

PERMIT GUIDANCE - MOVEMENT OF A LAYER PULLET PREMISES TO A LAY PREMISES

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MOVEMENT – IN PROGRESS (“An Assessment of the Risk Associated with the Movement of Layer Pullets to Lay Premises In a Control Area during a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Outbreak in the United States.”)

If the permit guidance below has been met, ***the risk of moving infectious pullets*** from a premises within an HPAI Control Area is rated to be ***moderate to extremely high***. ***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. Destination premises both within and outside of the Control Area must also adhere to post-placement protocols described here-in for this risk rating to be valid.

Birds may move within or out of the Control Area 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 in individual plan is implemented,
4. Load out and live haul biosecurity is implemented,
5. Transport biosecurity is acceptable and implemented,
6. Placement biosecurity is implemented,
7. Active surveillance protocol of daily rRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to a maximum of 4 pools per flock/barn per day) 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. Active surveillance protocol post-placement 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 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 Pullet Out of Barn 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 must be modified to accommodate day-old chick delivery outside of the PMIP.

- Movement of pullets to a lay premises must occur at least 8 days after a spent hen movement. (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. 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 the above biosecurity protocols, the following enhanced biosecurity measures must be implemented during the PMIP:
 - All personnel (including load-out personnel) and critical operational visitors must use farm-dedicated clothing and footwear.
 - All people who are going to cross a line of separation (LOS):
 - Must shower and change into clean 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 necessary PPE for personnel (including load-out personnel) and other needs, such as personal items, must be on-site and food and refreshments are company-controlled for 8 or more days prior to movement date.
 - 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.
 - See additional guidance for load-out vehicles and equipment in section 4.
 - Drivers must implement the following risk mitigations:
 - Reduce the risk of moving insects on and off the farm:
 - Vehicle windows must be rolled up at all times while on the poultry farm in order to prevent flies from getting into the vehicle.

- Insecticide spray must 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 pullet 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 pullet 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 pullets departs the premises.

- All PMIP biosecurity measures must be continued throughout the pullet 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:
 - Trucks, Trailers, and Equipment
 - Trucks, trailers, and equipment used for moving pullets will be dedicated to that specific pullet movement until the bird transfer is complete.
 - Load-out equipment has adequate downtime (24 hours or more) prior to use during load-out.
 - All trucks, trailers, and equipment (i.e., both contract and company-owned) used for the pullet move have traceability (e.g., where last used and previous premises HPAI status, C&D, downtime, biosecure storage location).
 - Load-out trucks, trailers, and equipment are C&D prior to first arrival at pullet premises.
 - A visual inspection/verification (e.g., company SOPs in place) of C&D of load-out trucks, trailers, and equipment must occur on the first arrival at the premises.

- Pullet moving trucks, trailers, and equipment that need to cross the LOS must have a predetermined, biosecure protocol for a temporary LOS adjustment and vehicle/equipment C&D.
- Load-out equipment moves from the trailer directly into the bird area of the barn to be loaded out.
- Vehicle wheels and undercarriage are also C&D after leaving the origin premises before going on the road to another destination.
- Crews/Personnel
 - Load-out personnel must be dedicated to the permitted pullet move.
 - Load-out personnel receive training in biosecurity protocols.
 - Load-out personnel - contract, non-company or company - have traceability (e.g., location last worked and premises status, downtime, and housing).
 - Load-out personnel are limited to the fewest necessary individuals to complete a task, and have an ID system in use to verify daily compliance.
 - Load-out crews/personnel must shower and change into clean clothing and footwear prior to or at the time of arrival at the premises on a daily basis.
 - Load-out operations must have on-farm supervision at the start of the move, and as often as possible thereafter, by a stakeholder who is not a member of the crew throughout the load-out activities.
 - The supervisor is a stakeholder with the authority to direct crews to follow protocol and halt activities if needed.
 - Activities include watching the crew cross the LOS and follow barn entry/exit protocols and ensuring inside and outside crew members do not accidentally cross the LOS.
 - Load-out personnel are designated to be either inside or outside workers.
 - There must be a means of quickly visualizing and distinguishing inside vs outside workers.
 - Dedicated indoor crew members only enter the barn in which they are working
 - If the flock being loaded out is in multiple barns, biosecurity protocols must be implemented when moving between barns.
 - 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
 - All personnel will shower and wear freshly laundered clothing before going on to other activities after load-out

- Co-mingling of load-out crews with regular farm staff members not involved in load-out is not permitted. When load-out crews use common areas:
 - Sanitation protocols must 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 must be carried out.

5. Transport biosecurity is acceptable and implemented.

- The pullet barn of origin will be completely empty at the end of the move.
- The route for pullet transport should be selected in consultation with a local poultry veterinarian, biosecurity officer, or the production manager and the SAHO or IC to minimize contact with and proximity to live poultry and poultry products.
- 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. Placement biosecurity is implemented.

- The destination site is considered free (if outside a control area) or monitored (if inside a control area) – see monitored premises criteria above.
 - If the destination site is a Monitored Premises within a Control Area, pullets must not be placed for 8 days after load-out of spent hens to optimize probability of HPAI clean status.
- All biosecurity measures noted for bird load-out at the origin premises must be adhered to during placement (see Section 4).
- An 8 day post-placement isolation period (PPIP) plan that includes testing and flock monitoring (see section 7), is in place. This PPIP begins after the placement of all birds onto the premises is completed.

7. Active surveillance protocol of daily rRT-PCR testing of all dead birds in pools of 11 (up to a maximum of 4 pools per flock/barn per day) 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. Active surveillance protocol post-placement is implemented.

- 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 per flock/barn per day) by NAHLN labs beginning 8 days *prior to load-out*.
 - If there are fewer than 11 dead birds/day, swabs may be pooled in BHI medium over multiple days (but not exceeding 96 h) until 11 swabs per

- sample are obtained.
 - All samples are held refrigerated and must be submitted within 96 h of first sample collection. Therefore, at least two submissions to a NAHLN lab should be made on days 4 and 8 of the PMIP.
- Load-out active surveillance
 - Daily testing of all dead birds in all flocks/barns 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.
- Post-placement active surveillance
 - Testing of all dead birds in all flocks/barns in 11-swab pools (up to a maximum of 4 pools per flock/barn) by NAHLN labs for three days, (4, 5, or 6), 7 and 8 ***after placement of all birds onto the destination premises is completed.***
 - Sample collection and submission to NAHLN lab:
 - If there are fewer than 11 dead birds/day in a flock/barn, swabs should be taken from clinically sick birds and then healthy birds and pooled in BHI medium until 11 swabs for the sample are obtained.
 - All samples held refrigerated until submitted.
 - A daily mortality greater than of 2 per 1000 changes the premises from a monitored to a suspect premises and requires an immediate diagnostic work-up.
 - Birds may be transported to the diagnostic laboratory following strict exclusion and containment biosecurity for vehicles and personnel, including:
 - Birds are sealed in a labeled, leak-proof packaging and container that are disinfected prior to transport.
 - The vehicle used for bird transport is C&D inside and outside prior to returning to the premises.
 - Personnel transporting birds must go directly from the premises to the diagnostic lab and must shower and change clothes prior to returning to the premises.
 - A 12-24 h downtime for transport personnel and vehicle following a trip to the diagnostic lab is recommended when feasible.