

PERMIT GUIDANCE - MOVEMENT OF SPENT LAYER HENS TO SLAUGHTER

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MOVEMENT: “An Assessment of the Risk Associated with the Movement of Spent Layer Hens from a Multi-age Layer Premises to Slaughter In a Control Area during a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak in the United States.” IN PROGRESS

*The movement of hens from a multi-age premises within an HPAI Control Area out of a lay barn to slaughter represents a **moderate to high risk** to both susceptible poultry on other premises and to birds remaining on the origin premises provided that the permit guidance below has been met. The risk range reflects **uncertainty** in the likelihood of infection and spread associated with distance from and status of infected premises and current variations in industry practices. The Control Area Zone (infected vs buffer) should be considered when evaluating efficacy of enhanced measures.*

An additional checklist of enhanced biosecurity measures that may impact risk and subsequently narrow the risk likelihood of moving infectious hens is available at Securepoultrysupply.umn.edu.

Hens 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. Load out and live haul biosecurity is implemented,
5. Transport biosecurity is acceptable and implemented,
6. Post-movement biosecurity is implemented,
7. Active surveillance protocol of RRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to 3x weekly mortality) for two consecutive days before movement (24, 48 h) for all flocks on the premises. Active surveillance protocol post-movement is implemented.

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 spent hen movement date and continues throughout load-out (i.e., the hours or days of load-out are considered part of the PMIP).
 - Other durations may be allowed in consultation with the IC (e.g., during the first few days of an outbreak, a PMIP of <8 days may be allowed after consultation with the IC).

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 therefore are prohibited during the PMIP:
 - Off-farm disposal of mortality is prohibited. Producers must manage risks associated with dead birds on-site.
 - Off-farm removal of manure or litter is prohibited. Producers must manage risks associated with manure or litter movement on-site.
 - Off-farm garbage disposal is prohibited. Producers must manage risks associated with garbage storage on-site.
 - 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/multi-barn complex is prohibited unless the person is wearing footwear and clothing dedicated to the line of separation (LOS) for the complex.
 - 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.


- Movement of spent hens from the premises must be completed at least 8 days before the placement of any new pullets onto the premises so that an 8 day post-movement quarantine period of the premises can be observed. Note that *replacement pullets cannot be placed for 8 days after load-out of spent hens* (see section 6).
- 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. The 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 must be cleaned and disinfected using a protocol acceptable to regulatory personnel prior to entering premises, taking into account 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.
 - Drivers must implement the following risk mitigations:
 - Reduce the risk of moving insects on and off the farm:
 - Vehicle windows should be rolled up at all times while on the poultry farm in order to prevent flies from getting into the vehicle.
 - Insecticide spray should be used inside trucks as needed to eliminate the transporting of flies from farm to farm during warm months of the year.
 - Reduce the risk of contaminating themselves and their vehicle interiors due to exiting and re-entering the vehicle:

- Drivers are prohibited from entering layer houses.
- All drivers and passengers must wear boots (rubber or disposable) before getting out of the vehicle. When exiting the farm, disposable boots must be put in an appropriate on-farm disposal container prior to exiting the farm and shoes must be sprayed 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 layer 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.

4. Load out biosecurity is implemented.

Load-out begins as the first crew, vehicle, or equipment arrives on the premises and ends when the last load of spent hens departs the premises.

- All PMIP biosecurity measures must be continued throughout the spent hen load-out process except that the load-out crew and equipment are allowed on-site (See section 3).
- Additional biosecurity and mitigation measures are summarized as follows:
 - Barn-to-barn Biosecurity
 - The barn being loaded out is under quarantine, including segregation of the eggbelt hallway traffic, during the load-out process and until the cleaning and disinfection stage is finished.
 - Barn-shared workers within a multi-barn complex (e.g., maintenance, farm manager, caretakers) must sanitize hands and boots, and don spent hen barn-specific coveralls and hairnets when working with birds that are being loaded out.
 - Trucks and Equipment
 - Load-out trucks and equipment are C&D prior to each arrival at lay 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 lay barn to be loaded out.
 - Crews/Personnel
 - Load-out personnel must be dedicated to the permitted spent hen move.
 - Load-out crews must shower and change into clean clothes and clean footwear prior to or at the time of arrival at the lay premises on a daily basis.

- Load-out personnel are designated to be either inside or outside workers.
 - There should be a means for quickly visualizing and distinguishing inside vs outside workers.
- Dedicated indoor crew members only enter the barn in which they are working
- Proper protocols, including hand sanitation and boot dips, must be used upon entering or exiting the LOS. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Completion of load-out and exiting the LOS
 - Emergency crossing of the LOS for bird safety
- Every load-out crew shall have on-farm supervision throughout load-out activities, including watching the crew cross the LOS and following barn entry/exit protocols.
- Co-mingling of load-out crews with regular farm staff members not involved in load-out is not recommended.
 - Sanitation protocols should be implemented after crew members share restrooms, lunchrooms, or other common areas.
 - Disinfection of these common areas at the frequency needed to guard against cross-contamination should be carried out. 

5. Transport biosecurity is acceptable and implemented.

- The lay barn must be completely empty at the end of the move.
- The route for spent hen transport should be selected in consultation with a poultry veterinarian, biosecurity officer, or production manager to minimize contact with and proximity to live poultry and poultry products.

6. Post-movement biosecurity is implemented.

- The farm must carry out a full barn dry clean and disinfection of the barn prior to new pullet placement using a protocol acceptable to Incident Command.
- A post-movement barn quarantine plan acceptable to Incident Command must be observed: *replacement pullets cannot be placed for 8 days after load-out* to ensure premises HPAI clean status.

7. Active surveillance protocol of RRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to 3x weekly mortality) for two consecutive days before movement (24, 48 h) for all flocks on the premises. Active surveillance post-placement is implemented.

- PMIP active surveillance
 - Active surveillance protocol of RRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to 3x weekly mortality) for two consecutive days before movement (24, 48 h) for all flocks on the premises.

- Load-out active surveillance
 - Testing of all dead birds, in all flocks, in 11-swab pools (up to 3x weekly mortality) 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.
- Post-movement/pre-pullet movement active surveillance
 - A post-movement active surveillance of all existing lay flocks on day 8 of the empty barn quarantine period after spent hen load-outs for multi-age sites is required prior to placement of new pullets and includes:
 - Active surveillance protocol of RRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to 3x weekly mortality) on the final day of empty barn quarantine for all flocks on the premises.
 - Negative results of tests taken within 24 hours of a scheduled replacement flock (pullet) movement (at lay barn level) must be documented before new pullets are moved onto the premises.