

Schedule 1 - Minimum biosecurity measures applying to all keepers

(1) Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must take appropriate and practicable steps to ensure that–

(a) precautions are taken to avoid the direct or indirect transfer of virus contamination onto and between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles, and footwear;

(b) all bird keepers must place foot dip containing Defra-approved poultry disinfectant at the correct dilution rate at strategic points including at the entry and exit of all houses or outdoor areas where birds are kept, and footwear must be cleaned using the dips on entry and exit or alternatively disposable over- shoes or footwear should be changed when moving between bird and non-bird areas;

(c) feed, water and bedding are stored under cover, and steps are taken to prevent access by wild birds and to minimise the risk of virus contamination. Any straw used for bedding must be covered and access to it by wild birds and rodents prevented;

(d) there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on neighbouring premises;

(e) effective vermin control is carried out in any part of the premises where poultry or other captive birds are kept;

(f) birds of prey are not fed anything that may have been exposed to virus, including wild waterfowl;

(g) the movement of people (other than in a zoo), vehicles or equipment to and from the part of the premises where poultry are kept is reduced to only essential movements for looking after their welfare, collecting eggs and feeding or movements for official or inspection visits;

(h) records are kept (other than in a zoo) of all vehicles that enter any part of the premises where poultry are kept and of all people who come into any direct contact with the poultry

(2) Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must keep records of poultry, captive birds and egg movements and make them available to an inspector or veterinary inspector on demand. Records should include:

(a) the quantity and description (including species of bird or type of egg) transported or marketed;

(b) the date of the movement off the premises;

(c) the premises of destination (if known);

(d) the name and address of the person to whom ownership or possession is being or has been transferred;

(e) the name and address of the person to whom eggs or other poultry products have been sold or gifted

(3) Records of all poultry and other captive bird deaths and disposal must be kept and made available to an inspector on demand. Records must include:

- date of death and any clinical signs;
- date of disposal and location of relevant animal by-product disposal facility

(4) Any keeper of poultry (including game birds and pet birds) or other captive birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must take appropriate and practicable steps, that can be demonstrated to an inspector on request, to ensure that—

(a) buildings that house the birds are maintained and any defects that allow water ingress or other contamination to enter the building are rectified without undue delay.

(b) anseriformes including ducks and geese are not kept in the same pen or building as other bird species (other than in a zoo);

(5) bird keepers must immediately report to the Animal and Plant Health Agency any increased morbidity (illness) or mortality (deaths) or significant drop in egg production or, where relevant, feed or water intake, or other relevant information relating to the production of eggs on the premises.

(6) Wild game birds “caught up” during the open season (under the Game Act 1831) must not be moved until a minimum of 21 days from the date of catching-up has elapsed, unless the movement is—

(a) direct and licensed by a veterinary inspector or by an inspector under the direction of a veterinary inspector and which may be subject to conditions; or

(b) within the same premises.

The keeper must keep a record of the date of catching up and the number of birds caught up each day. The 21-day standstill applies from the date the last bird was caught up or the date the last bird arrives at the premises where they are to be kept.

A licence under 5(a) may not be granted unless a veterinary inspector has considered:

(i) the risk of the possible spread of avian influenza if the licence were granted;

(ii) the effectiveness of biosecurity at the destination to prevent contact between the birds moved and other birds; and

(iii) any precautionary measures which should be taken before commencing, during or after the movement.

“caught up” in the context of this paragraph refers to the practice of gathering together wild game birds to be held in captivity for the purpose of restocking supplies of game or any breeding programme for the production of such birds.

Schedule 2 – Enhanced biosecurity measures for premises with 500 or more poultry or other captive birds

1) Any keeper of 500 or more poultry or other captive birds must, in addition to the minimum measures set out in Schedule 1, apply the measures in paragraphs (2)-(4) of this Schedule in the following parts of the kept bird premises–

(a) a poultry/captive bird (live-bird) part (for example, in the Lion code this area is referred to as the ‘Specific’ area; and in Red Tractor as ‘bird biosecure areas’);

(b) a private (ancillary use) part (for example, in the Lion code this area is referred to as the ‘General’ area; and in Red Tractor as ‘general biosecure areas’); and

(c) a restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part.

(2) The following measures apply to a poultry/captive bird (live-bird) part of the premises–

(a) access must be restricted to essential authorised personnel only;

(b) keepers must operate effective barrier hygiene, including changing clothing and footwear, before entering and on exit from the live-bird part;

(c) only essential equipment and vehicles are permitted to enter the live-bird part;

(d) the exterior of any vehicles, including fork-lifts and pallet trolleys (particularly wheels and wheel arches) and equipment which enter or leave the live-bird part of the premises must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit;

(e) thorough cleansing and disinfecting (based on industry best practice) of housing and equipment must be undertaken at the end of a production cycle and before new birds are introduced; and

(f) records must be kept of vehicles and personnel entering and leaving the live-bird part.

(3) The following measures apply to a private (ancillary use) part of the premises–

(a) access must be limited to essential personnel only, and full biosecurity practices should be adopted on entry and exit to the part of the premises;

(b) this part of the premises should be fully separated from the live-bird part with a clear demarcation;

(c) waste and fallen stock must be held in appropriately biosecure facilities in this part of the premises with clear separation between both the live-bird part and the restricted access bio-secure barrier part; and

(d) the exterior of any vehicles (focusing on wheels and wheel arches) which enters or leaves the part must be cleansed and disinfected on both entry and exit.

(e) egg producers should ensure the packing, handling and storage of second quality eggs

/ farm seconds is managed in a biosecure manner. Plastic egg trays must be cleansed and disinfected before use and records maintained as detailed in Schedule 1 (2).

(4) The following measures apply to the restricted access (bio-secure barrier) part of the premises–

(a) access by the public must be controlled and only essential workers or contractors should enter this bio-secure barrier part; and

(b) non-essential vehicles must not enter this bio-secure barrier part.

(c) Keepers must regularly inspect the fabric and structural integrity of any building used to house poultry for holes and leaks, with particular emphasis on roofs, gutters and downpipes. Any holes and leaks must be repaired without undue delay as many recent cases of avian influenza have been linked to water ingress and flooding.

(d) wild game birds must not be fed within 500m of the restricted access part of the premises where this area is under the control of the keeper.