

PERMIT GUIDANCE - MOVEMENT OF PULLETS OUT OF THE PULLET BARN

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MOVEMENT (“An Assessment of the Risk Associated with the Movement of Pullets Out of the Pullet Barn In a Control Area during a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak in the United States.”): Completed; USDA Reviewed / Cleared August 2019; USDA PERMIT GUIDANCE SECOND REVIEW March 2022, Clearance: Pending

If the permit guidance below has been met, ***the likelihood of moving a large number of infectious pullets*** (>80 birds) from premises within an HPAI Control Area out of a pullet barn is rated to be ***low***, thus there is ***low risk*** of HPAI transmission to susceptible poultry on premises along the route for transport. **The risk of HPAI transmission to susceptible poultry at ANY destination premises is outside of the risk assessment scope and therefore not included.**

Pullets may move within or out of the Control Area only by permit.

PERMIT GUIDANCE INCLUDES:

1. Poultry are moving from a premises that meets the criteria for a Monitored Premises designation and has a national premises identification number,
2. A Pre-Movement Isolation Period (PMIP) is established as defined by the cross-commodity PMIP standards, and for the duration defined for the type of movement requested,
3. Product-specific biosecurity as described is implemented,
4. The route for transport is acceptable,
5. Load out and live haul biosecurity is implemented,
6. Active surveillance protocol of daily rRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to a maximum of 4 pools) starting 8 days before load-out begins on the premises and continuing throughout load-out for all flocks greater than 28 days of age on the premises.

1. Poultry are moving from a premises that meets the criteria for a Monitored Premises designation and has a national premises identification number.

- A Monitored Premises (MP) objectively demonstrates that it is not an Infected Premises, Contact Premises, nor Suspect Premises. Only At-Risk Premises are eligible to become Monitored Premises. Monitored Premises meet a set of defined criteria in seeking to move susceptible animals or products out of the Control Area by permit. For the Secure Poultry Supply Plans, the following criteria must be met:
 - Pre-movement rRT-PCR testing is negative,
 - Epidemiological questionnaire is completed,
 - No unexplained mortality, no unexplained clinical signs, and no unexplained changes in production parameters, and
 - Biosecurity measures are acceptable to state and federal authorities.

- For permitted movement through EMRS, an accurate national premises identification number (i.e., 7 character alphanumeric code as described in 9 CFR § 71.1; not the state ID) or other acceptable ID system for movement is required.

2. A Pre-Movement Isolation Period (PMIP) is established as defined by the cross-commodity PMIP standards, and for the duration defined for the type of movement requested.

- The PMIP starts 8 days prior to the scheduled pullet movement date and continues through load-out.
 - Other durations may be permitted in consultation with the Incident Command (IC) (e.g., the first few days of an outbreak).

3. Product-specific biosecurity as described in individual plan is implemented

- Non-critical operational visits should be scheduled to occur outside of the PMIP. The following activities have a risk for lateral transmission of HPAI virus and are prohibited during the PMIP:
 - Off-farm disposal of mortality is prohibited. Producers must manage risks associated with dead birds on-site (i.e., managing scavenger species attraction to mortality (See 9.2.4.1 Dead Bird Disposal during PMIP in the risk assessment).
 - Off-farm removal of manure or litter is prohibited. Producers must manage risks associated with manure or litter movement on-site (i.e., managing insect attraction to litter)
 - Off-farm garbage disposal is prohibited. Producers must manage risks associated with garbage storage on-site (i.e., managing scavenger species attraction to garbage).
 - Visiting other poultry farms is prohibited for people who work on poultry farms. People should only have contact with their assigned flock(s) on a single premises.
 - All non-emergency visitors are prohibited from entering farms. All routine, or operational visits (excluding feed delivery) must be replaced by electronic or telephone communication, take place at a non-poultry site outside the control area, or must be scheduled prior to or following the PMIP.
 - Entering a poultry house is prohibited unless the person is wearing footwear and clothing dedicated to the line of separation (LOS) area.
 - Pre-staging of shared critical equipment is prohibited.
 - Movement of non-critical equipment from off-site onto the premises is prohibited.
 - Moving live poultry onto or off of the premises is prohibited. If necessary, movement of mature pullets should be modified to accommodate day-old chick delivery outside of the PMIP.
- Critical operational visits that may continue during the PMIP require specific biosecurity measures and may require a permit:
 - Feed delivery should use a dedicated truck and deliver directly from a stand-alone feed mill (no poultry on-site at feed mill). Trucks delivering feed or individual feed

- ingredients that are produced or stored on poultry premises will require a permit. Permitting of feed delivery from premises with poultry on-site will require PCR surveillance of poultry on premises sufficient to satisfy Incident Command.
- Emergency fuel delivery and emergency repair or replacement of critical mechanical equipment.
 - Service visits to address changes in bird health.
 - In addition to standard biosecurity protocols, the following enhanced biosecurity measures must be implemented during the PMIP:
 - All people who are going to cross a line of separation (LOS):
 - Should shower and change clothes prior to or at the time of entering the premises.
 - Must wear necessary protective clothing and footwear dedicated to that LOS area as described in appropriate biosecurity protocols.
 - All vehicles and equipment entering the premises shall be cleaned and disinfected using a protocol acceptable to regulatory personnel prior to entering premises.
 - Driver must mitigate the risk of moving insects on and off the farm (e.g.,
 - Vehicle windows should be rolled up at all times while on the poultry farm in order to prevent flies from getting into the vehicle.
 - Spray insecticide inside trucks as needed to eliminate the transporting of flies from farm to farm during warm months of the year).
 - Driver must mitigate the risks of contaminating themselves and their vehicle interior due to exiting and re-entering the vehicle (e.g.,
 - Drivers are prohibited from entering poultry houses.
 - All drivers and passengers must wear boots (rubber or disposable) before getting out of the vehicle. When exiting the farm, put disposable boots in an appropriate disposal container prior to exiting the farm and spray shoes with disinfectant before entering their vehicle. Rubber boots and any tools used on the farm must be cleaned and disinfected prior to being removed from the poultry premises.
 - All drivers must use hand sanitizer before leaving and after re-entering the cab.
 - All drivers must spray the floors, pedals, and bottoms of feet with disinfectant after every stop).
 - Additional product specific mitigations that have the potential to reduce risk further, if they are feasible for the specific premises, are available in *Appendix 14: Potential Mitigations to Lower Risk* within the associated risk assessment.

4. The route for transport is acceptable.

- The route for pullet transport should be selected in consultation between a local poultry veterinarian or the production manager and the SAHO or IC to minimize contact with and proximity to live poultry and poultry products.

5. Load out and live haul biosecurity is implemented.

Load-out begins as the first crew, vehicle, or equipment arrives on the premises and ends when the last load of pullets departs the premises. Pre-staging of equipment during PMIP is prohibited. Additional biosecurity and mitigation measures are summarized as follows:

- All PMIP biosecurity measures must be continued throughout the pullets' load-out process except that the load-out crew and equipment are allowed on-site:
 - No off-farm movement of mortality, manure, litter, or garbage.
 - No visitors (except emergency and feed deliveries) enter the premises.
 - Feed (or feed ingredients) delivered from a premises with poultry on-site requires a permit and rRT-PCR testing of the poultry on the premises where the feed/ingredients are produced or stored.
 - All vehicles and equipment entering the premises shall be cleaned and disinfected (C&D) using an acceptable protocol that accounts for environmental conditions of the premises, and/or region, and/or season (this includes C&D protocols for both personal vehicles and vehicles transporting the load-out crew).
 - Some acceptable protocols for Cleaning and Disinfection (C&D) may be found in the USDA Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan (FAD PReP) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), which provide operational guidance for responding to an animal health emergency in the United States.
 - All persons crossing a line of separation (LOS), to include load-out crew entering the barn to be loaded out, must use *LOS-specific* footwear and *LOS-specific* clothing.
 - No pre-staging of equipment in a barn prior to beginning load-out in that barn.
 - No movement of other non-critical (non-load-out) equipment from off-site, on-site.
- Additional load-out equipment, load-out crew, and barn-to-barn biosecurity must be implemented:
 - Load-out trucks and equipment are C&D prior to first arrival at pullet premises.
 - C&D of load-out trailers and dollies must be verified upon first arrival at the premises (e.g., inspected for cleanliness by a person NOT with the load-out crew).
 - Load-out dollies move only from the truck directly into the bird area of the pullet barn to be loaded out.
 - The pullet barn must be completely empty at the end of the move.

- Load-out crews must shower and change into clean clothes and clean footwear prior to or at the time of arrival at the pullet premises on a daily basis.
- Load-out crews only enter the barn in which they are working. Appropriate hand and boot sanitation must occur at the time when crossing any LOS.
- Every load-out crew shall have on-farm supervision (i.e., a supervisor present with the authority to direct crew to follow protocol and halt activities if needed) throughout load-out activities, including watching the crew cross the LOS and following barn entry/exit protocols.
- Crew using restrooms, lunchrooms, or common areas should not co-mingle with other employees.
 - A sanitation protocol is implemented for disinfection of common areas at the frequency needed to guard against cross-contamination.
- The destination for the entire pullet flock being loaded out is a single location (no split loads to multiple locations); that is, load-out trucks/equipment are only moving between the pullet premises and one other location.

6. Active surveillance protocol of daily rRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to a maximum of 4 pools) starting 8 days before load-out begins on the premises and continues throughout load-out for all flocks greater than 28 days of age on the premises

- PMIP active surveillance
 - Daily testing of all dead birds, in flocks greater than 28 days of age, in 11-swab pools (up to a maximum of 4 pools) by NAHLN labs beginning 8 days *prior to load-out*.
- Load-out active surveillance
 - Daily testing of all dead birds, in flocks greater than 28 days of age, in 11-swab pools (up to a maximum of 4 pools) by NAHLN labs *continues throughout load-out*.
 - Negative results of tests taken within 24 hours of scheduled movement (at barn level) must be documented before birds are moved off the premises. (An example of the testing protocols and load-out schedule is detailed below in Figure 1. NOTE: This is an example based on a hypothetical pullet farm.)

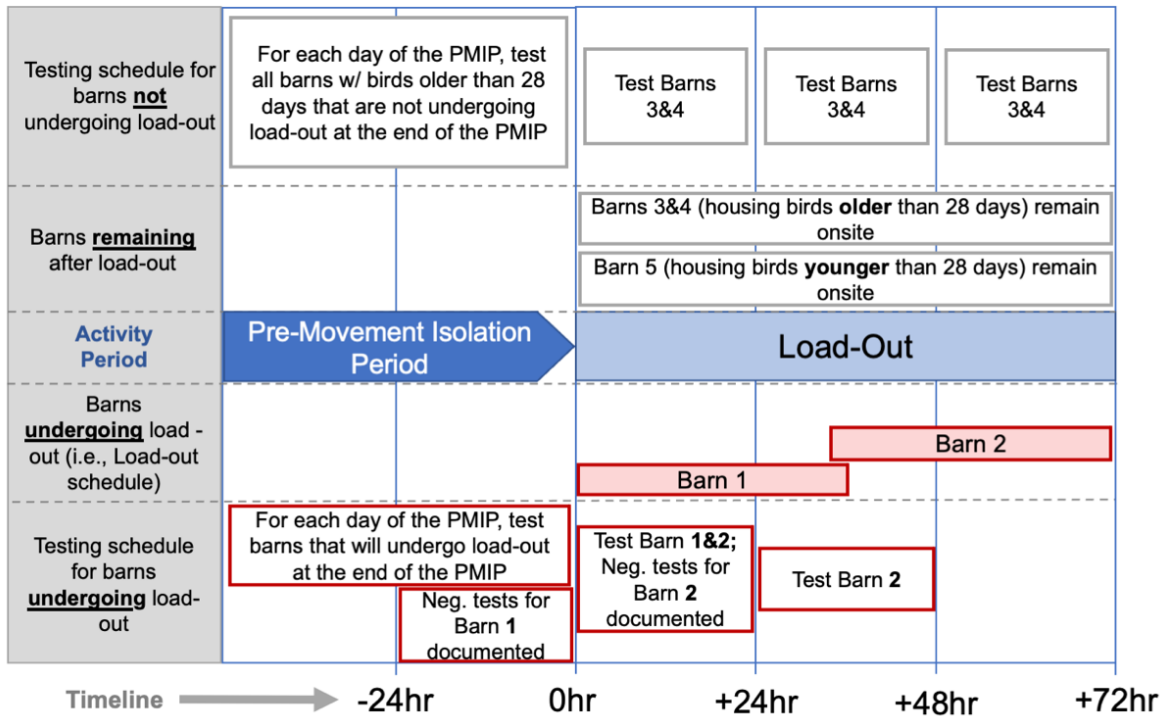


Figure 1. Daily testing (of all dead birds, with max of four 11-swab pools) is required of birds in all barns that are not loaded out within 24 hours of the start of premises-level load out. In this example, there are five barns on a multi-age premises and transfer of two barns off the premises takes 72 hours. NOTE: Pullet load-outs typically take 3-5 five days but may take up to 10 days. Additionally, while only 2 days of the PMIP is visualized in the timeline, the PMIP needs to start a full 8 days prior to the start of load-out.