurity questionnaire result for the captioned farm, the following individual biosecurity requirements are enacted. The requirements form part of the licence conditions.

生產區 (Production Area(s))

本場可分為四個生產區，即如附圖中標記為黃色的區域。並參考附圖中標記為粉紅色的相對位置，以油漆劃界和懸掛告示牌的方式將生產區與非生產區明顯分別。

Four production area(s) shaded in yellow on the attached map can be designated on this farm. The demarcations between the production area(s) and the non-production area(s), marked in pink on the map, must be clearly visible to all people on farm through the use of painted lines on the ground and notice signs.

鞋履消毒盤必須設於雞隻飼養籠舍(以下簡稱雞舍)的每一出入口。其內消毒劑須每日更新。

Footbaths, filled daily with fresh appropriate disinfectant, must be installed at every chicken shed entrance.

生產區內須設有洗手盤等清潔用具。

Proper hand-washing facilities (basin, soap, towel...etc) must be available at every shed entrance.

雞舍內不得留有任何農具、雜物和垃圾。

No farm equipment, sundries or garbage should be left inside the sheds.

雞隻不得於生產區雞舍以外的地方飼養。

Chickens must not be housed anywhere else other than inside the sheds in the production area(s).

農場人流管制 (Human Movement Control)

任何人士必須消毒鞋履後，才可進入農場。

Footwear must be properly disinfected before entering the farm.

任何人士當日進入生產區前，必須事先洗澡。在生產區內，必須穿著場內專用的乾淨特定工作服及配戴清潔無損的手套。

Everyone should have a shower, put on designated protective clothing and

wear gloves before entering the production area(s)

農友及場內工作人員曾接觸農場以外的其他禽鳥，當日不得進入生產區。

Staff members who have been in contact with any birds outside the farm must not enter the production area(s) on the same day.

禽畜廢物收集商人員不准進入生產區。並須在指定地點收集糞料。

Workers of the livestock waste collection service contractor must not enter the production area(s). Waste must be collected at a designated area near the farm gate away from the production area(s).

訪客或運輸工人非必要時不得進入生產區。所有進入生產區的人員必須穿著全套的保護性衣裝。

Tradespersons and visitors must not be allowed to enter the production area(s) unless it is totally necessary and they must wear full protective clothing.

必須記錄所有訪客及運輸工人的姓名、到訪目的、聯絡電話、到訪日期及車牌號碼。

The name, telephone number and vehicle registration number of all tradespersons and visitors and their date and reason(s) of visit must be properly recorded.

車輛管制 (Vehicle Control)

進入農場的車輛必須經過消毒。

Vehicles entering the farm must have their wheels and any contaminated areas thoroughly disinfected.

飼料運抵貨倉後，飼料運輸車經過的農場範圍地面，須要消毒。

After feed delivery to the storage shed, the pathway that is adjacent to the production area(s) must be disinfected after the delivery of feed.

禽畜廢物收集商車輛不得進入農場範圍。

Vehicles of the livestock waste collection service contractor must not enter the farm premises.

進出農場的物資管制 (Control of Movement of Materials)

只可使用已經妥善清洗消毒過的運輸膠籠。

Only properly cleaned and disinfected plastic transport cages shall be used.

農場不得存留或管有任何屬於家禽批發商會的運輸膠籠(包括標有「漁農處」字樣的運輸膠籠)或用以運載雞隻至長沙灣臨時家禽批發市場的運輸籠。

No transport cages (including cages with a “漁農處” mark) owned by the poultry wholesalers associations or used for transporting chickens to the Cheung Sha Wan Temporary Wholesale Poultry Market should be kept on the farm premises.

農場只准引入來自漁農自然護理署認可孵化場的雞隻。

Chicks must be introduced only from AFCD recognised hatcheries.

所有進出農場的雞隻和蛋必須附同漁農自然護理署簽發有效的批准書。該批准書必須保留以供漁農自然護理署檢查，直至該批雞隻和蛋不再存在於農場內。在運抵農場後的 24 小時內，向漁農自然護理署申報運送日期、數量、雞隻日齡。

Chickens and eggs moved in or out of the farm must be accompanied by a valid permit issued by AFCD. This permit must be kept for AFCD inspection until the relevant batch of chickens and eggs are no longer present on the farm. The licensee must report the movement date, number and age of the introduced chickens to AFCD within 24 hours after their arrival.

雞花盒應視為污染物資，在處理過程中，必須穿戴手套。手套用後必須清洗消毒。

Boxes used for day-old chickens shall be seen as potential sources of contamination. Protective gloves, properly cleaned and disinfected after each use, must be worn while handling these boxes.

在收集糞料後，衛龍收集箱的表面須先行清潔、消毒及抹淨後，才可送回場內重新使用。

After each waste collection, the outer surface of all faecal waste bins from Way Lung Co. shall be properly disinfected, cleaned and wiped dry before next use.

任何外來物資，進入農場前必須完全消毒。

Off-farm materials must be thoroughly disinfected before entering the farm.

動物及禽鳥防預(Control of Wild Birds and Other Animals)

犬貓不得進入雞舍。

Dogs and cats are not allowed to enter the sheds.

必須執行有效的除蟲滅鼠計劃。

Effective pest control shall be conducted routinely as part of the farm management system.

雞舍必需有防鳥設施。若使用防鳥網，其網眼不可大於高度 2 吋乘闊度 3 吋。

All the sheds must have bird-proof facilities. If bird-proof nets are used, the mesh holes shall not be more than 2 inches in height and 3 inches in width.

農場管理 (Farm Management)

農場人員只可在被委派的特定雞舍或農舍中工作。

Farm staff shall work only in their designated sheds or other work area(s).

飼養籠具和飼料槽必須為金屬或塑膠造成。

All chicken cages and feed troughs must be made of metal or plastic.

不同批次的雞隻必須清楚分隔至少六呎。每批雞隻以統進統出方式管理。

Different batches of chickens must be housed not less than 6 feet apart. The management of each batch of chickens must be on an all-in, all-out basis.

雞隻遷出後，雞舍必須消毒及空置七天，才可重新使用。

Any vacated sheds must be thoroughly disinfected and left unoccupied for at least 7 days prior to introducing new batches of chickens.

所有雞舍必須備存雞隻進出、死亡、防疫及用藥記錄。

An accurate, up-to-date record must be kept for any chicken movements, vaccinations, medications and mortalities on a shed basis.

每批出售的雞隻均需存有仔細精確的銷售記錄。該記錄須保留在農場至少 12 個月，並在本署人員要求時提供查閱。

A detailed, accurate sale record must be kept for at least 12 months for each batch of chickens. This record must be made available to the Department at any time on request.

在農場內自行孵化雞雛，必須精確記錄每批雞雛的孵化日期、數目、孵化率。並在 24 小時內通報漁農自然護理署。

If there are chicks hatched inside the farm, the licensee must keep a detailed, accurate hatching record, including the information on hatching date, number of hatched chicks and the hatching rate. The relevant information should be reported to AFCD immediately.

丟棄死雞前，必須灑上消毒粉，並包封於兩層膠袋內。

Any dead chickens must be sprinkled with disinfectant powder and completely sealed in plastic bags before disposal.

任何人士若曾進入屍體收集站，當日不准重回農場生產區。

Any persons having entered the carcass collection area must not return to the production area(s) on the same day.

當死亡率超出下述水平時，必須立刻通知本署。未經漁農自然護理署批准下，不得丟棄死雞。

在 24 小時內，同批超過 30 日齡雞隻中，有 1% 以上的雞隻死亡

在 7 天內，同批超過 30 日齡雞隻中，有 4% 以上的雞隻死亡

在 7 天內，同批滿 30 日齡或以下雞隻中，有 15% 以上的雞隻死亡

When mortality rates exceed the levels shown below, the licensee must notify the AFCD immediately, and the carcasses must not be disposed without the permission from the AFCD.

Within a 24 hours period, there is a mortality rate of more than 1% of chickens aged more than 30 days in any given batch.

Within a 7 days period, there is a mortality rate of more than 4% of chickens aged more than 30 days in any given batch.

Within a 7 days period, there is a mortality rate of more than 15% of chickens aged at or less than 30 days in any given batch.

按廠商的使用濃度建議，每日更新消毒劑。

The licensee must ensure the chosen disinfectants used on the farm are effectively applied according to the recommendations given by the manufacturer(s) and refreshed daily.

井口、水箱及其他儲存雞隻飲用水之器皿必須蓋好。

All water tanks, wells and containers for storing chickens' drinking water must be properly covered.

持牌人有責任確保農場內人員遵守此生物保安的各項規條。

It is the licensee's responsibility to ensure that all on-farm personnel, including workers, residents and visitors comply with all the listed individual biosecurity requirements.

塵埃及氣流管制 (Dust and Aerosol Control)

在本文件製作時，因農場大門並無面向公共行車道，亦不與其他農場鄰接，故不必設置圍牆或實質屏障。

No solid partitions at the boundaries are required as there are no shared boundaries between the captioned farm and other farms and no public driveways in front of the farm gate at the time this document was prepared.

備註：

Remarks: