

SPS Permit Guidance

Movement of Upland Game Bird Day-Old Chicks from a Hatchery to an Upland Game Bird Farm

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MOVEMENT: Not yet started.

*Upland game bird day-old chicks (newly hatched chicks that are moved from the hatchery [with no breeder birds onsite] within a couple of days after hatching) originating from a premises within an HPAI Control Area moving to an upland game bird premises represent a **low risk**, provided that the permit guidance below has been met. Upland game bird day-old chicks moving to an upland game bird premises may move within or out of the Control Area by permit.*

PERMIT GUIDANCE:

1. Chicks are moving from a hatchery that has a national premises identification number and that receives eggs from breeder premises that are designated HPAI Free or that meet the criteria for a Monitored Premises designation.
2. Truck & driver biosecurity is implemented.
3. Product-specific biosecurity is implemented.
4. At onset of outbreak, initial testing of all breeder flocks located in the Control Area with eggs in hatchery egg room (*but not necessary if eggs in incubators/hatchers*) should have 2 negative PCR tests per biosecure unit before any chicks move.
5. When the Control Area is first established, if hatching eggs from breeder flocks of undetermined HPAI infection status in the Control Area are present in the hatchery, the hatchery connecting passages and receiving storage areas should be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA registered disinfectant.
6. Once Control Area and breeder flock testing is established, thereafter only chicks from breeder flocks designated HPAI Free or that meet the criteria for a Monitored Premises designation may be moved from a hatchery within the Control Area.

1. Chicks are moving from a hatchery that has a national premises identification number and that receives eggs from breeder premises that are designated HPAI Free or that meet the criteria for a Monitored Premises designation.

- A Monitored Premises (MP) objectively demonstrates that it is not an Infected Premises, Contact Premises, or 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.

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2. Truck & driver biosecurity is implemented.

- The risks of the truck spreading virus to and from the origin premises (including possible transportation of insects) must be managed in accordance with specific industry and commodity recommendations.
 - If delivering to a premises with susceptible species onsite, upland game bird day-old chicks must be moved directly from the origin premises to the designated premises (i.e., multiple stops cannot be made to multiple premises with susceptible species onsite)
 - If delivering to a premises without susceptible species onsite, multiple stops can be made.
 - For trucks leaving or returning to the premises of origin:
 - Day-old chick delivery trucks must be cleaned and disinfected after delivery into a Control Area.
 - Floors, pedals, and bottoms of feet must be sprayed with disinfectant after every stop.
 - The outside of all vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected before returning to the origin premises.
 - Vehicle windows must be rolled up at all times while on the upland game bird farm in order to prevent flies from getting into the vehicle.
 - Insecticide must be sprayed inside trucks as needed to eliminate the transporting of flies from farm to destination during warm months of the year.
- The risks of the driver spreading virus to and from both the origin and destination premises must be managed in accordance with specific industry and commodity recommendations.
 - The driver must not have worked in the egg room or with adult birds that same day as transport of chicks.
 - The driver must use a hand sanitizer before leaving and after re-entering the cab.
 - No additional driver biosecurity (other than the bullets listed above) is needed if delivering to a destination without susceptible species onsite.
 - If delivering directly to the destination with susceptible species:
 - The driver should remain inside the cab of the vehicle at destination premises.
 - If the driver gets out of the vehicle, the cab interior must be cleaned and disinfected, and the driver must wear protective clothing, such as disposable boots and gloves, and remove them before getting back in the cab.

3. Product-specific biosecurity is implemented.

- The breeder farms supplying the hatchery are offsite and must have dedicated foot-wear that stays with the barn and foot bath as well.
- Chicks must be moved to their destination premises in one-way new paper boxes with new pads.

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- Disposable (cardboard) chick-handling materials must be used in place of reusable boxes such that only the truck returns to the hatchery.
- If chick handling materials (e.g., boxes) are used to move chicks to a brooder room onsite, boxes must be visually inspected and disinfected or fumigated prior to returning to the chick processing area.
- Hatchery personnel must wash their hands with soap and water and/or apply hand sanitizer before entering or leaving the egg-room or chick processing rooms as well as prior to leaving the hatchery. Additionally, cleaned and disinfected footwear (via footbaths or sprayed with disinfectant), hatchery-specific footwear, or footwear covers must be worn prior to entering the hatchery. Disposable or hatchery-dedicated protective clothing and head covering should be worn prior to entering.
 - Employees must take specific precautions to prevent the potential transfer of contamination into the chick processing room via shoes by utilizing a foot bath or clean disposable shoe covers.
- Employees must be either segregated to specific work areas for the day (i.e., workers only work in egg-room or chick processing area) or follow a clean to dirty workflow over the course of the day (i.e., employees start in chick processing then could move to egg-room, but never in the reverse direction). Additional details below:
 - If a shared room for chick processing and egg setting is used, chick processing must occur and be completed prior to any egg-room work or egg movement to setter room.
 - No employees who have contact with other poultry or game birds, should be working in the chick processing area.
- Only authorized personnel (i.e., hatchery personnel and essential visitors) are allowed entry into the hatchery.
- For essential visitors, cleaned and disinfected footwear or site-provided footwear or footwear covers must be worn prior to entering the hatchery. Disposable or hatchery-dedicated protective clothing and head covering should be worn prior to entering. Hands must be washed or sanitized before entering and prior to leaving the hatchery.
- Essential visitors who have had contact with other poultry or upland game bird facilities with birds onsite during the preceding 24 hours are prohibited from entering chick-processing area.
- All customers coming into the retail part of the premises must use a foot bath and handwashing station upon arrival and departure.
- Hatchery loading docks, connecting passages, and receiving storage areas must be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA registered disinfectant after receiving each truckload of hatching eggs.
- Egg contents leaked onto hatchery floors or equipment must be cleaned and disinfected according to the hatchery standard operating procedure as soon as possible.
- If the hatchery has a shared loading dock that is used for both hatching eggs and chicks, the chicks will move first before the eggs are received. Egg deliveries to the hatchery will only occur after all live bird (i.e., hatching) and chick processing has occurred for the day.

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- Transfer of hatching eggs into setters and movements of unwashed materials originating from a breeder farm must be conducted after the hatching and chick processing operations on the same day have been completed.
- Hatchery waste is handled in a manner that does not cross-contaminate the hatchery or chick processing areas.
 - Hatchery personnel must dispose of hatchery waste in bins that are located outside of the line of separation.
 - Personnel moving hatchery waste to the bins must not re-enter the hatchery building after placing waste in the bins.
 - Waste must be hauled away by employed farm personnel at the end of their shift.
 - Waste bins must be stored in a way to prevent access to wild birds or wildlife
- Workflow practices must be implemented to prevent contamination of chick processing areas. Practices need to consider that the inflow of eggs from the breeder premises are considered “dirty”. Chicks coming from the hatchers and departing the premises are considered “clean”.
 - Chick-handling materials must not be moved across areas contaminated by egg handling materials unless areas have been cleaned and disinfected prior to moving the chick-handling materials.
 - Chicks will be taken off the hatchers before eggs are brought in for setting.
 - For chicks being moved offsite,
 - All chicks should be packaged into boxes and moved offsite at the beginning of the day.
 - For chicks being moved within-site,
 - All chick movements onsite are done at the end of the day.

4. At onset of outbreak, initial testing of all upland game bird breeder flocks located in the Control Area with eggs in hatchery egg room (but not necessary if eggs in incubators/hatchers) should have 2 negative PCR tests per biosecure unit before any chicks move.

- Two 11-bird pools from those biosecure unit of birds (i.e., a group of birds that are protected with a common biosecure entrance such as a group of pens or cages) should be immediately tested by RRT-PCR and found negative before permits are issued to reduce the risk of upland game bird day-old chicks infected via cross contamination from upland game bird hatching eggs being moved off the premises.

5. When the Control Area is first established, if hatching eggs from upland game bird breeder premises of undetermined HPAI infection status in the Control Area are present in the hatchery, the hatchery connecting passages and receiving storage areas should be cleaned and disinfected with an EPA registered disinfectant.

6. Once Control Area and breeder flock testing is established, thereafter only chicks from breeder premises designated HPAI Free or that meet the criteria for a Monitored Premises designation may be moved from a hatchery within the Control Area.

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