

CHAPTER 10.4.

INFECTION WITH HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN
INFLUENZA VIRUSES

United States	Comment category: General Comment Proposed amendment: The USA notes that many of the proposed changes to Chapter 10.4, Avian Influenza are a direct result of proposed updates to the glossary definition of “poultry.” After carefully considering this new chapter content, we find the changes cumbersome and complicated. For example, the chapter-specific definition of “commercial poultry” creates additional categories of birds that add to the complexity of disease notification processes, disease management practices and trade negotiations. The new articles addressing disease status in new categories of birds are burdensome to both understand and effectively implement when there is abundant confusion and uncertainty among experts about the meaning of new parameters and previously adopted parameters for re-defined subpopulations as well as how the application of new and shifting guidelines will interplay and affect the overall management of an HPAI disease event. Due to their added complexities, we believe these proposed chapter changes do not improve consistency in disease management actions or continuity of business for Member Countries. The chapter-specific definition of “commercial poultry” and associated changes in Chapter 10.4 are unnecessary and could be removed if the fundamental concepts they are meant to address were restored to the poultry glossary term. We strongly support removing content from this chapter and restoring it to the poultry definition. We recognize the concepts needing restoration are: 1. defining poultry as birds reared and kept for production of <u>commercial</u> commodities; 2. identifying exemptions of birds that are generally not poultry and the important circumstance when they must be classified as poultry due to a risk-based epidemiological connection to poultry facilities.
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Article 10.4.1.

General provisions

- 1) ~~This chapter deals with the listed disease, Poultry, other birds and a number of mammals, including humans, are susceptible to infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity.~~
- 2) For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*:
 - a) ~~Infection with High pathogenicity avian influenza virus means is defined as an infection of poultry (hereafter ‘animal host’) with by any influenza A virus that has been determined to be of as high pathogenicity in birds in accordance with the *Terrestrial Manual*.~~
 - b) ~~The following defines the An~~ occurrence of *infection* with a high pathogenicity avian influenza

virus;

- i) high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has been isolated in a sample from an animal host and identified as such; is defined by the isolation and identification of the virus or
 - ii) the detection of specific viral ribonucleic acid, with characteristics of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus in a one or more samples from an animal host/poultry.
- c) The incubation period at the flock-level for high pathogenicity avian influenza is shall be 14 days.
- 3) For the purposes of this chapter, 'commercial poultry' means a subpopulation of poultry reared or kept in establishments that produce commodities intended for formal domestic or international trade.

United States	Comment category: Deletion Proposed amended text: 3. <u>For the purposes of this chapter, 'commercial poultry' means a subpopulation of poultry reared or kept in establishments that produce commodities intended for formal domestic or international trade.</u> Rationale: Recommend deleting with reference to the general comment above regarding return of content to glossary poultry definition. Supporting evidence: n/a
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- 4) Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines, including pathogenicity testing, are described in the Terrestrial Manual.
- 35) Although the objective of this chapter is to mitigate animal and public health risks posed by *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, other influenza A viruses of avian host origin (i.e. low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses) may have the potential to exert a negative impact on animal and public health. This chapter includes monitoring considerations for low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses because some, especially H5 and H7 subtypes, have the potential to mutate into high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses. A sudden and unexpected increase in virulence of low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in poultry is notifiable as an emerging disease in accordance with Article 1.1.4.
- 6) Infection of domestic and captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences, and infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity, are notifiable in accordance with Article 1.3.3. Such notifications do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone in poultry or commercial poultry, and a Member Country should not impose bans on the international trade of poultry commodities in response to such notifications.

United States	Comment category: Deletion Proposed amended text: 6. ... <u>Such notifications do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone in poultry or commercial poultry, and a Member Country should not impose bans on the international trade of poultry commodities in response to such notifications.</u> Rationale: Recommend deleting with reference to the general comment above regarding return of content to glossary poultry definition.
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	Supporting evidence: n/a
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4. ~~A notification of infection of birds other than poultry, including wild birds, with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity, or of infection of domestic or captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses does not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone. A Member Country should not impose bans on the international trade of poultry commodities in response to such notifications, or to other information on the presence of any non-notifiable influenza A virus in birds.~~
5. ~~This chapter includes monitoring considerations for low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses because some, especially H5- and H7- subtypes, have the potential to mutate into high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses.~~
- 7) Information reported in accordance with Article 1.1.5. on the presence of non-notifiable influenza A virus in birds or on the presence of influenza A virus of high pathogenicity in mammals do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone, and a Member Country should not impose bans on the international trade of poultry commodities in response to such bans.

United States	Comment category: Change Proposed amended text: 7. ...and a Member Country should not impose bans on the <u>international trade of poultry commodities in response to such bansreports.</u> Rationale: Recommend changing “bans” to “reports” for increased consistency and alignment with earlier phrase “reported in accordance with Article 1.1.5” and to distinguish from obligatory notification discussed in point 6. Supporting evidence: n/a
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Such notifications do not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of the country or zone in poultry or commercial poultry, and a Member Country should not impose bans on the international trade of poultry commodities in response to such notifications.

- 68) The use of *vaccination* against avian influenza may be recommended under specific conditions. Any vaccine used should comply with the standards described in the *Terrestrial Manual*. *Vaccination* will not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of a free country or zone if *surveillance* supports the absence of *infection*, in accordance with Article 10.4.28., in particular point 2. *Vaccination* can be used as an effective complementary control tool when a *stamping-out policy* alone is not sufficient. Whether to vaccinate or not should be decided by the *Veterinary Authority* on the basis of the avian influenza situation as well as the ability of the *Veterinary Services* to implement the *vaccination* strategy, as described in Chapter 4.18.

7. ~~Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines, including pathogenicity testing, are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.~~

[...]

Article 10.4.3.

Country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry

A country or zone may be considered free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry when:

United States	Comment category: Deletion
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	Proposed amended text: Country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza <u>in poultry</u> A country or <i>zone</i> may be considered free from high pathogenicity avian influenza <u>in poultry</u> when: Rationale: Recommend deleting with reference to the general comment above regarding return of content to glossary poultry definition. Supporting evidence: n/a
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- 1) *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses is a *notifiable disease* in the entire country;
- 2) an ongoing awareness programme is in place to encourage reporting of suspicions of high pathogenicity avian influenza;
- 3) absence of *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, based on *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4. and Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., has been demonstrated in the country or *zone* for the past 12 months;
- 4) an awareness programme is in place related to avian influenza viruses *risks* and the specific *biosecurity* and management measures to address them;
- 5) *commodities* are imported in accordance with Articles 10.4.7. to 10.4.22.

Surveillance should be adapted to parts of the country or existing *zones* depending on historical or geographical factors, industry structure, population data and proximity to recent *outbreaks* or the use of *vaccination*.

Article 10.4.3.bis

United States	Comment category: General Proposed amendment: Article 10.4.3.bis Recommend deleting the entire Article 10.4.3.bis with reference to the general comment above regarding return of content to glossary poultry definition. Supporting evidence: n/a
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Country or zone free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in commercial poultry

A country or *zone* may be considered free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in commercial poultry when the country or *zone* meets the conditions in points 1., 2., 4. and 5. in Article 10.4.3., and for the past 12 months:

- 1) absence of *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses, based on *surveillance*, in accordance with Chapter 1.4. and Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., has been demonstrated in commercial poultry in the country or *zone*;
- 2) commercial poultry in the country or *zone* are effectively separated from other birds, including *poultry* other than commercial poultry, and *wild* birds, by *biosecurity*, effectively implemented and supervised;
- 3) the *Veterinary Authority* has current knowledge of the distribution of all commercial poultry establishments;
- 4) in cases of occurrences of high pathogenicity avian influenza virus in *poultry* other than commercial poultry;
 - a) the *Veterinary Authority* performs an epidemiological investigation that concludes there has been no direct or indirect contact with commercial poultry or that the likelihood of exposure to commercial poultry is considered negligible;
 - b) a *stamping-out policy* is applied to all occurrences of high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses in *poultry* other than commercial poultry.

Article 10.4.4.

Compartment free from high pathogenicity avian influenza

The *establishment* of a *compartment* free from high pathogenicity avian influenza in commercial poultry, should be in accordance with relevant requirements of this chapter and the principles described in Chapters 4.4. and 4.5.

United States	Comment category: Change Proposed amended text: <u>The establishment of aA</u> <i>compartment</i> free from high pathogenicity avian influenza <u>in commercial poultry</u>, should be in accordance with relevant requirements of this chapter and the principles described in Chapters 4.4. and 4.5. Rationale: Recommend the following changes: 1. Deleting “The establishment of” to provide better clarity. The glossary term for “compartment” adequately explains the connection between establishments and subpopulations. Thus, relevant requirements would apply to establishments as a component of compartments. 2. Deleting “in commercial poultry” with reference to the general comment above regarding return of content to glossary poultry definition. Supporting evidence: n/a
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[...]

Article 10.4.6.

Recovery of free status in poultry or commercial poultry

United States	Comment category: Deletion Proposed amended text: Recovery of free status <u>in poultry or commercial poultry</u> Rationale: Recommend deleting with reference to the general comment above regarding return of content to glossary poultry definition. Supporting evidence: n/a
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If *infection* with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has occurred in *poultry* in a previously free country or *zone*, the free status may be regained after a minimum period of 28 days (i.e. two *flock-level incubation periods*) after a *stamping-out policy* has been completed (i.e. after the *disinfection* of the last affected *establishment*), provided that *surveillance* in accordance with Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30., in particular point 3 of Article 10.4.28., has also been carried out during that period and has demonstrated the absence of *infection*.

If a *stamping-out policy* is not implemented, Article 10.4.3. or 10.4.3.bis applies.

United States	Comment category: Deletion Proposed amended text: If a <i>stamping-out policy</i> is not implemented, Article 10.4.3. <u>or 10.4.3.bis</u> applies. Rationale: Recommend deleting with reference to the general comment above regarding return of content to glossary poultry definition. Supporting evidence: n/a
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