

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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# FSIS DIRECTIVE

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6020.1  
Rev. 1

9/21/16

## ENHANCED INSPECTION OF POULTRY IN RESPONSE TO A NOTIFICATION OF A HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK

**NOTE: Do not implement this directive unless FSIS issues specific instruction via an FSIS user notice.**

### I. PURPOSE

This directive instructs inspection program personnel (IPP) at official poultry slaughter establishments on how to conduct enhanced inspection for domestic poultry in the event of a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak or an agro terrorism incident that involves HPAI viruses. This directive updates FSIS Directive 6020.1, Enhanced Inspection of Poultry Related to a Notification of a HPAI Outbreak by FSIS, 11/20/09, in regard to current notification procedures and enhanced inspection documentation. This update also includes instructions for IPP assigned to establishments under the New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS) and reiterates hygiene and biosecurity practices.

#### KEYPOINTS:

- *USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has responsibility for the critical activities in the event of an outbreak, defines the control areas, and must issue permits for flock movement from control areas*
- *Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) are to examine every truck load of birds, from control areas, during ante-mortem inspection*
- *On-line inspectors are to retain (e.g., hang back) all carcasses exhibiting signs of HPAI for veterinary disposition*
- *When PHVs suspect that birds or carcasses exhibit clinical signs or lesions consistent with HPAI, they are to stop the establishment from further slaughtering the flock, retain all affected birds, carcasses and parts, and contact the District Office (DO)*
- *IPP are to comply with the same sanitary and hygiene procedures and biosecurity measures that establishments have in place for their personnel*

### II. CANCELLATION

FSIS Directive 6020.1, Enhanced Inspection of Poultry Related to a Notification of a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Outbreak by FSIS, 11/20/09

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**OPI:** OPPD

### **III. BACKGROUND**

A. FSIS cooperates with APHIS to coordinate a USDA effort to control and eradicate HPAI, through a USDA MAC (Multi Agency Coordination) Group.

B. HPAI is a highly contagious foreign animal disease of sudden onset and high mortality in domestic poultry. HPAI is easily spread through direct contact with sick or infected poultry, as well as via fomites, such as equipment and vehicles. Birds with HPAI may die before they develop clinical signs. However, from virus exposure to infection to death, birds may exhibit clinical signs, depending on the stage of disease. Therefore, an establishment may present infected birds at any stage of the illness.

C. APHIS may permit commercial flocks in control zones that are under quarantine for observation and diagnostic testing to move to slaughter, based on negative test results and other pertinent information.

### **IV. HEADQUARTERS AND DO RESPONSIBILITIES DURING AN HPAI OUTBREAK**

A. The FSIS Liaison to APHIS for HPAI response will promptly notify the FSIS Administrator and FSIS Management Council following a positive test result in a United States poultry flock, and subsequent APHIS designation of an official control area to quarantine or restrict bird movement. The FSIS Liaison to APHIS for HPAI will post the pertinent information in an Incident Report (IR) in the FSIS Incident Management System (FIMS) to ensure that the FSIS Management Council and others within FSIS have access to the information. This information is to include the following:

1. Locations of affected flocks;
2. APHIS control areas, which include Geographical Information System (GIS) maps of the control areas to demonstrate the States, counties, towns, and highway boundaries of the control areas; and
3. Information about bird shipments from the affected premises, if applicable.

B. The Office of Data Integration and Food Protection (ODIFP) will update the GIS maps to include FSIS and State inspected facilities within the APHIS control areas and the establishments outside the APHIS control areas that may have received infected poultry or egg products.

C. The DOs will notify the Inspectors-in-Charge (IICs) in establishments located in or near all APHIS designated control areas. The DO is to convey the FIMS information and any additional information. The DO is to direct questions regarding the designated control area to the APHIS Veterinary Services Points of Contact for Surveillance, Preparedness, and Response Services (SPRS), which can be found at the following link.

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/downloads/sprs\\_contact/field\\_office\\_contact\\_info.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/downloads/sprs_contact/field_office_contact_info.pdf)

D. FSIS employees receiving requests to commit FSIS resources from representatives outside of FSIS and the USDA MAC Group process are to notify their chain of command for confirmation before committing resources.

## **V. IPP RESPONSIBILITIES AT ALL POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS AFTER RECEIVING FSIS NOTIFICATION OF AN HPAI CONFIRMED POSITIVE IN THE U.S.**

A. When IPP receive notification that APHIS has designated a control area for HPAI to restrict poultry movement, IPP assigned to all poultry slaughter establishments are to review the following:

1. [FSIS Directive 6000.1](#), *Responsibilities Related to Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs) and Reportable Conditions*;
2. The [FSIS Avian Influenza Training](#) materials; and
3. The establishment's sanitary and hygiene procedures and biosecurity measures.

B. When PHVs determine that any bird or carcass exhibits lesions consistent with HPAI, the PHVs are to stop the establishment from further slaughtering the flock, retain all carcasses and parts that have already been slaughtered, contact the DO, and provide the following information:

1. Producer's name, address, county, and phone number;
2. Number and species of birds for slaughter;
3. Conditions, signs, or lesions observed; and
4. The PHV's contact information, including name, establishment number, and telephone numbers.

C. The DO will notify the APHIS Veterinary Services Points of Contact for SPRS or the State Animal Health Official (SAHO), which can be found at the following link.

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability/downloads/StateAnimalHealthOfficials.pdf>

The SAHO or APHIS Veterinary Services Assistant Director will provide specific instructions on how to handle the case.

D. If flocks originated from within an APHIS control area or if the establishment is located in an APHIS control area, IPP are to perform enhanced ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, as described in sections VI and VII.

## **VI. ENHANCED ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION IN RESPONSE TO AN HPAI OUTBREAK**

A. When IPP perform ante-mortem inspection on flocks that moved to slaughter from an HPAI control zone, they are to verify that APHIS issued or signed a permit for movement of restricted animals. This permit may be APHIS VS Form 1-27 or a State permit that is signed by an APHIS official. APHIS must give permission prior to moving the flock from a control zone.

1. If IPP cannot verify that a permit for movement of restricted animals was issued, they are to retain the poultry on the official premises and contact the DO.
2. PHVs are to retain a copy of the VS 1-27 or other type of State permit in the inspection files for six months, and distribute additional copies of the VS 1-27, as indicated on the bottom of the form.

B. PHVs are to examine live, moribund, and dead birds on each truck-load of poultry, represented by the permit for movement, with special attention to clinical signs of HPAI. These signs may include the following:

1. Lethargy, depression, ruffled feathers;
2. Watery white to green diarrhea;
3. Ataxia (lack of muscle coordination) or torticollis (contraction of the neck muscles);
4. Combs and wattles that exhibit a cyanotic (bluish) color, edematous (swollen) appearance, and petechial (spot) hemorrhages at the tips; or
5. Hocks that exhibit subcutaneous hemorrhages and edema.

C. If PHVs identify birds that exhibit clinical signs for HPAI, they are to quarantine the flock, not allow the establishment to off-load birds from the truck, and contact the DO. If the DO is not available, after usual business hours, the PHV is to contact his or her supervisor. IPP are to retain product from the quarantined flocks that have already been slaughtered.

**NOTE:** APHIS will decide the appropriate disposition of quarantined birds.

## **VII. ENHANCED POST-MORTEM INSPECTION IN RESPONSE TO AN HPAI OUTBREAK**

A. When establishments slaughter birds from HPAI control areas or if the establishment is located within an HPAI control area, PHVs are to notify on-line IPP to take the following actions:

1. Hang back all carcasses with viscera that exhibit signs of hemorrhage, congestion, necrosis or edema for veterinary disposition. Depending on the health of the flock, the PHV may need to reduce the line speed, as authorized in 9 CFR 381.76; and
2. Notify the PHV, if the lot has a high incidence of airsacculitis.

B. When on-line IPP hang back carcasses with clinical signs of HPAI for veterinary disposition, PHVs are to perform the following procedures:

1. Examine the surface of the heart and abdominal fat for evidence of hemorrhage;
2. Open the trachea, proventriculus, and ventriculus and examine the mucosal surfaces for evidence of hemorrhage;
3. Open the intestine and examine the mucosal surface for evidence of lymphoid necrosis and hemorrhage, with special attention given to the lymphoid aggregates at the ileo-cecal junction; and
4. Examine the spleen for necrosis and hemorrhage.

C. If the flock exhibits a high incidence of airsacculitis, PHVs are to examine a representative sample of carcasses with airsacculitis lesions to look for HPAI lesions.

D. PHVs assigned to establishments that slaughter poultry under NPIS are to:

1. Meet with establishment management to make them aware of the clinical signs and gross lesions associated with HPAI;
2. Advise establishment managers to notify the PHVs, if HPAI is suspected; and
3. Visually assess the establishment's sorting activities.

E. PHVs assigned to establishments that slaughter young chickens under NPIS are also to examine an additional 300 carcasses of each flock, with associated viscera, at the leukosis inspection area and specifically look for HPAI lesions.

F. When PHVs determine that any poultry carcass exhibits lesions consistent with HPAI, the PHVs are to stop the establishment from further slaughtering the flock, retain all carcasses and parts that have already been slaughtered, and contact the DO.

### **VIII. ENHANCED INSPECTION DOCUMENTATION**

A. IPP are to immediately report an HPAI incident through supervisory channels, so that persons with access to FIMS can enter the information in the IR. The information reported, at a minimum, is to include:

1. The name of the person reporting the incident;
2. The date and time of the incident;
3. Establishment name, number, and location; and
4. The type and amount of birds and product involved (e.g., birds on trucks, carcasses, in-process products and finished products).

B. IPP are to retain all records, associated with affected flocks, for one year following the end of the fiscal year in which prepared in the inspection files, in accordance with the Inspection Operations In-Plant Filing System Handbook. IPP can access this handbook on the FSIS Intranet site.

### **IX. SAMPLE COLLECTION FOR HPAI**

A. In accordance with [FSIS Directive 5500.2](#), *Significant Incident Response*, the FSIS Emergency Management Committee (EMC) will decide on a case-by-case basis whether the DOs are to request PHVs to collect samples for HPAI analysis. The EMC will provide the DO with specific information in regard to sample collection and shipment. The DOs will communicate this information to the PHVs.

B. PHVs are to assist APHIS personnel in holding poultry products, pending results, when deemed necessary.

C. IPP are to follow all instructions, from the DO, in regard to personal protection.

D. If test results are positive for HPAI, APHIS will direct further action, through the DOs.

## X. HYGIENE AND BIOSECURITY PRACTICES

IPP are to follow [FSIS Directive 5060.1](#), Hygiene and Biosecurity Practices, to comply fully with the establishments' sanitary and hygiene procedures and biosecurity measures.

## XI. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this directive to the Policy Development Staff through [askFSIS](#), or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, use the **Submit a Question** tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **FSIS Directive 6020.1**

Question Field: Enter the question with as much detail as possible.

Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.

Category Field: Select **Slaughter-Poultry Slaughter** from the drop-down menu.

Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.)** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish submitting Question**.

**NOTE:** Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.



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