



DAERA Stakeholder/Industry Communications:

Avian Influenza Update

Bulletin 03/21

Issued: 5th July 2021

Audience: Northern Ireland Food Business Operators, exporting live poultry, hatching eggs, table eggs and any poultry products to Third Countries

Subject: An update on continuing implications for trade in respect of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (AI) in Northern Ireland (NI)

HPAI Trade update

1. Exporters sourcing markets for poultry and poultry products and applying for Health Certificates (EHCs) to DAERA, should be aware of the remaining restrictions to international trade following the outbreak of HPAI across the UK.
2. Since confirmation of the first case of avian influenza (AI) in England (November 2020), the UK is no longer free from HPAI under the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) rules.
3. Although disease has now been stamped out in NI and the first infected establishment (IP) has been fully derestricted controls will, however, remain in place for certain "Third Country markets, (i.e. other than UK and EU), for some time and at least until OIE disease freedom can be achieved.
4. Remaining restrictions to trade vary according to the risk appetite of the importing country. A small number of non-EU countries insist on UK HPAI freedom and relevant EHCs are therefore currently unavailable for use. These EHCs will remain **"on hold"** until the UK self-declares country freedom to the OIE.
5. Following successful negotiation of regionalisation agreements, many non-EU countries will allow exports from the UK with the exception of the affected regions despite their option to decline import. Ultimately restrictions are a decision for the importing authority.
6. Once an application for export is submitted, each consignment is assessed in detail to determine compliance with the relevant restrictions in place. This step is known as Disease Clearance. The holdings of origin are unlikely to know if they lie within a region restricted by a Third Country, although this information is available on request from DAERA to the flock keeper. These Third Country trade restrictions have no direct effect on live animal movements within the EU or UK. They have not been formally notified to all flock keepers.

7. Further detail on the animal health requirements for HPAI can be found on the Defra [Form finder search application](#), and within the Guidance notes for each relevant country / commodity certificate. DAERA Trade Programme is also able to provide additional guidance for specific markets.

8. An application for UK Country Freedom self-declared to the OIE is intended in due course in line with the requirements stated in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. In the meantime, DAERA intend to apply as for Zonal freedom to the OIE as soon as possible and this work is being progressed supported by a programme of enhanced surveillance. It is hoped that this application will provide more relief.

Key UK HPAI Milestone dates in respect of Northern Ireland Trade:

Date	Situation
2 November 2020	1 st case of Avian Influenza (AI) in England
1 st December 2020	Implementation of the Northern Ireland AI Prevention Zone.
6 January 2021	1 st case of AI HPAI H5N8 confirmed in Northern Ireland (NI IP1)
11 January 2021	2 nd case of AI HPA1 H5N8 confirmed in Northern Ireland (NI IP2)
10 January 2021 IP1 11 January 2021 IP2	Date Primary Cleansing & Disinfectant completed on sites
10, 11 February 2021	Surveillance zones around the IP1 and IP2 premises in NI revoked.
21 April 2021	Date final secondary Cleansing & Disinfectant on IP2 NI
20 May 2021	Risk of AI reduced to low in NI lifting the AI Prevention Zone
10 June 2021	IP1 De-restricted (Clough)

Avian Influenza cases in the UK during 2020 to 2021

AI Strain	Northern Ireland	England	Scotland	Wales
HPAI H5N8	2	18	1	1
HPAI H5N1		1	1	

Trade Programme

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

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