



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Compartments for the protection against Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease in poultry breeding companies in Great Britain

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1 Introduction, Definitions and Summary

1.1 Introduction

Compartmentalisation in Great Britain is a voluntary scheme open to poultry breeding companies, with a set of rules to protect farms or hatcheries against Avian Influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease (ND), by applying high disease prevention standards.

Approval as a compartment is based on the management protocols, biosecurity systems and husbandry practises at a given premises.

In the event of an outbreak of AI and/or ND in the UK, some importing countries' authorities may decide to suspend imports of poultry. Holding compartment status may place a company in a stronger position regarding continuation or resumption of exports.

These rules comply with the recommendations of WOAAH, as laid down in the [WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code \(2022 edition\)](#), Chapters 4.4. and 4.5.

These rules also comply with the [Retained Regulation 616/2009](#), laying down conditions for the approval of compartments for poultry against AI. However, they give additional instruction and detail to ensure effective protection against AI, as well as ND, and are therefore referred to as the 'GB Enhanced Standard'.

The scheme is owned and managed by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), as the Central Competent Authority for England, Scotland and Wales. The administration and delivery of the scheme are carried out by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) – the veterinary field service delivery agency for GB.

Compartmentalisation is a separate scheme to the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS), but PHS inspections may be used to aid monitoring of compartment compliance.

A list of approved compartments in GB is available in the link below.

[Approved premises in the compartments scheme](#)

1.2 Definitions

[WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code \(2022 Edition\)](#) defines compartments as:

*“**Compartment** means an animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments, separated from other susceptible populations by a common biosecurity management system, and with a specific animal health status with respect to one or more infections or infestations for which the necessary surveillance, biosecurity and control measures have been applied for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention and control in a country or zone.”*

The Retained Regulation 616/2009 takes the compartment definition from the [Directive 2005/94/EC](#), Article 2.11.

“Poultry compartment’ or ‘other captive birds compartment’ means a holding or holdings under a common biosecurity management system containing a poultry or other captive birds sub-population with a distinct health status with respect to avian influenza subjected to appropriate surveillance, control and biosecurity measures.”

“Avian Influenza” is defined in Annex I (as per Article 2) of [Directive 2005/94/EC](#)

“Newcastle disease” is defined in point 18 of Article 2 of Retained Regulation 798/2008.

In the context of this scheme, the following definitions apply:

“Company” means the company making the application for compartment status.

“Producer” means the enterprise producing and supplying the packaging materials.

“Compartment premises” means everything contained within the perimeter or boundary, which is owned or leased by the company. There should be a ‘perimeter fence’ to define the limits of the compartment premises. At the core of the compartment premises is the biosecurity zone. On the compartment premises but outside the biosecurity zone there will be other facilities such as a manager’s house, staff car park, vehicle wheel decontamination pad, etc.

“Biosecurity zone” is the area at the core of the compartment premises to which high biosecurity standards apply. There must be a biosecurity fence which defines the limits of the biosecurity zone. The external walls of buildings may constitute part of the biosecurity fence.

“Heightened Risk Period” means any time when official restrictions (disease control zones) exist in Great Britain due to an outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease in poultry (Note: Regardless of compartment status, all premises will remain subject to general disease control regulations under national and retained EU legislation).

“External Operator” means an independent company, which has a contract with the compartment company to carry out certain operations within the compartment premises, such as rodent control.

“Visitor” means any person who enters the premises and either does not work at those premises as their principal work location or is not directly employed by the company (e.g. veterinary surgeon).

(Note: this means that a company employee whose principal work location is either elsewhere (e.g. another site), or person who covers multiple sites (e.g. company manager) is therefore defined as a visitor and must sign the visitor record on every occasion that they visit).

“Multi-age” means a site at which there is no period during which the entire site is totally depopulated. It does not refer to a site where the birds are of different ages, but it is run on a ‘staged-in, all-out’ basis.

“Multi-building” means a site at which there is more than one bird shed, and they are not connected by fully enclosed passageways.

“Production unit” – means a group of animals with the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogenic agent.

“National Reference Laboratory” (NRL) is the APHA laboratory at Weybridge.

“Approved disinfectant” means a disinfectant which is Defra approved and listed on the latest Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order, as amended, for the Poultry Orders. The dilution rate must be correct as that indicated on the list.

(**Note:** This is without prejudice to any requirements for disinfectant use under other Orders or Schemes.)

1.3 Who is the Compartment Scheme aimed at

The scheme is aimed to companies producing high-value breeding stock of the main commercial poultry species (chickens, turkeys and ducks).

High-value breeding stock are birds selected for breeding rather than for the food chain.

Birds must be permanently housed in buildings, where entry of wild birds, or other possible disease carriers (e.g. rodents), must be prevented.

You can't apply if your birds have access to any free-range conditions, as they are at higher risk of picking up infection from wild birds.

1.4 Where you must be located

The administrative headquarters of the company applying for approval must be in England, Scotland or Wales.

If you have geographically separate holdings in England, Scotland or Wales, you can have them approved as either:

- separate compartments
- a single compartment, if they're functionally linked (i.e. they are managed as one unit)

Every holding in the compartment must be in England, Scotland or Wales and under your full control, meaning that you have the right to:

- carry out all the staff and visitor requirements of the scheme – e.g. ban entry to unauthorised people
- erect buildings, fencing and other works (e.g. cut back trees) needed for the scheme

If you lease your holding, you must have these rights stated in your contract with your landlord.

1.5 When you can apply

You can only get initial approval when there are no official restrictions in your region for [Avian Influenza](#) and/or [Newcastle Disease](#).

The premises which are subject to application must not be in any disease control zone, such as protection zone (PZ), surveillance zone (SZ), or restricted zone (RZ). However, this excludes the Avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ).

2 Approval Process

2.1 Process

Compartment approval applications are processed by [APHA – Centre for International Trade, Carlisle \(CITC\) compartment team](#) and applicant premises will be inspected by APHA Veterinary staff. Inspections are subject to an inspection fee for each inspection day.

The approval is not time limited and will remain valid as long as the company continues to observe all the rules of the scheme, and that the results of the necessary re-inspections are satisfactory.

2.2 How to apply

To join the Compartment Scheme you need to follow the instructions on the relevant [GOV.UK page](#) and complete the [application form \(PC01\)](#). The application form can be requested from CITC and should be returned by e-mail to APHA compartment team at compartments@apha.gov.uk. The CITC team will advise on payment of the registration fee, details of which can be found on GOV.UK at [pay inspection fees](#).

2.3 Conditions for approval

Any company seeking approval must ensure they comply with all compartment specifications for each of the premises applied.

They also must ensure that they have been carrying out specific protection and surveillance for Avian Influenza in each of the premises in the proposed compartment for at least six months prior to approval.

If the flocks are not vaccinated against Newcastle disease, the same testing principle applies for Newcastle disease.

Testing Requirements prior to Application for Compartment Approval	
Test type	Serology
Frequency	At least 3 tests at regular intervals during last 6 months , the most recent being no more than 28 days prior to the date of application for approval
Sample size	20 birds per production unit
Laboratory	At least one set of samples must be tested at National Reference Laboratory (NRL), but other sets may be tested either at the NRL or an accredited laboratory for AI serology under ISO 17025

The application form (PC01) must contain the company contact details and address/es of the premises seeking approval. It should also be accompanied by the following additional documentation for an initial assessment:

- Plan of the premises, including detailed map clearly outlining:
 - o Perimeter or boundary, to define the limits of the compartment premises
 - o Controlled access area
 - o Biosecurity zone
 - o Other building(s) on site (indicate their use if not for bird accommodation (e.g. storage of bedding, office, workshop etc)
 - o Entry and exit point(s) to each of the areas
- Biosecurity Management Protocol of the compartment, which need to show how you'll keep the compartment free of disease.
- Flow diagram of the compartment, which need to show:
 - o How staff and products will move between farms and hatcheries within the compartment
 - o Inputs and Outputs to the compartment (e.g. feed and eggs)
 - o Water source mains or borehole
 - o Animal by-products e.g. carcasses, eggs for disposal, spent litter, manure etc
- [Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system \(HACCP\)](#) on how the company will make sure to maintain protection against AI and ND.

- Testing results for AI, and where applicable ND, for the previous 6 months.

2.4 Inspection

Once a preliminary assessment of your application has been completed, APHA will contact you to arrange inspections, first at your company headquarters and then at every premises in the application for compartment approval.

After the inspection, the inspector will discuss their findings with you and later you'll receive a written report giving details of any necessary corrective action required in order to grant approval.

You may be able to fix minor problems (ones you can fix within 30 days) without a new inspection if you send suitable evidence to the inspector. For example, a photograph or copy of updated documents showing you've made the changes.

If there is a major problem (one that would take more than 30 days to fix) then you'll need to host a new inspection and pay the fee again.

After completion of all the inspections, the inspectors will write to you to tell you whether the premises is suitable for approval or requires further remedial action(s) before approval can be considered. The final decision on granting approval is made by Defra, this decision is not subject to appeal.

2.5 Once approved

Once approved you'll get a certificate confirming your status as a compartment. The certificate will include the date of approval and your approved compartment details (company name, premises approval number and county location).

The list of all approved premises in the Compartment Scheme are published at [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk). Note that the full addresses are not published.

2.6 Re-inspections

Following initial approval all compartment sites must be inspected in a two-year cycle (half of the farms will be inspected one year and the other half the next year). In general, the cycle will run concurrently with the financial year however this will be subject to review and may be altered at any point.

You must contact the APHA compartment team shortly before your approval is due to expire and complete [Form PC01](#) each year to arrange an inspection.

When you contact the APHA compartment team for a re-inspection you should state which farms or hatcheries are due to be inspected. This would normally be in the order they were originally approved. As a minimum, 50% of your compartment sites must be re-inspected each year. However, APHA reserves the right to select other or additional premises if epidemiological or other circumstances make that appropriate.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your compartment farms and hatcheries are inspected in 2-year cycles. Defra will suspend your approval if you don't, and approval will only be regained once you host a new inspection.

2.7 Responsibilities

The applicant or compartment manager are responsible for making sure that the compartment continues to keep to the standard.

You must:

- have a senior manager within the company who is accountable for the implementation of biosecurity across a company business. Site and area company managers must be responsible for delivering it.
- ensure the biosecurity management protocols which are implemented in each premises follow all the requirements of the scheme.
- have a system for ongoing verification of compliance (e.g. internal audits, etc)
- have regular external audits.
- make sure that the disease surveillance programme follows the requirements for Routine Monitoring for flock farms, and additional requirements during an outbreak (Heightened Risk Period).

Refer to the Guidance on the requirements for Routine Monitoring for flock farms, and extra requirements during an outbreak (Heightened Risk Period) in the relevant sections.

If you have a flock farm you must also:

- carry out testing for avian influenza and Newcastle disease as applicable
- set up extra disease controls as needed (e.g. if there's an [Avian Influenza Outbreak in your area](#))

You must contact the APHA compartment team immediately if you no longer meet any of the scheme conditions.

2.8 Cancellation, Suspension and Withdrawal of Approval

If APHA inspectors identify non-compliance(s) during a routine inspection, consideration is made to the severity and the disease risk. Minor non-compliances must be rectified within

a specified and agreed period of time. If the inspector identifies major non-compliances, they might recommend the suspension of the compartment approval.

At any time, it is responsibility of the company to notify APHA if the approved premises do not comply with compartment scheme (e.g. due to structural or other issues which are not rectified immediately). Depending on the nature and severity of the issue, the approval of the premises might need to be suspended.

In a case of major issues e.g. premises develop defects that pose a risk of virus incursion (water ingress, holes in the fabric that might allow birds or rodent entry, repeated issues etc), the companies must themselves request immediate suspension of the approval of that premises and any connected premises as a result, until the problem is fixed.

Within the 30 days of suspension, evidence must be provided to APHA to confirm that deficiencies have been rectified. Once inspectors are satisfied that all non-compliance has been resolved, the approval can be **re-instated**.

If the issue is not rectified within 30 days from suspension date, premises approval would be **withdrawn**.

The compartment approval will also be withdrawn if:

- any site fails a [Poultry Health Scheme inspection](#)
- there is an outbreak of AI or ND in the compartment
- you fail to pay the relevant inspection fees

The [list of approved premises](#) will be updated as soon a compartment loses its approval.

If you lose your approved status, you'll have to start a new application with new inspections and you'll have to pay the relevant fees.

You may request the voluntary **cancellation** of your approved compartment status at any time. Individual premises may be removed from the compartment, provided that there are no biosecurity or epidemiological issues in the compartment at the time of removal, which may affect the approval status of the remainder of the compartment. There will be no reimbursement of fees by APHA for any cancellation or removal of sites.

Please refer to GOV.UK for guidance in regards to [Losing, Suspending or Withdrawing Approvals](#).

2.9 Adding new premises

Additional premises may be included in your existing compartment, or another separate compartment might be established. The premises which are subject to application must not be in any disease control zone, such as protection zone (PZ), surveillance zone (SZ), or restricted zone (RZ). However, this excludes the Avian influenza prevention zone (AIPZ).

Adding new premises to your approved compartment won't change your inspection cycle. After the initial inspection and approval, the new premises will be included with the existing ones in the 2-year re-inspection cycle.

Before you make any changes to your existing approved compartment (including structural or in the management or biosecurity protocols) that could raise the risk of introducing disease, you must contact APHA compartment team to discuss your plans. They may ask you to produce a risk assessment showing any potential risks of disease introduction and how you will mitigate them. If considered necessary, you may need to host further APHA inspections.

2.10 Disease reporting

In case of disease suspicion, you must report suspected cases of [Avian Influenza](#) and [Newcastle Disease](#) in your compartment to [APHA](#) as they are [notifiable diseases](#).

You must request immediate suspension when there is intention of carrying out non-routine tests for Avian Influenza/Newcastle disease. Please refer to the guidance below:

<http://apha.defra.gov.uk/documents/ov/Briefing-Note-4722.pdf>

3 Biosecurity Management Protocols

3.1 Protocols

In accordance with the [WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code \(2022 Edition\)](#), Chapters 4.4. and 4.5., management protocols must be drawn up by the company, working in partnership with the Veterinary Services.

These Biosecurity Management Protocols represent the aspects of the company and individual premises operations in which there is the greatest risk of the introduction or spread of AI/ND. Consequently, they are considered critical control points (CCPs).

A [Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point \(HACCP\) system](#) must be implemented specifically for each premises within the compartment to ensure compliance with the Biosecurity Management Protocols, and the maintenance of protection against AI and ND. The HACCP analysis will include:

- identification of all points for potential disease incursion to the site and for the different operations,
- the relevant control measures, as mitigating factors,
- monitoring and verification requirements,
- record keeping,
- corrective actions, and

- validation of the HACCP system in place.

It should specify monitoring and verification procedures **on ongoing basis** – including frequency, methods of checks and personnel responsible and all records of these.

The HACCP system must then specify in detail what actions are taken when issues are identified, including any timelines for completion. If they cannot be rectified immediately, the company must inform APHA compartment team without delay. **In addition, when there is a risk of disease incursion into the premises, the company manager must request immediate suspension of the affected site.**

All records must be readily available for audit purposes.

The company's written Biosecurity Management Protocol must contain the following provisions as a minimum:

Note: The minimum essential content of each protocol is specified in separate Annex I (specific to flock farms) and Annex II (specific protocol for hatcheries)

BIOSECURITY MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL		Flock Farms	Hatcheries
Location		✓	✓
Structural Requirements		✓	✓
Management of Premises		✓	✓
Vehicle Entry Controls		✓	✓
Personnel	Bird Contact Precautions	✓	✓
	Entry Controls	✓	✓
	Movements of Personnel	✓	✓
	Multi-building sites: Staff Movement Controls	✓	✓
Control of Inputs	Entry of Breeding Poultry/Hatching Eggs	✓	✓
	Bedding Material: Production, Transport, Storage and Handling	✓	-
	Feed: Production, Transport, Storage and Handling	✓	-
	Packaging Materials: Production, Storage and Use	-	✓
	Miscellaneous Inputs	✓	✓
Control of Outputs	Loading and Dispatch of eggs/birds	✓	✓
	Disposal of Dead Birds/Biological material	✓	✓
Movement of Egg/Birds into the compartment		✓	✓
Quarantine for Eggs/Birds (from Sources Outside the Compartment)		✓	✓

Multi-Age Sites (Addition or Removal of Birds)		✓	-
Cleansing & Disinfection	Company Vehicles	✓	✓
	Re-usable Equipment	✓	✓
	Bird Sheds	✓	-
	Internal Areas and Fixed Equipment	✓	✓
	Moveable equipment	✓	✓
Routine monitoring	Laboratory Testing	✓	-
	Monitoring of Production and Mortality	✓	-
	Monitoring of Hatch Data and Chick Viability	-	✓
Rodent control		✓	✓
Wild Bird Controls		✓	✓
Staff: Training and Biosecurity procedures		✓	✓
Heightened Risk Periods: Additional Precautions		✓	✓

3.2 Location

- A. The location should not be in the vicinity (400 metres) of any commercial or non-commercial bird enterprise (poultry or captive birds), such as other poultry farms, birds of prey centres, markets, fairs, agricultural shows, sporting events, zoos or circuses.
- B. The location should not be in the vicinity of other point of bird concentration (this means having access to open feed source that may attract large number of wild birds), such as outdoor pig farms, landfill sites, rendering plants, feed mills, and other points of animal concentration. The location should not be in the vicinity of any open water which may attract wild waterfowl. Wild birds high risk areas should be considered as well as per [APHA Interactive Avian Influenza Disease Map \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)
- C. There must be no evidence of large gatherings of wild birds on or close to the premises.

However, if there is evidence of any of the above within 400 metres, a risk assessment must be provided by the company, and would need to be assessed and approved by APHA at the time of application. Suitable precautions must be included in the management biosecurity protocol, to reduce the risk in a way that is appropriate to the risk assessment.

- D. Regardless of whether or not local bird attractants are present in the vicinity, management protocols must contain instructions to ensure that there are no attractants within the compartment premises, e.g. spilled bird feed, exposed dead carcasses or broken eggs, etc.

3.3 Structural Specifications

- A. Buildings must be constructed in such a way that they are robust, free of any gaps, leak proof, moisture proof, and capable of being cleansed and disinfected.
- B. Buildings must be maintained in good state of repair (e.g. roofs free of excessive moss growth, gutters serviced and clear to avoid leaks/overflows etc). Measures must be taken to prevent any water leakage from outside into the buildings.
- C. Each building on the site must be furnished with a concrete apron, specifically covering the working entrance and exit of each building, and the walking areas between buildings, and with a cleansing and disinfection point at the entrance of each building.

Note: Cleaning and disinfection point should consist of clean water and brush to remove organic material from wellingtons, followed by a separate foot dip containing an approved disinfectant at the correct concentration.

- D. Appropriate measures must be put in place to ensure that faecal contamination does not persist on the ground within the biosecurity zone where it might present a risk. Outside of the heightened risk period, the outdoor walking area should be cleaned and disinfected with approved disinfectant at least once a day.
- E. Any outdoor walking area must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. Management protocols must specify the frequency of visual checks and use of hoses to clear contamination from concrete aprons around entrances, exits and walkways. Frequency needs to be established by the company based on the risk and should be agreed with the APHA approving veterinarian.
- F. Water must either be supplied direct from the public mains, or else be subject to regular testing with records of dates and results of testing kept, as applicable. A protocol to prevent contamination through the supply of water (such as an internal water treatment system) is required.
- G. Each building within the compartment must have sufficient ventilation to minimise moisture or condensation.
- H. Ventilation must be provided solely through inlets and outlets which are fitted with screens or other devices to prevent wild bird access and entry of potential fomites such as leaves and feathers.
- I. At the entrance to every building within the biosecurity zone, there must be effective arrangements to ensure that the infection cannot be introduced into the buildings (e.g. hanging facilities for outdoor clothing, cleaning and disinfection boot dip system outside followed by bench type boot changing facilities inside the building, or double cleaning and disinfection boot dip system outside and inside the building); and washing/sanitising stations to wash/ sanitise hands (e.g. hand sanitiser etc.).
- J. Areas between buildings must be free of overgrown vegetation and overhanging tree branches.

3.4 Restricted Access

- A. The compartment premises should be enclosed by a “perimeter fence”, which define the limits of the compartment premises and gives access to authorised personnel and vehicles only.
- B. The biosecurity zone must be enclosed by “biosecurity fence” through which the vehicles and personnel must not pass without undergoing appropriate decontamination.
- C. All entrances to the biosecurity zone must be gated and locked. Vehicle and personnel gates must be of the same standard as fence itself. There must be notices clearly visible at appropriate intervals, deterring unauthorised access to the biosecurity area.
- D. The fence to the biosecurity zone must be constructed in such a way to prevent unauthorised person gaining access to the biosecurity area by walking through:

The fence must be at least 4 feet (120 cm) high. If less than 5 feet (150 cm) high, there must be at least one strand of tensioned barbed wire along the top of the fence. The fence must be constructed of materials that prevent people from climbing through it. The bottom 2 feet (60 cm) should present a barrier that will prevent animals from walking through.
- E. If the external walls of buildings (such as bird sheds or shower block) constitute part of the biosecurity fence; any gap, ventilations openings and access doors must be secured to prevent access by persons or wild animals/birds.
- F. Any trees, bushes and wild vegetation must be cut back from the walls to create a margin of at least 2 metres wide. No trees or vegetations can hang over any concreted areas that link the different buildings in the biosecurity zone (concrete pathways used by the staff, or to move eggs, etc).
- G. The Company should make all the effort to remove any vegetation (grass, bushes, trees etc) from the biosecurity zone. If any grass is present, it must be maintained at minimum length.
- H. Where applicable, the area between the perimeter fence and biosecurity buildings must also be subjected to restricted access for personnel and vehicles, and relevant biosecurity measures e.g., wild bird controls.

3.5 Vehicle Entry Controls

- A. If vehicles are entering any areas of the premises that are accessed by personnel or vehicles, they wheels should be cleaned and disinfected to mitigate the risk of site contamination.
- B. Vehicles must enter the biosecurity zone only through a designated gate and decontamination area, which must be clearly demarcated and kept clean.

- C. There must be a procedure in place for the driver to notify arrival on site, without entering the biosecurity zone, and instructions for the driver to define and control the areas to which the driver has access.
- D. The decontamination area must be located immediately before the vehicle enters the gate into the biosecurity zone, constructed in such a way that it can be easily cleansed and disinfected (porous material such as gravel or hardcore would not be acceptable).
- E. The decontamination procedure must provide for the removal of all visible contamination from wheels, mudflaps, wheel arches and recesses of the vehicle, and any other visibly contaminated surfaces, and the application of an approved disinfectant.
- F. The equipment for decontaminating the wheels etc must satisfy the following:
 - The water pressure must be adequate to remove mud from the wheels, mudflaps and wheel arches.
 - It must deliver disinfectant to the wheels, mudflaps and wheel arches.
 - It must be sufficiently flexible to direct the spray into the inaccessible recesses of the wheel arches.
- G. Waste water must be drained and disposed in such a way that it does not contaminate the controlled access area and biosecurity zone.
- H. There must be a procedure in place to ensure that the driver's footwear and clothing does not pose a risk (e.g. provision of company boots, boot cleaning and disinfection, company clothing etc), and procedure to prevent recontamination of footwear if dismounting from the vehicle inside the biosecurity area (e.g. disinfectant spray or protective paper cover of foot well in driver's cab).
- I. Entry of vehicles will only be allowed following decontamination and disinfection of wheels, mudflaps and wheel arches and after a responsible staff member has confirmed and recorded satisfactory completion.
- I. A full record must be kept in permanent easily accessible, fully legible and easy to read form of every vehicle which is admitted to the site and any deliveries received and collections made e.g. hatching eggs, ABPs etc.

3.6 Staff and Visitors

- A. Records must be kept in a permanent and easily accessible form of all personnel (both staff and visitors) who enter the premises.
- B. Records must be available with the detail of which members of staff are nominated to work in which buildings, and whether staff members can, or cannot enter buildings outside their own allocation.
- C. Staff and visitors must sign a declaration that they have not had contact with poultry, captive birds, hobby birds or pet birds for at least the last 72 hours prior to entering the premises.

- D. A procedure will be in place to mitigate the infection risk, if it is necessary for emergency reasons, for personnel to enter the biosecurity area with less than the prescribed 72 hours bird-free time.
- E. Entry to the biosecurity zone must be subject to a hygiene barrier:
- There should be a point for cleaning and/or sanitation of external footwear and suitable storage prior to entering the hygiene barrier building, to reduce contamination of this area.
 - There must be a changing room and hygiene facility equipped with showers at the entrance of the biosecurity area. **Personnel must undergo whole-body shower and change of clothing and footwear prior to entering the biosecurity zone.**
 - The hygiene facility must be designed in such a way that it is not possible to pass it without going through a whole-body shower and changing of clothing and footwear.
 - There should be a sequence of cubicles for leaving bags and footwear and removal of outdoor clothing and footwear, whole body shower, and dressing with clean, dedicated indoor clothing provided by the company which must be used exclusively in the buildings.
 - Biosecurity procedures must be available with instructions for personnel for the procedure of entry through the hygiene block. It will include to not bring any personal items to the biosecurity zone unless absolutely necessary/ justified. If any person leaves the biosecurity zone for any reason, they must go through the full shower and clothing change procedure before re-entering the zone.
 - The facilities must be of a standard that staff and visitors are comfortable to use them.
- F. Personnel must enter each building directly after going through the biosecurity barrier, or otherwise through enclosed passageways.
- If there is an outdoor space between the hygiene barrier and the entrance to the buildings, or in the case of multi-building sites where there are no enclosed passageways between buildings, the company must provide outdoor clothing and appropriate changing facilities to prevent contamination of indoor clothing.
- G. All staff must undergo training in biosecurity principles and HACCP practices. Personnel in the establishments should have access to training in biosecurity relevant to poultry production and understand the implications to animal health, human health and food safety.
- H. There should be good communication between personnel involved in the poultry production chain to ensure that steps are taken to minimise the introduction and dissemination of infectious agents.
- I. Biosecurity procedures must be available with instructions for personnel for each area of work. Training records need to be available.

- J. Any visitors admitted on site must strictly adhere to the specific biosecurity protocol for the operations that they will undertake on site and follow the relevant biosecurity measures on entry to the biosecurity area.
- K. Biosecurity procedures must be readily available/ on display with instructions for visitors, for protecting and disinfecting tools or equipment brought into the biosecurity area by outside maintenance workers, inspectors, etc.

3.7 Control of Inputs

- A. All birds or eggs admitted to the site must either be derived from the GB approved compartment premises, or else they must be subject to additional conditions. For detailed schedule on movements of eggs/birds into the biosecurity zone, including testing and isolation/ quarantine requirements, see respective sections on “Movement of birds/eggs into the compartment” within Annex 1 and 2.
- B. There must be full movement records for all birds and eggs taken into the premises, enabling full traceability regarding source, movement within the compartment, and destination, as well as records of sanitation of eggs on the farm and/or at hatchery.
- C. Feed must be obtained exclusively from the company’s own mills, and/or from suppliers with which the company has a detailed, written supply contract.
- D. The supply contract of feed must ensure that it is subject to treatment to eliminate pathogens, and is protected from contamination throughout the manufacture, handling, transport and storage. Details of the treatment and controls through whole chain to be provided.
- E. On site the feed must be stored in enclosed containers and delivered to the buildings through a protected system, which ensures no access by wild birds, rodents or other pests, and no spillage which might attract birds or other pests.
- F. Bedding Material must be obtained exclusively from suppliers with which the company has a detailed, written supply contract.
- G. The supply contract of bedding material must ensure that it is adequately protected from contamination throughout its production, handling, transport and storage. It should be stored indoors and protected from access by wild birds and rodents/vermin. Details of controls through whole chain to be provided.
- H. All other inputs to the birds (e.g. calcium grit), must be subject to the same rules as bedding material with regard to protection from contamination. Details of controls through whole chain to be provided.
- I. All reusable equipment (e.g. egg trays and trolleys) must be disinfected prior to entry to the premises, be transported in disinfected company vehicles, stored in conditions where they are protected from any risk of contamination and must be fully disinfected prior entering into the biosecurity zone.
- J. Any equipment and materials which must be brought into the premises (e.g. disposable cartons and dividers for transport of day old birds from hatcheries, and

other essentials) must be stored in a way that protects them from any risk of contamination, and must be either new, clean and unused, or else subject to effective disinfection prior to entry into the biosecurity zone.

- K. Reception bays for receiving any delivery must be suitably protected against the accidental ingress of wild birds or other potential carriers of infection. Whenever the doors are open, operations must be supervised by a member of staff and ensure corrective action is taken.

3.8 Control of Outputs

- A. Loading out bays must be suitably protected against the accidental ingress of wild birds or other potential carriers of infection. Whenever the doors are open, operations must be supervised by a member of staff and ensure corrective action is taken.
- B. If the site is not run on an all-in, all-out basis, there must be suitable precautions to isolate sheds when they are being depopulated, and to ensure that catching teams and vehicles cannot introduce infection (in accordance with the biosecurity management protocol).
- C. All biological or edible animal material (e.g. carcasses, eggs for disposal and other animal by-products) must be contained in closed containers until it has been incinerated or left the site, to ensure that it does not attract wild birds and other pests. If not incinerated on site in an approved incinerator, they should be collected from the perimeter of the site to avoid the need for collection vehicles to enter. It is recommended that animal by-product bins are cleaned and disinfected before they are moved back near to the poultry area.

3.9 Routine Monitoring

Routine monitoring is applicable when there are no official restrictions (disease control zones) in Great Britain due to an outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease in poultry.

- A. At least once per 6 months, monitoring samples must be submitted to the NRL.
- B. Serological monitoring of flocks (both, rearing flocks and flocks in lay) must be carried out for Avian Influenza antibodies, as detailed in the table below.
- C. Flocks must either be vaccinated for Newcastle disease, or else monitored serologically on a similar schedule to that for Avian Influenza.
- D. Any inconclusive or positive serological results for either disease must immediately be referred to the NRL for confirmatory testing.
- E. Production and mortality data (or hatch and viability data in hatcheries) must be routinely recorded, and any substantial and unexplained deviations from expected ranges must immediately be reported to the responsible authority in the company for the appropriate investigation.

- F. All medication administered for whatever cause must be recorded in a permanent and easily accessible form, as required under national legislation.

ROUTINE MONITORING			
Testing requirements for each approved premises (except hatcheries)			
Type of test	Serology		Serology
Frequency	At least once every 6 months	AND	Flocks prior to lay: at least once within 28 days prior to the start of lay Flocks in lay: intervals no longer than 28 days
Sample size	20 birds per production unit		*11 birds per production unit (statistical sampling 95/25)
Laboratory	Must be at NRL		NRL or a laboratory accredited for avian influenza serology testing under ISO17025

*In a case of Galliformes, birds under 4 weeks of age can be exempt from testing.

3.10 Other requirements

- A. All records will be readily available for audit purposes.
- B. All disinfectants used in the premises must be Defra approved and listed on the latest Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Order, as amended, for the Poultry Orders. The dilution rate must be correct as that indicated on the list. This is to be specified on the biosecurity procedures and records kept for when replenished.
- C. Management protocols must contain instructions to prevent attraction of wild birds within the compartment premises, e.g. spilled or exposed bird feed, exposed dead carcasses or broken eggs, etc.
- D. Management protocols must contain standing instructions to staff that no doors (i.e. bird accommodation, egg depots, feed stores, carcass storage) within the biosecurity area may be left open and unattended.
- E. There must be a documented vermin control programme, with records of inspection kept.
- F. The company must have contingency plans in place for increased biosecurity and surveillance during the heightened risk period.

- G. If Avian Influenza or Newcastle disease is suspected or confirmed in any approved compartment premises, national legislation controlling notifiable disease outbreaks will immediately take effect. As a result, the approval of that compartment will be suspended/withdrawn, and all exports from those premises will be immediately suspended.

3.11 Heightened Risk Period

Heightened risk period means any time when official restrictions (disease control zones) exist in Great Britain due to an outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease in poultry.

There must be contingency plans in place during the Heightened Risk Period to enhance existing biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of disease into the compartment premises. In heightened risk period, further biosecurity measures must be applied.

However, testing protocols will vary in frequency during the Heightened Risk Period, depending on whether disease is present in GB, or an outbreak of HPAI or ND has occurred within 30 km of the compartment premises, or the compartment premises are subject to official restrictions due to HPAI or ND (establishments that fall within a PZ or SZ).

Regardless of compartment status, all premises will remain subject to general disease control regulations under national and retained EU legislation.

- A. **Visitors:** All visitors will be prohibited, except those essential for the welfare or survival of the birds, or officials of the veterinary authorities for the purposes of disease control or other statutory functions. Any routine maintenance by outside personnel must be suspended.

In exceptional circumstances, where essential repairs are needed to preserve the biosecurity on site, entrance of outside personnel may be allowed, subject to risk assessment which will detail any additional biosecurity measures required to prevent the introduction of disease.

- B. **Vehicles:** The entry of all vehicles to the premises will be prohibited, except when justified, e.g. in cases they are essential or there is exceptional and urgent need.

Company vehicles which need to visit the site (e.g. for egg collection) should be routed to avoid driving through any disease control zones (PZ/SZ), where possible. Vehicle decontamination procedures should be reviewed and if necessary increased biosecurity measures should be applied.

- C. **Feed Delivery:** Arrangements should be made with the feed company so that lorries are cleansed and disinfected off site and visit the compartment premises first before any other deliveries.

- D. **Biological material collection:** If not incinerated in an approved incinerator on the same site, ABP skips should be placed at perimeter of the site to remove the need for ABP collection vehicle to enter the curtilage of the site.
- E. **Staff movements within the compartment:** Any outdoor walking area within the biosecurity zone must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected throughout the day with an approved disinfectant, to prevent contamination from wild birds' faeces. Management protocols must specify the frequency of visual checks and use of hoses to clear contamination from concrete aprons around entrances, exits and walkways. Frequency needs to be established by the company based on the risk and should be agreed with the APHA approving veterinarian. Any outdoor walking areas within restricted access should also be cleaned and disinfected considering the above principles.
- F. **Staff and Equipment Movements between sites of the compartment:** All movements to be banned except when justified as absolutely necessary. **Separate sites are to be treated as far as possible as isolated units.**
- G. **Laboratory testing:** Frequency of serology in flocks to be increased (based on the level required in Retained Regulation 616/2009 and GB enhanced rules, namely:
- If HPAI has been confirmed in GB within the past 6 months, serology testing must be carried out on 20 birds per production unit at least every 3 months.
 - If any outbreak of HPAI has been confirmed within 30 kms of the compartment premises, serology testing must be increased to 20 birds per production unit, within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter, **and**
 - If the compartment premises falls within an area under movement controls restrictions according to national legislation (PZ/SZ):
 - Virology testing must be carried out on 20 tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs and 20 cloacal swabs per production unit within 1 week of the outbreak and then every 21 days thereafter, **and**
 - Virology testing must be carried out on five sick or dead birds (if present) at the same timing and frequency, **plus clinical surveillance to be enhanced.** (Note: Consideration must be taken to report suspicion of disease when sick and dead birds are present)
- H. A new Risk Assessment at critical points of the whole Compartment must be provided by the company manager. If the compartment consists of more than one premises, the entire structure of the compartment must be reviewed to assess increased levels of risk of spread disease to other sites within the compartment, and appropriate measures must be taken.
- I. The compartment manager must confirm in writing to APHA at least monthly that all the above precautions have been implemented, and that all laboratory test results

have been negative. This confirmation must be sent by email to the APHA compartment team. **Any non-negative results must be reported immediately.**

Testing Requirements at Flock Farms during the HEIGHTENED RISK PERIOD						
	If HPAI confirmed in GB in last 6 months		If HPAI confirmed within 30 km of the compartment premise, until the control zones are lifted, or 3 months has elapsed since the last confirmation		If premises fall into PZ/SZ, until the control zones are lifted	
Type of test	Serology		Serology		Virology	Virology
Frequency	Every 3 months		Within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter		Within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter	Within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter
Sample size	20 birds per production unit	OR	*20 birds per production unit (statistical sampling 95/15)	AND	20 tracheal swabs + 20 cloacal swabs per production unit	5 sick or dead birds (if present)
Laboratory	NRL or a laboratory accredited for avian influenza serology testing under ISO17025		NRL or a laboratory accredited for avian influenza serology testing under ISO17025		Must be at NRL	Must be at NRL

*In a case of Galliformes, birds under 4 weeks of age can be exempt from testing.

Annex I – Specifications for the Management Protocols applicable to Flock Farms

The Biosecurity Management Protocols of each compartment must contain a full description of at least each of the schedules in this Annex, specifying what procedures will be implemented to prevent disease introduction into each of the premises of the compartment.

[Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system \(HACCP\)](#) must be implemented for each individual premises within the compartment to ensure compliance with the to the Biosecurity Management Protocols, and maintenance of protection against AI and ND.

For every schedule, describe how the procedures are monitored and verified internally, **on ongoing basis**. When any issues are identified, corrective actions must be taken, recorded and further (adequate) control measures implemented to prevent re-occurrence. If issues cannot be rectified immediately, you must inform APHA compartment team without delay. In addition, when there is a risk of disease incursion into the premises, the company manager must request immediate suspension of the affected site.

All records be readily available for audit purposes.

1. Vehicle Entry Controls

- 1.1. Describe location of dedicated entry and exit gates for vehicles, which must be clearly demarcated as a restricted access area and kept clean. Gates must be kept locked and only accessed under the staff supervision.
- 1.2. Describe the decontamination area and any equipment provided. Specify the location.

It must be located before the vehicle entrance to the biosecurity zone and be clearly demarcated. The collection of waste water must be controlled, so that it does not contaminate other parts of the premises.
- 1.3. Describe the procedure for decontamination and disinfection of tyres and wheel arches within the decontamination area.
- 1.4. Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant for external parts.
- 1.5. Record of decontamination/disinfection. It must be maintained on site and signed off by responsible member of staff for each vehicle visit.
- 1.6. Describe the procedure for the driver to contact on-site staff prior to entering biosecurity zone.

- 1.7. Describe the procedure to define and control the areas to which the driver has access. Consider that driver should remain in the cab and unloading carried out by farm staff.
- 1.8. Describe the procedure to ensure that driver's footwear and clothing is risk free (e.g. provision of company boots, boot cleaning and disinfection, company clothing, etc.)
- 1.9. Describe the cleaning procedure for the driver's cab (foot wells are especially important). Dedicated site boots and overalls should be provided. Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant for foot well of the cabin, if applicable.
- 1.10. Describe the procedure for loading/unloading at the interface with the biosecurity zone (include any instructions specific for collections from the egg store).
- 1.11. Records, in permanent and easily accessible and fully legible form, for each vehicle visit. Records must be readily available for audit purposes, and they must contain:
 - Date and time
 - Company name
 - Registration of vehicle
 - Driver name
 - Description of cargo
 - Date and time of visit to last address
 - Manager's confirmation of decontamination
- 1.12. Describe the how/where records are kept for each vehicle visit.

2. Personnel: Bird Contact Precautions and Entry Controls

It must be forbidden for any person to enter the high biosecurity zone by any route other than the hygiene barrier, and the physical design of the premises must reinforce this.

- 2.1. Every member of staff must sign an agreement that they will not work with, keep, or have direct contact with any collection of poultry, captive birds, hobby birds or pet birds. They will inform management prior to entering the high biosecurity area if they have had such contact outside the compartment within the previous 72 hours.
- 2.2. Every visitor must sign a statement that they have not visited, worked with, or had any other form of direct contact with poultry, captive birds, hobby birds or pet birds, except for birds within the compartment, during the 72 hours prior to their visit to the premises.
- 2.3. Record, in permanent and easily accessible form, of the attendance of every staff member.

- 2.4. Record, in permanent and easily accessible form, of every visitor to the site.
- 2.5. Describe the procedure at the (multiple) hygiene barriers, including cleaning and sanitation/disinfection of external footwear prior to entry into the building, removing outdoor clothing and shoes, leaving bags or rucksacks on the 'dirty' side, showering, and use of clean protective indoor clothing/footwear.
- 2.6. Awareness instructions must be given to staff or visitors about controlling risk when bringing personal items into the biosecurity zone. Such items must not be allowed unless justified as absolutely necessary.
- 2.7. Describe the procedure for disinfecting tools or equipment brought on site by outside maintenance workers, inspectors, etc.
- 2.8. Describe the procedure to mitigate infection risk if for emergency reasons personnel need to enter the premises with less than the prescribed 72 hours bird-free time.
- 2.9. Describe how/where staff/visitor records are kept.

3. Multi-Building Sites: Staff Movement Controls

- 3.1. Detail which members of staff are nominated to work in which buildings, and whether staff members can, or cannot enter buildings outside their own allocation.
- 3.2. Describe additional biosecurity measures to prevent transmission of infection if staff members move from one building to another. Additional measures must include hanging facilities for outdoor clothing, cleaning and disinfection boot dip system outside following by bench type boot changing facilities inside the building, **or** double cleaning and disinfection boot dip system outside and inside the building; and washing/sanitising stations to wash/ sanitise hands (e.g. hand sanitiser etc.).

Cleaning and disinfection point should consist of clean water and a brush to remove organic material from wellingtons followed by a separate foot dip containing an approved disinfectant at the correct strength etc.

- 3.3. Describe the location of boot dips, means for cleaning/scrubbing, approved disinfectant used (type and concentration), renewal frequency and instructions to staff about their use. If they are outdoors, it is recommended that they are covered to prevent dilution by rainwater, contamination by leaves etc., and located as close as possible to the entry. Also, consider the direction of door opening in relation to siting of dip.
- 3.4. Describe the location of hand wash/ hand sanitation facilities, type of hand disinfectant or sanitising agent, and instructions to staff about their use.
- 3.5. If there is a staff communal or social area, detail how overalls and boots must be dealt with prior to and after mixing in the communal area, in order to avoid potential cross-contamination.

4. Multi-Age Sites: Addition or Removal of Birds

- 4.1. Describe the procedure for restricted access and decontamination of vehicles at entry to biosecurity zone dedicated gates, disinfection of tyres and wheel arches, control of movements within site.
- 4.2. Describe the status of catching teams (e.g. full time company employees, separate organisation under contract to company, etc.)
- 4.3. Describe the procedure for preventing access by the catching team or delivery drivers to the rest of the site.
- 4.4. In the case of spent hens, describe the procedure to transfer birds from company catching crates to vehicle transport crates.
- 4.5. In the case of transfers from rearing site to laying site, provide full details of bird movement equipment handling procedures.
- 4.6. Describe the provision of protective clothing for catching/delivery teams.
- 4.7. Describe the boot cleaning and disinfection procedures for catching/delivery teams.
- 4.8. Record, in permanent and easily accessible form, of bird contact type, showing date, time, identity of personnel, identity of vehicle, identity of birds (added or removed) and sheds involved. Describe how/where records are kept for each bird contact.

5. Movement of birds into the compartment

No birds can be introduced to the compartment, unless they satisfy the conditions below, as applicable, and in any case the conditions of transport must ensure that there is no risk of them being infected.

The birds moved into the compartment might originate from:

- An establishment in GB:
 - Either directly from flock farm/hatchery within the same GB approved compartment,
 - Or flock farm/hatchery within a different GB approved compartment,
 - Or flock farm/hatchery in GB which are an approved members of the poultry health scheme (PHS) **and subject to additional conditions.**
- An establishment in another country:
 - Either flock farm/hatchery within an approved compartment in another country AND the conditions of approval in that other country have been considered fully equivalent to the standards of the GB Poultry Compartment Scheme by Defra,

- Or flock farm/hatchery in another country which are an approved member of a government supervised poultry health scheme **and subject to additional conditions**.

These options intend to provide flexibility in breeding programmes and improve genetic value by allowing birds from outside the compartment to enter a compartment farm.

In all cases when birds do not originate from the same GB approved compartment, additional rules apply to ensure that the approved status of the farm and compartment is not compromised.

If a compartment farm admitted birds of a lower or unproven health status without conforming these additional rules, Defra would be obliged to withdraw the compartment approval.

In all cases, the protocol for the movement of birds must consider the following:

- 5.1. Describe the reception area used for birds' entry into the building (staff segregation, protective clothing, cleansing and disinfection, etc.).
 - A. It must be constructed to minimise the risk of introducing contamination to the bird's accommodation and biosecurity zone whilst the doors are open.
 - B. The design must be such that staff working inside the building do not have to come outside, and outside staff do not come into the building.
- 5.2. Describe the system for recording the source of all introduced birds, tracing of movement within the farm and their destination on leaving.

The system may be either paper based or electronic and must be easily intelligible for an inspector.
- 5.3. Describe the vehicles that may be used to transport birds into the approved farm (e.g. only in vehicles that belong to, or are under a contract to, the company).
- 5.4. Describe disinfection protocol for the cargo compartment of the vehicles prior to loading.
- 5.5. Describe conditions of transport to ensure that there is no risk of the birds being infected.

6. Intake of Birds: From sources within GB

When birds are sourced from an establishment within the **same approved GB compartment**, no additional requirements apply. Flocks within the same compartment are considered to be of the same health status.

When birds are sourced from an establishment within a **different approved GB compartment**, no additional requirements apply during the routine period.

However, during the heightened risk period, birds older than day old birds need to be tested for AI (and ND if not vaccinated).

- Recommended sampling: 95:15 (95% confidence 15% prevalence, equivalent to 20 birds per airspace) within 21 days prior to the movement

In all cases where the birds originate from **GB sources outside the same compartment**, the protocol must consider the following additional requirements:

- Describe the procedure for ensuring that the source of birds is disease free: testing of the flocks of origin prior to delivery, independently verified biosecurity standards, etc.

In addition, all birds sourced from **GB establishments outside of any approved compartment** must be subject to additional conditions:

- Before externally sourced birds are introduced to a compartment farm, the company must produce a risk assessment to demonstrate that there is no possible risk of introduction of infection, derived from the introduction of birds from sources outside the compartment.
- This risk assessment must be forwarded to the APHA compartment team for them to confirm authorisation if the risk is considered acceptable.
- The premises from which the birds originate must be an approved member of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS).
- **All birds sourced from outside the compartment scheme must undergo quarantine.** See section "Quarantine arrangements" below.

7. Intake of Birds: From sources outside GB

All birds imported from another country to GB are subject to GB import conditions and must comply with the requirements of the specific Import health certificate.

When birds originate from an establishment in another country, they may come from:

- Either flock farm/hatchery within an approved compartment in another country and the conditions of approval in that other country have been considered fully equivalent to the standards of the GB Poultry Compartment Scheme by Defra,
- Or flock farm/hatchery which are an approved member of a government supervised poultry health scheme **and subject to additional conditions.**

Before the commencement of imports of birds to a GB compartment farm, the importing company must ensure that the flock farm/hatchery in another country is suitable as source of birds for introduction into a GB compartment premises.

If in doubt, the company must seek advice from APHA prior producing the risk assessment, to establish if any additional requirements and pre-export testing of the flocks if applicable.

In ALL cases where birds originate from an establishment in another country, all imported birds must undergo **quarantine** and be granted **authorisation** prior to admission of the birds into the compartment.

7.1 Imported birds from an approved compartment in another country

In cases where birds originate from an approved compartment in another country, no further testing of the imported birds on arrival would be required. **However, the quarantine of imported birds will still be required.**

Compartments approved by the competent authorities in another country must be assessed and approved by Defra. **Some establishments may be approved as a compartment by the competent authorities in their own country but not recognised as an approved compartment by the GB government, if the country of origin has not proven equivalence with the standards of the GB Compartment Approval Scheme.** In this case birds would still need to be tested on arrival.

See the link below:

<https://www.data.gov.uk/dataset/b92627b0-dd7b-4e1d-ba36-e25424f55eeb/non-eu-countries-approved-to-export-animals-and-animal-products-to-great-britain>

7.2 Imported birds from outside of Defra approved compartment in another country

In cases when birds originate from outside of the approved compartment in another country, additional conditions apply:

- Before externally sourced birds are imported, the company must produce a risk assessment to demonstrate that there is no possible risk of introduction of infection, derived from the introduction of birds from sources outside the compartment.
- This risk assessment must be forwarded to APHA compartment team for them to confirm authorisation if the risk is considered acceptable.
- The premises from which the birds originate are an approved member of a government supervised poultry health scheme in its own country.
- **All birds sourced from outside Defra approved compartment must undergo quarantine upon arrival.** See section “Quarantine arrangements” below.

8. Quarantine arrangements

When the introduced birds are subject to quarantine, this can be carried out within an approved premises provided that the premises is either free from any other birds during the quarantine period; or the birds already in residence become subject to the same quarantine rules for the same period of time as the introduced birds.

The quarantine period will commence when the first introduced bird is placed in the quarantine premises and finish 21 days after the introduction of the last bird. No birds can be removed from the quarantine premises until the quarantine period has been completed in accordance with conditions below (except for carcasses for submission to NRL).

It is the responsibility of the company to demonstrate by the risk assessment, that there is no possible risk of introduction of infection by the externally sourced birds.

Before the introduced birds are placed in quarantine the compartment management must produce written procedures, as outlined below, and obtain written confirmation from the APHA compartment team that they are acceptable.

- 8.1. Describe the procedure for ensuring that the source of birds is disease free: e.g. testing of the flocks of origin prior to delivery, independently verified biosecurity standards, etc.
- 8.2. Describe the quarantine conditions. This can take place on the approved compartment premises, subject to all required conditions. Describe the procedure of placing birds on farm site.
- 8.3. Describe staffing arrangements, vehicle movement controls, and visitor controls on the rearing premises. Specifically:
 - A. Staff responsible for the daily care of the imported birds in quarantine must not work with other flocks during the post import quarantine period.
 - B. Staff must follow all routine biosecurity protocols as specified in this schedule, including using hygiene barrier, 72 hours of free bird contract etc.
 - C. No visitors can enter the quarantine premises for the duration of the quarantine.
- 8.4. Describe feeding and bedding arrangements at rearing facilities during the quarantine period.
 - A. Whenever possible, all feed, bedding material or other inputs into the quarantine premises should be entered before the commencement of the quarantine period.
 - B. Alternatively, all essential vehicle movements, such as feed delivery vehicles, may enter the biosecurity area at the quarantine premises provided that:

- The wheels are disinfected at the point of entry and again at the point of exit.
- Drivers must disinfect their footwear or be provided with company footwear and do not go further from their vehicles than is strictly necessary for their delivery/collection function. (It is recommended that drivers do not leave the cab and farm staff carry out all unloading)

8.5. Describe procedure for monitoring clinical observations and mortality of imported birds during the quarantine period of at least 21 days.

If clinical observations during quarantine raised any suspicion of AI or ND infection, **testing (virology) must be carried out on dead or diseased birds** in accordance with Retained Regulation 798/2008 (as amended).

8.6. Describe the protocol for testing the birds in quarantine after arrival for the presence of Avian Influenza (AI) and Newcastle disease (ND) viruses.

- Recommended: Laboratory testing at least 7 days after arrival in accordance with Commission Regulation 798/2008 (Annexes III and VIII) (as amended). (For Newcastle disease there must be either similar testing carried out on the birds, or the parent flocks and the chicks must be vaccinated for ND)

8.7. Describe the procedure to define the completion of quarantine and acceptance of the birds into the compartment. **The recommended standard is full 21 days quarantine, negative clinical findings, and negative laboratory tests results before release.**

9. Bedding Material: Production, Transport, Storage and Handling

The producer of bedding material must either be under the ownership and management of the company, or there must be a written agreement between the company and the producer specifying the conditions of production, handling and transport.

In all cases, the protocol must consider the following:

- 9.1. Describe the type of bedding materials (e.g. straw, wood shavings etc).
- 9.2. The company must produce a risk assessment of the risk of infection derived from the bedding material (type, handling, storage, etc.). If the risk is considered negligible or low, the company must provide reasons why they consider the risk to be negligible or low. Otherwise, viricidal treatment will be necessary to prevent infection.

For instance, in the case of wood shavings, the risk of contamination with AI virus is considered very low, so viricidal treatment is not necessary. However, in the case of straw, a period of at least 2 months in storage is considered sufficient to allow AI virus to become denatured.

- 9.3. Describe the Biosecurity procedures for handling and storage of bedding material. Bedding material must be handled and stored within compartment premises in suitable conditions where it is protected from possible contamination by birds or vermin all the time.

Bedding material should be inspected on delivery. In a case that any wrappings are opened/damaged and therefore there has been an exposure of the bedding material to external environment, it must be rejected from usage.

- 9.4. Describe the control measures taken when bedding material is entering into the biosecurity zone.
- 9.5. Describe the method to convey and spread bedding material into bird sheds. The bedding material must be handled and spread inside the bird sheds, using methods which will prevent contamination by birds or vermin.

Additional requirements in cases where bedding material is sourced from a supplier:

- 9.6. Describe the supply agreement including type of bedding material and different aspects of handling, package, storage and transport to the compartment premises. Also include any treatment required to mitigate any risk of infection.
- 9.7. Describe the audit procedures carried out by the company to the production, handling and transport procedures at the producer's premises, including the frequency of audits.
- 9.8. Describe the Biosecurity procedures for handling and storage of bedding material prior to delivery to the compartment. Immediately after production, the bedding material must be suitably handled, packaged, and stored prior to delivery to prevent contamination by birds or vermin.
- 9.9. Describe the transport operation from production site to the compartment premises. The material must be transported to the compartment premises in conditions where it is protected from possible contamination by birds or vermin.

10. Feed: Production, Transport, Storage and Handling

The producer of feed must either be under the ownership and management of the company, or there must be a written agreement between the company and the producer specifying the conditions of production, handling and transport.

In all cases, the protocol must consider the following:

- 10.1. Describe the type of feed and production process, indicating the end product (e.g. pellets, mash etc.).
- 10.2. The company must produce a risk assessment of the risk of infection derived from the feed (type, handling, storage, etc.). If the risk is considered negligible or low, the company must provide reasons why they consider the risk to be negligible or low. Otherwise, viricidal treatment will be necessary to prevent infection.
- 10.3. Describe the heat treatment conditions, indicating target temperature and minimum time period.

WOAH recommendations for the destruction of avian influenza viruses in animal feed:

- a. moist heat treatment for 30 minutes at 56°C; or
 - b. heat treatment where the internal temperature throughout the product reached at least 74°C; or
 - c. any equivalent treatment that has been demonstrated to inactivate avian influenza viruses.
- 10.4. Describe the Biosecurity procedures for handling and storage of feed. The feed must be handled and stored within the compartment premises in conditions where it is protected from possible contamination by birds or vermin.
 - 10.5. Describe the method to convey and roll out feed into bird sheds. The system for transferring the feed from storage to use in the bird sheds must ensure its protection from possible contamination by birds or vermin.

Additional requirements in cases where feeding material is sourced from a supplier:

- 10.6. Describe the supply agreement, including the type of feed and production process and different aspects of handling, package, storage and transport to the compartment premises. Also include any treatment required to mitigate any risk of infection.
- 10.7. Describe the audit procedures carried out by the company to the production, handling and transport procedures at the producer's premises, including the frequency of audits. Internal audit reports should be available on inspector request.
- 10.8. Describe the Biosecurity procedures for handling and storage of feed prior to delivery to the compartment. During and after production the feed must be handled and stored through a system (augurs, hoppers etc) which is either dedicated to this company, or which has been thoroughly flushed out since any previous use either for feed not of the same standard, or not intended for the company.

- 10.9. Describe the transport operation from production site to the compartment premises. The feed must be transported in vehicles which are either dedicated to this company, or which have been thoroughly cleaned out and disinfected since any previous use, either for feed not of the same standard or not intended for the company.

11. Miscellaneous Inputs (E.G Calcium Grit, Oyster shell, Janitorial Stores and Consumables): Production, Transport, Storage and Handling

- 11.1. The company must produce a risk assessment of the risk of infection derived from any other inputs (type, handling, storage, etc.). If the risk is considered negligible or low, the company must provide reasons why they consider the risk to be negligible or low. Otherwise, viricidal treatment will be necessary to prevent infection.
- 11.2. Describe the type of product and production process, indicating the end product and its packaging, if applicable. The item must be packed in packaging which will protect it from contamination by birds or vermin.
- 11.3. Describe any disinfection or sterilisation treatment, including disinfectant used and its concentration or target temperature and minimum time period, if relevant.
- 11.4. Describe the Biosecurity procedures for delivery, handling and storage of other inputs. The items must be delivered, handled and stored within the compartment premises in conditions where it is protected from possible contamination by birds or vermin.
- 11.5. Describe the measures taken when any product is taken into the biosecurity zone.
- 11.6. Describe the transport arrangements to the compartment premises. The item must be transported and stored at the compartment premises in conditions where it is protected from possible contamination by birds or vermin.

12. Removal of birds and Disinfection of Bird Sheds (For multi-age Sites only)

- 12.1. Describe the procedures for preventing access and risk of spread of infection, by bird catching teams, cleaning teams and their vehicles, to the rest of the site.
- 12.2. Describe the procedure for removal and disposal of litter.
- 12.3. Describe the physical processes of de-greasing, washing, disinfecting, and drying out of site and equipment.

- 12.4. Specify disinfectant type, and its concentration, and method of application.
- 12.5. Describe the routine maintenance procedures to be conducted during the time when sheds are empty, e.g. check on insect concentrations, check on potential vermin access, check on bird proofing, check on condition and integrity of roof (including free from moss overgrowth, etc.), maintenance of ventilation systems.

13. Disinfection of Re-Usable Equipment

- 13.1. Specify the items of equipment concerned (e.g. catching crates).
- 13.2. Specify the location and the cleaning procedure (there may be different locations and processes for different types of equipment).
- 13.3. Describe the disinfection procedure.
- 13.4. Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant.
- 13.5. Describe the place and method for storing the equipment after disinfection and prior to use, so that it is protected from contamination.
- 13.6. Describe the measures taken when any product is taken into the biosecurity zone.

14. Vermin Control

- 14.1. Specify who is responsible for rodent control operations on site. It may be company employees, or an external operator. If the latter, there must be a written contract with the operator which covers the details below as a minimum.
- 14.2. Describe number and location of bait sites. It should be reflected on the site map.
- 14.3. Describe type of bait and the intended use/species (e.g. targeted species of animals, etc.).
- 14.4. Describe frequency at which bait sites are checked, either by the company staff or contractors.
- 14.5. Describe rectifying action, if there is evidence of rodent activity.
- 14.6. Describe the immediate actions when live rodents are detected at the premises.

15. Wild Bird Control

- 15.1. Confirm the presence/absence of any cause of attraction which may cause gathering of wild birds in the vicinity.

Typical attractions would be open water, canals or rivers, free range poultry or hobby bird collections, outdoor pig farms, landfill sites, rubbish tips, etc.

'In the vicinity' can normally be taken to mean within 400 metres.

- 15.2. Specify any additional measures taken to deter wild birds wild bird activity within the compartment premises, e.g. anti-perching strips above the entrances or exits to buildings on the site, close mesh fencing to prevent waterfowl from walking onto the site, etc.
- 15.3. Specify additional measures to ensure that faecal contamination does not persist on the ground where it might present a risk, e.g. frequency of use of hoses to clear contamination from wild birds from concrete aprons around entrances, exits and walkways.
- 15.4. Specify measures to ensure that contamination cannot be carried on workers' boots/clothing into the bird sheds, e.g. all buildings beyond the hygiene barrier linked by fully enclosed corridor/passageway system **or** additional control measures must be taken when entering the building (e.g. change or removal of outdoor clothing, cleaning and disinfection boot dip system outside following by bench type boot changing facilities inside the building, **or** double cleaning and disinfection boot dip system outside and inside the building); and washing/sanitising stations to wash/ sanitise hands (e.g hand sanitiser etc.).

In particular, specify measures required when there is any risk of contamination while personnel is using outside area or/and handling any equipment/materials outside.

- 15.5. Describe how the presence of any food attractant on site (e.g. spilled bird feed, exposed dead carcasses or broken eggs, etc.) will be prevented.
- 15.6. Describe protection of ventilation openings (e.g. by screens or other structures designed to deter wild bird access).
- 15.7. Staff must be instructed that no doors may be left open and unattended under no circumstance.

16. Staff: Training and Biosecurity procedures

There must be a written induction training programme readily available. All newly engaged staff will sign a declaration of completion of the induction training.

The Biosecurity procedures should include at least the following:

- All the biosecurity issues to be covered during induction training.
- All the critical control points to be highlighted for each operation on site.
- A description of any relevant external biosecurity qualifications which staff will be required to study and attempt (e.g. NVQs).

- A description of any reinforcement training that staff are required to undergo.
- A description of all specific biosecurity procedures to be provided and individually tailored to each area of work.
- A description of ongoing internal monitoring and verification of all control measures, and actions taken when issues are identified.
- Records of all inductions and subsequent refresher trainings, which should be kept and available for inspection.

17. Monitoring of Mortality and Production

17.1 Mortality

- 17.1. Describe the written procedure to be followed by the site manager for the daily recording of mortalities, and how often e.g. once/twice daily.
- 17.2. Describe how and where the daily record shall be kept.
- 17.3. Describe normal range of mortality rates to be expected.
- 17.4. Describe actions to be taken by the company in case of substantial and unexplained departure from expected mortality rates (specify normal rates), which must be reported immediately to company vet, or any other higher management level.

17.2 Production

- 17.5. Describe procedure and frequency for site manager to record growth figures and other production e.g. hatching eggs
- 17.6. Describe how and where the record shall be kept.
- 17.7. Describe normal range of growth rates to be expected.
- 17.8. Describe action levels: level of substantial and unexplained departure from expected growth performance, which must be reported immediately to company vet, or any other higher management level.

18. Other WOA code recommendations

- 18.1. Nest box litter and mats should be kept clean.
- 18.2. Hatching eggs should be collected at frequent intervals, at least daily, and placed in new or clean and disinfected packaging materials.

- 18.3. Grossly dirty, cracked, broken, or leaking eggs should be collected separately and should not be used as hatching eggs.
- 18.4. Hatching eggs should be cleaned and sanitized as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 18.5. Hatching eggs or their packaging materials should be marked to assist traceability and veterinary investigations.
- 18.6. The hatching eggs should be stored in a dedicated room as soon as possible after cleaning and sanitisation. Storage conditions should minimise the potential for microbial contamination and growth and ensure maximum hatchability. The room should be well ventilated, kept clean, and regularly disinfected using disinfectants approved for this purpose.

19. Laboratory Testing for Routine Monitoring of Flocks

19.1 Avian Influenza

- 19.1.1. A routine surveillance plan, under the responsibility of the site manager, must be followed, where serological testing must be carried out in the compartment premises at least once every 6 months during the production period, where no outbreaks of AI or ND have occurred in the previous 6 months, in accordance with the Retained Regulation 616/2009.
- 19.1.2. 20 blood samples must be taken from birds per production unit.
- 19.1.3. These samples must be submitted to NRL for testing. The type of serological test is to be decided by APHA.
- 19.1.4. In addition, the compartment will carry out extra serological testing under ISO17025, either using NRL or a laboratory accredited for avian influenza serology testing.

The recommended statistical basis of sampling in this case is 95:25 (95% confidence 25% prevalence). This would indicate a sample size of 11 blood samples from birds per production unit.

- 19.1.5. Whenever inconclusive results are obtained, samples must be referred to NRL laboratory for further testing.

Inconclusive results referred to NRL, and subsequently reported by NRL as negative, can be regarded as confirmed negative and recorded as such.

19.1.6. Frequency of testing:

- **All flocks** must be tested at least once per 6 months (20 samples per production unit) with samples being tested at NRL,

and

- **Flocks prior to lay** must be tested at least once within 28 days (11 samples per production unit)
- **Flocks in lay** must be tested at intervals of no longer than 28 days (11 samples per production unit)

ROUTINE MONITORING			
Testing requirements for each approved premises (except hatcheries)			
Type of test	Serology	AND	Serology
Frequency	At least once every 6 months		Flocks prior to lay: at least once within 28 days prior to the start of lay Flocks in lay: at intervals no longer than 28 days
Sample size	20 birds per production unit		*11 birds at per production unit (statistical sampling 95:25)
Laboratory	Must be at NRL		NRL or a laboratory accredited for avian influenza serology testing under ISO17025

* in a case of Galliformes, birds under 4 weeks of age can be exempt from testing.

19.2 Newcastle Disease

19.2.1. Describe vaccination schedule: frequency of vaccination, type of vaccine, route of administration.

If the company carries out sampling to confirm the desired immune response, provide details.

19.2.2. If the flocks are not vaccinated, the testing programme followed must be similar to the one for Avian Influenza.

20. Heightened Risk Periods: Extra Precautions

Heightened risk period means any time when official restrictions (disease control zones) exist in Great Britain due to an outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease in poultry.

There must be contingency plans in place during the Heightened Risk Period to enhance existing biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of disease into the compartment premises. During the heightened risk period, further biosecurity measures must be applied.

However, testing protocols will vary in frequency during the Heightened Risk Period, depending on whether disease is present in GB, or an outbreak of HPAI or ND has occurred within 30 km of the compartment premises, or the compartment premises are subject to official restrictions due to HPAI or ND (establishments that fall within a PZ or SZ).

Regardless of compartment status, all premises will remain subject to general disease control regulations under national and retained EU legislation.

- A. **Visitors:** All visitors will be prohibited, except those essential for the welfare or survival of the birds, or officials of the veterinary authorities for the purposes of disease control or other statutory functions. Any routine maintenance by outside personnel must be suspended.

In exceptional circumstances, where essential repairs are needed to preserve the biosecurity on site, entrance of outside personnel may be allowed, subject to risk assessment which will detail any additional biosecurity measures required to prevent the introduction of disease.

- B. **Vehicles:** The entry of all vehicles to the premises will be prohibited, except when justified, e.g. in cases they are essential or there is exceptional and urgent need.

Company vehicles which need to visit the site (e.g. for egg collection) should be routed to avoid driving through any disease control zones (PZ/SZ), where possible. Vehicle decontamination procedures should be reviewed and if necessary increased biosecurity measures should be applied.

- C. **Feed Delivery:** Arrangements should be made with the feed company so that lorries are cleansed and disinfected off site and visit the compartment premises first before any other deliveries.
- D. **Biological material collection:** If not incinerated in an approved incinerator on the same site, ABP skips should be placed at perimeter of the site to remove the need for ABP collection vehicle to enter the curtilage of the site.
- E. **Staff movements within the compartment:** Any outdoor walking area within the biosecurity zone must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected throughout the day with an approved disinfectant, to prevent contamination from wild birds' faeces.

Management protocols must specify the frequency of visual checks and use of hoses to clear contamination from concrete aprons around entrances, exits and walkways. Frequency needs to be established by the company based on the risk and should be agreed with the APHA approving veterinarian. Any outdoor walking areas within restricted access should also be cleaned and disinfected considering the above principles.

- F. **Staff and Equipment Movements between sites of the compartment:** All movements to be banned except when justified as absolutely necessary. **Separate sites are to be treated as far as possible as isolated units.**
- G. **Laboratory testing:** Frequency of serology in flocks to be increased (based on the level required in Retained Regulation 616/2009 and GB enhanced rules, namely:
- If HPAI has been confirmed in GB within the past 6 months, serology testing must be carried out on 20 birds per production unit at least every 3 months.
 - If any outbreak of HPAI has been confirmed within 30 kms of the compartment premises, serology testing must be increased to 20 birds per production unit, within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter, **and**
 - If the compartment premises falls within an area under movement controls restrictions according to national legislation (PZ/SZ):
 - Virology testing must be carried out on 20 tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs and 20 cloacal swabs per production unit within 1 week of the outbreak and then every 21 days thereafter, **and**
 - Virology testing must be carried out on five sick or dead birds (if present) at the same timing and frequency, **plus clinical surveillance to be enhanced.** (Note: Consideration must be taken to report suspicion of disease when sick and dead birds are present)
- H. A new Risk Assessment at critical points of the whole Compartment must be provided by the company manager. If the compartment consists of more than one premises, the entire structure of the compartment must be reviewed to assess increased levels of risk of spread disease to other sites within the compartment, and appropriate measures must be taken.
- I. The compartment manager must confirm in writing to APHA at least monthly that all the above precautions have been implemented, and that all laboratory test results have been negative. This confirmation must be sent by email to the APHA compartment team. **Any non-negative results must be reported immediately.**

Testing Requirements at Flock Farms during the HEIGHTENED RISK PERIOD

	If HPAI confirmed in GB in last 6 months		If HPAI confirmed within 30 km of the compartment premise, until the control zones are lifted, or 3 months has elapsed since the last confirmation		If premises fall into PZ/SZ, until the control zones are lifted	
Type of test	Serology	OR	Serology	AND	Virology	Virology
Frequency	Every 3 months		Within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter		Within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter	Within 1 week of the outbreak, and then every 21 days thereafter
Sample size	20 birds per production unit		*20 birds per production unit (statistical sampling 95/15)		20 tracheal swabs + 20 cloacal swabs per production unit	5 sick or dead birds (if present)
Laboratory	NRL or a laboratory accredited for avian influenza serology testing under ISO17025		NRL or a laboratory accredited for avian influenza serology testing under ISO17025		Must be at NRL	Must be at NRL

*In a case of Galliformes, birds under 4 weeks of age can be exempt from testing.

Annex II – Specifications for the Management Protocols Applicable to Hatcheries

1. Vehicle Entry/Exit Controls

1.1. Describe location of dedicated entry and exit gates for vehicles, which must be clearly demarcated as a restricted access area.

1.2. Describe the decontamination area and any equipment provided. Specify the location.

It must be located outside of the biosecurity zone and be clearly demarcated. The collection of waste water must be controlled, so that it does not contaminate other parts of the premises.

1.3. Describe the procedure for decontamination and disinfection of tyres and wheel arches within the decontamination area. Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant for external parts.

1.4. Describe the cleaning procedure for the cargo compartment, as applicable. Specify the type and concentration of disinfectant for cargo compartment.

1.5. Record of decontamination/disinfection must be maintained on site and signed off by a responsible member of staff for each vehicle visit.

1.6. Describe the procedure for the driver to contact on-site staff prior to entering the site.

1.7. Describe the procedure to define and control the areas to which the driver has access.

1.8. Describe the procedure to ensure that driver's footwear and clothing is risk free (e.g. provision of company boots and clothing, boot cleaning and disinfection, etc.).

1.9. Describe the cleaning and disinfection procedure for the driver's cab (e.g. disinfectant spray or protective paper cover of foot well in driver's cab, etc).

1.10. Describe the procedure for loading/unloading at the interface with the biosecurity zone, normally at delivery/loading out bays (include any instructions specific for collections from the egg store).

1.11. Records, in permanent and easily accessible form, for each vehicle visit. Records must be readily available for audit purposes and must contain:

- Date and time
- Company name
- Registration of vehicle

- Driver name
- Description of cargo
- Last address visited
- Date and time of visit to last address
- Manager's confirmation of decontamination.

1.12. Describe the how/where records are kept for each vehicle visit.

2. Personnel: Bird Contact Precautions and Entry Controls

It must be forbidden for any person to enter the biosecurity zone by any route other than the hygiene barrier, and the physical design of the premises must reinforce this.

- 2.1. Every member of staff must sign an agreement that they will not work with, keep, or have direct contact with any collection of poultry, captive birds, hobby birds or pet birds. They will inform management prior to entering the biosecurity zone if they have had such contact outside the compartment within the previous 72 hours.
- 2.2. Every visitor must sign a statement that they have not visited, worked with, or had any other form of direct contact with poultry, captive birds, hobby birds or pet birds, except for birds within the compartment, during the 72 hours prior to their visit to the premises.
- 2.3. Record must be available, in permanent, easily accessible and legible form, of the attendance of every staff member, and of every visitor to the site.
- 2.4. Describe the procedure at the hygiene barrier, including removing outdoor clothing and shoes, leaving bags or rucksacks on the 'dirty' side, showering, and use of clean protective indoor clothing.
- 2.5. Awareness instructions must be given to staff about controlling risk when bringing personal items into the biosecurity zone. Such items must not be allowed unless justified as absolutely necessary.
- 2.6. Describe the procedure for disinfecting tools or equipment brought on site by outside maintenance workers, inspectors, etc.
- 2.7. Describe the procedure to mitigate infection risk if for emergency reasons personnel need to enter the premises with less than the prescribed 72 hours bird-free time.
- 2.8. Describe how/where staff/visitor records are kept.

3. Isolation areas within the hatchery

- 3.1. Describe the separation procedure to mitigate the infection risk from areas where the isolated eggs are stored, to the other areas (shared corridors, common areas for the personnel etc.)

Control measures should include additional biosecurity measures e.g. dedicated personnel, extra measures when exiting isolation areas and entering shared areas – clothing, disinfection, sanitation of hands, etc.

- 3.2. It is recommended that isolation areas have separate air supply.
- 3.3. Air flow should be set up in a way that it does not allow possible contamination to the other areas of the hatchery.
- 3.4. Isolated hatching eggs should be kept separate from all in-house eggs, on the entry to the hatchery through their setting in incubators
- 3.5. Incubators and hatchers must be dedicated to the out-sourced eggs. However, out-sourced eggs may be placed in incubators or hatchers together with compartment-sourced eggs, provided that all of them then undergo the same post-hatching quarantine procedures.
- 3.6. Describe procedure and contingency planning for breakages.

4. Packaging Materials: Production, Storage and Use

There must be a written agreement between the company and the producer specifying the conditions of production, handling and transport.

In all cases, the protocol must consider the following:

- 4.1. 'One-use' packaging materials must be new, clean and unused.
- 4.2. Packaging materials must be delivered to the hatchery in wrapping which protects them from contamination.
- 4.3. The wrapping itself must also be clean and free from any contamination at the time of delivery into the hatchery.
- 4.4. The packaging materials must be stored in the hatchery in conditions which prevent any risk of contamination by wild birds or vermin.
- 4.5. Describe the control measures taken when packaging material is entering into the biosecurity zone.

5. Disposal of Dead Birds and Biological material

- 5.1. Describe the holding facility for the storage of dead day old birds broken eggs, and other biological material pending its removal for post-mortem examination, incineration or disposal.

It must be securely enclosed, so as not to attract wild birds and pests.

- 5.2. Describe the method of disposal of biological material from the site.
- 5.3. If there is an incinerator on site, describe location, protocol for use and method of disposal of ashes.
 - A. If incinerator is located outside the biosecurity zone, a staff member who visits must undergo hygiene barrier (shower and change clothing) before re-entry to the biosecurity zone.
 - B. If incineration takes place on site, instructions for checking that all the biological matter is totally rendered to ash, leaving nothing that could attract pests.
- 5.4. If biological material is rendered elsewhere, describe disposal method and facility and transport procedure to the disposal facility.

6. Disinfection of Internal Areas and Fixed Equipment

- 6.1. Describe the areas to which the protocols apply, e.g. incubators, hatchers, chick processing lines, reception bays, loading out bays, specified fixed equipment.
- 6.2. Describe the physical procedures for dust removal, de-greasing, washing, disinfecting, and drying out. Specify disinfectant type, and concentration, and method of application.
- 6.3. Specify routine maintenance procedures to be conducted during the times when rooms/ areas are empty.

7. Disinfection of Re-Usable Equipment

- 7.1. Describe the items of equipment concerned, e.g. egg trays and trolleys for transport of eggs from farms to hatchery.
- 7.2. Specify the location where the cleaning procedure takes place (there may be different locations and processes for different types of equipment).

- 7.3. Describe the disinfection procedure. Specify the type of disinfectant and its concentration.
- 7.4. Specify the place and method for storing the equipment after disinfection and prior to use, so that it is protected from contamination.

8. Vermin Control

- 8.1. Specify who is responsible for rodent control operations on site. It may be company employees, or an external operator. If the latter, there must be a written contract with the operator which covers the details below as a minimum.
- 8.2. Describe the number and location of bait sites.
- 8.3. Describe the type of bait.
- 8.4. Describe the frequency at which bait sites are checked.
- 8.5. Describe the rectifying action if there is evidence of rodent activity.

9. Staff: Training and Biosecurity procedures

There must be a written induction training programme readily available. All newly engaged staff will sign a declaration of completion of the induction training.

The biosecurity procedures should include at least the following:

- 9.1. All the biosecurity issues to be covered during induction training.
- 9.2. All the critical control points to be highlighted for each operation on site.
- 9.3. Describe any relevant biosecurity external qualifications which staff will be required to study and attempt (e.g. NVQs).
- 9.4. Describe any in-service top up training that staff are required to undergo.
- 9.5. Describe all specific biosecurity procedures, individually tailored to each area of work.
- 9.6. Records of inductions and refresher trainings must be kept and available for inspection.

10. Monitoring of Hatch Data and Chick Viability

- 10.1. Describe the written procedure to be followed by hatchery manager for the daily recording of hatch figures and chick viability for every batch of eggs.

- 10.2. Describe how and where the daily record shall be kept.
- 10.3. Describe the normal ranges of hatch and viability rates to be expected.
- 10.4. Describe actions to be taken by the company in case of substantial and unexplained departure from the expected ranges (specify normal rates), which will trigger an immediate report to the company vet or other higher management level.

11. Other WOA code recommendations

- 11.1. Dead in shell embryos should be removed from hatcheries as soon as they are found and disposed of in a safe and effective manner.
- 11.2. All biological material from hatchery for disposal, garbage and discarded equipment should be contained or at least covered while on site and removed from the hatchery and its environs as soon as possible.
- 11.3. After use, hatchery equipment, tables and surfaces should be promptly and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant.
- 11.4. Egg handlers and sexers and handlers of day old birds should wash their hands with soap and water before commencing work and between working with batches of hatching eggs or day old birds from different breeder flocks.
- 11.5. Hatching eggs and day old birds from different breeder flocks should be identifiable during incubation, hatching, sorting and transportation.
- 11.6. Day old birds should be delivered to the farm in new containers or in clean, disinfected containers.

12. Movement of Hatching Eggs into the Compartment

No hatching eggs can be introduced to the hatchery, unless they satisfy the conditions below, as applicable and in any case the conditions of transport ensure that there is no risk of their contamination.

Hatching eggs moved into a compartment hatchery may derive from:

- A flock farm in GB:
 - Either directly from a flock farm within the same GB approved compartment,
 - Or a flock farm within a different GB approved compartment,

- Or a flock farm in GB which is an approved member of the Poultry Health Scheme (PHS) **and subject to additional conditions.**
- A flock farm in another country:
 - Either a flock farm within an approved compartment in another country and the conditions of approval have been considered fully equivalent to the standards of the GB Poultry Compartment Scheme by Defra,
 - Or a flock farm in another country which are an approved member of a government supervised poultry health scheme in its own country **and subject to additional conditions.**

These options intend to provide flexibility in breeding programmes and improve genetic value by allowing hatching eggs from outside the compartment to enter a compartment hatchery.

In all cases when hatching eggs **do not** originate from the **same GB approved compartment**, additional rules apply to ensure that the approved status of the hatchery and compartment is not compromised.

If a compartment hatchery admitted hatching eggs of a lower or unproven health status without conforming these additional rules, Defra would be obliged to withdraw the compartment approval.

In all cases, the protocol for the movement of hatching eggs must consider the following:

- 12.1. Describe reception bay for the delivery of hatching eggs, including existing biosecurity measures and to prevent entry of wild birds (staff segregation, protective clothing, cleansing and disinfection, etc.).
 - A. It must be constructed to minimise the risk of introducing contamination to the biosecurity zone whilst the doors are open.
 - B. The design must be such that staff working inside the biosecurity zone in the hatchery building do not have to come outside, and outside staff do not come into the biosecurity zone within the hatchery building.
- 12.2. Describe the system for recording the source of all introduced eggs, tracing of movement within the hatchery and their destination on leaving.

The system may be either paper based or electronic and must be easily intelligible for an inspector.

- 12.3. Describe the vehicles that may be used to transport eggs into the approved hatchery (e.g. only in vehicles that belong to, or are under a contract to, the company).

- 12.4. Describe disinfection protocol for the cargo compartment of the vehicles prior to loading.
- 12.5. Describe conditions of transport to ensure that there is no risk of their contamination.

13. Egg Intake: From sources within GB

It is the responsibility of the company to demonstrate that there is no possible risk of introduction of infection by the externally sourced eggs.

When hatching eggs are sourced from a **flock farm within the same approved GB compartment**, no additional requirements apply. Flocks within the same compartment unit are considered to be of the same health status.

When hatching eggs are sourced from a **different approved compartment within GB**, sanitation of the eggs at point of collection and prior to setting at hatchery will be required. (No risk assessment, isolation and quarantine will be required)

All eggs sourced from **GB premises outside an approved compartment** must be subject to additional conditions. The premises where the eggs originate from must be approved member of poultry health scheme (PHS). In addition, all eggs must be kept isolated and birds must undergo quarantine once hatched.

In all cases where the hatching eggs originate outside of the same compartment, the protocol must consider the following additional requirements:

- Describe the procedure for ensuring that the source of eggs is disease free: testing of the flocks of origin prior to delivery, independently verified biosecurity standards, etc.
- Describe the procedure for the sanitation of the eggs at point of collection, and again prior to setting at the hatchery.

The recommendation by the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Code is:

Hatching eggs should be cleaned and sanitized as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

When eggs are sourced from **GB flock farms outside of the compartment scheme**, they must be subject to additional conditions:

- Before externally sourced eggs are introduced to a compartment hatchery, the company must produce a risk assessment to demonstrate that there is no

possible risk of introduction of infection, derived from the introduction of eggs from sources outside the compartment.

- This risk assessment must be forwarded to APHA compartment team for them to confirm authorisation if the risk is considered acceptable.
- The premises where the eggs originate from must be an approved member of Poultry Health Scheme (PHS).
- In addition, **all eggs sourced from outside of the compartment scheme must be kept isolated and birds must undergo quarantine once hatched.** See section “Quarantine Arrangements” below.

14. Egg Intake: From Sources outside the GB

All eggs imported from another country to GB are subject to GB import conditions and must comply with the requirements of the specific Import health certificate.

When hatching eggs originate from an establishment in another country, they may come from:

- Either a flock farm within an approved compartment in another country AND the conditions of approval in that other country have been considered fully equivalent to the standards of the GB Poultry Compartment Scheme by Defra,
- Or a flock farm which is an approved member of a government supervised poultry health scheme and subject to additional conditions (described below).

Before the commencement of imports of hatching eggs to a GB compartment hatchery, the importing company must ensure that the flock farm in another country is suitable as source of hatching eggs for introduction into a GB compartment hatchery.

If in doubt, the company must seek advice from APHA prior producing the risk assessment, to establish if any additional requirements and pre-export testing of the flock of origin of hatching eggs if applicable (see further sections below).

In all cases where hatching eggs originate from an establishment in another country, all imported eggs must be kept isolated from all in-housed eggs and all birds hatched from imported eggs must undergo **quarantine** (further details below) and be granted **authorisation** prior to admission of the birds into the compartment.

14.1 Imported eggs from approved compartment in another country

In cases where hatching eggs originate from an approved compartment in another country, no further export testing of the **flock of origin** of the imported eggs would be

required. However, the isolation of imported eggs from all in-house eggs, quarantine of newly hatched birds and authorisation from APHA will still be required.

Compartments approved by the competent authorities in another country must be assessed and approved by Defra. **Some establishments may be approved as a compartment by the competent authorities in their own country but not recognised as an approved compartment by the GB government, if the country of origin has not proven equivalence with the standards of the GB Compartment Approval Scheme.** In this case, exporters must still fulfil the additional testing requirements for the flock of origin of the hatching eggs (further details below).

14.2 Imported eggs from outside of Defra approved compartment in another country

In cases where hatching eggs are imported from another country, the flock farm source of the eggs must be at least an approved member of a government supervised poultry health scheme whether approved as a poultry compartment in its own country or not.

Unless the establishment of origin is recognised by Defra as an approved poultry compartment, additional biosecurity assurances and **export testing** of the **flock of origin** of the hatching eggs will be required to demonstrate freedom of the consignment from AI and ND viruses.

The importing company must provide APHA with the following information about the flock farm of origin and receive written confirmation from APHA that the details are acceptable. The same information, updated as necessary, must be provided and written agreement from Defra received at each approval reinspection of the compartment hatchery.

- A. Provide a written description of the biosecurity measures of the flock farm of origin of the imported hatching eggs, which must be equivalent to the GB poultry compartment scheme.
- B. Provide the Avian Influenza detection programme of the exporting company applied in each flock farm which proposes to export hatching eggs to the GB compartment hatchery. In addition, a written protocol for dealing with any inconclusive or presumed false positive results in order to confirm final result.
- C. Provide the Avian Influenza testing method used by the approved laboratory in the exporting country, including procedures for further testing of inconclusive or presumed false positive results.
- D. Provide the contingency plan of the importing company to deal with a possible situation when laboratory test results, or further test results of inconclusive or presumed false positives, are not yet available by the time when eggs are due to be transferred from the incubator to the hatcher.

14.3 Export testing of the flock of origin - Testing Protocol

The importing company must provide APHA with all export laboratory test results of the **flock/s of origin** of the imported hatching eggs for each consignment of imported eggs **prior to moving the imported eggs from the incubators to the hatchers** and receive written confirmation from APHA that the results are acceptable.

- A. Provide all laboratory results of the flock/s of origin, including any confirmed or false positives, if any. APHA inspectors will authorise the movement if satisfied with results.
- B. Testing must take place not less than 7 days after the last day of egg collection (in order to allow sufficient time for seroconversion) but as early as possible to receive prompt results including time for further examination in case of false positives, prior to the movement of eggs from incubators to hatchers.
 - In a case of eggs originating from flocks in avian influenza/ Newcastle disease free country, each flock of origin must be sampled at 95:25 (95% confidence 25% prevalence, **equivalent to 11 birds per airspace**).
 - In a case of eggs originating from country where confirmed disease is present, statistical sampling must be increased to 95:15 (95% confidence 15% prevalence, **equivalent to 20 birds per airspace**), until the country of origin regains disease freedom in accordance with WOAHA criteria.
- C. Testing must be carried out at an approved laboratory in the exporting country, using a testing method approved by the competent authority in that country.
- D. Provide a declaration (as per Model Veterinary Statement in Annex III), from a qualified veterinarian in the exporting country. A veterinary declaration must be received by APHA, for each consignment and prior to the movement of eggs from incubators to hatchers.
- E. Each flock of origin must either be subject to a vaccination programme for ND, or else apply a serology testing programme for ND similar to that for AI.

If at any time Defra or APHA suspects that the integrity of the importing GB compartment is being compromised by the import of hatching eggs, they may suspend the imports, and, if appropriate, may suspend the approval of the importing GB compartment.

If the country of origin reports an AI outbreak, exports into GB will be suspended according to the Retained Regulation 798/2008. Exports may subsequently be resumed from approved zones or compartments in the country of origin if GB agrees to such zones or compartments. For the avoidance of any misunderstanding, Compartment Scheme arrangements cannot take precedence over existing GB disease control regulations, for the purpose of suspending or resuming trade.

15. Quarantine Arrangements

All externally sourced eggs and the resulting birds must undergo quarantine and testing (birds) before they can be admitted into the compartment.

The period of quarantine of the birds is full 21 days after hatching (or after hatching of the last bird), with negative clinical findings and negative testing results on birds (serology or virology). Once satisfactory results have been forwarded to APHA for assessment, they will be able to authorise introduction of birds which hatched from the imported hatching eggs into the compartment.

The protocol must consider the following additional requirements:

- 15.1. Describe the segregation procedure to keep the imported eggs separate and isolated from all in-house eggs, on entry to the hatchery through to their setting in incubators.

Incubators and hatchers must be dedicated to the out-sourced eggs. However, out-sourced eggs may be placed in incubators or hatchers together with compartment-sourced eggs, provided that all of them then undergo the same post-hatching quarantine procedures.

- 15.2. Describe the segregation procedure to keep the newly hatched birds from imported hatching eggs separate and isolated from all in-house birds in the processing lines.

The recommended procedure is to hatch on separate days, or to put the out-sourced birds through the processing lines last, immediately prior to wash-down.

- 15.3. Describe the quarantine procedure that the hatched birds from imported hatched eggs will undergo - at least 21 days quarantine with satisfactory clinical and laboratory test results. Describe the procedure to place these birds on the rearing sites.

- 15.4. Describe staffing arrangements, vehicle movement controls, and visitor controls on the rearing premises. Specifically:

- A. Staff responsible for the daily care of the imported birds in quarantine must not also work with other flocks during the post import quarantine period.
- B. Staff responsible for the daily care of the imported birds in quarantine must not work with other flocks during the post import quarantine period.
- C. Staff must follow all routine biosecurity protocols as specified in this schedule, including using hygiene barrier, 72 hours of free bird contract etc.
- D. No visitors can enter the quarantine premises for the duration of the quarantine.

- 15.5. Describe feeding and bedding arrangements at rearing facilities during the quarantine period.

- A. Whenever possible, all feed, bedding material or other inputs into the quarantine premises should be entered before the commencement of the quarantine period.
- B. Alternatively, all essential vehicle movements, such as feed delivery vehicles, may enter the biosecurity area at the quarantine premises provided that:
- The wheels are disinfected at the point of entry and again at the point of exit.
 - Drivers must disinfect their footwear and do not go further from their vehicles than is strictly necessary for their delivery/collection function.
- 15.6. Describe the procedure for monitoring of hatch data and chick viability of imported hatching eggs and their newly hatched birds in isolation.
- 15.7. Describe the procedure for monitoring clinical observations and mortality of birds hatched from imported eggs during the quarantine period of at least 21 days.
- If clinical observations during quarantine raised any suspicion of AI or ND infection, testing (virology) must be carried out on dead or diseased newly hatched birds in accordance with Retained Regulation 798/2008 (as amended).
- 15.8. Describe the testing protocol to be carried out during the quarantine period to demonstrate freedom from AI viruses of the birds hatched from imported eggs.
- Serology or virology testing of birds at least 7 days after hatching, in accordance with Retained Regulation 798/2008 (Annexes III and VIII) (as amended), on a sample selected at 95:25 (95%confidence 25%prevalence, equivalent to 11 birds per airspace). In addition, virology on any birds dead or diseased after hatching.
- 15.9. For Newcastle disease there must be EITHER similar testing carried out on the newly hatched birds, OR the parent flocks and the newly hatched birds must be vaccinated for ND.
- 15.10. All laboratory results including any confirmed or false positives, if any, must be forwarded to the APHA inspectors, **prior to release of birds from quarantine**. They will authorise the movement if satisfied with results.
- 15.11. Describe procedure to define completion of the quarantine period, notification to APHA and acceptance, and introduction of the birds into the compartment.

16. Heightened Risk Period

The “**Heightened Risk Period**” means any time when an outbreak of avian influenza or Newcastle disease has been confirmed within Great Britain; or when the premises falls within an GB protection, surveillance or restriction zone.

Biosecurity measures must be stricter during the heightened risk period, and there must be contingency plans in place during the Heightened Risk Period to prevent the introduction of disease into the compartment premises.

Regardless of compartment status, all premises will remain subject to general disease control regulations under national and retained EU legislation.

- 16.1. **Visitors:** All visitors will be prohibited, except those essential for the welfare or survival of the birds or officials of the veterinary authorities for the purposes of disease control or other statutory functions. Any routine maintenance by outside personnel must be suspended.

In exceptional circumstances, where essential repairs are needed to preserve the biosecurity on site, entrance of outside personnel may be allowed, subject to risk assessment, which will detail any additional biosecurity measures required to prevent the introduction of disease.

- 16.2. **Vehicles:** The entry of all vehicles to the premises will be prohibited, except those that are essential for the operation of the hatchery.

Company vehicles which need to visit the site (e.g. for egg deliveries) should be routed to avoid driving through any restricted zones (PZ/SZ), where possible. Vehicle decontamination and biosecurity procedures should be reviewed and intensified during this period.

- 16.3. **Staff and Equipment Movements** between sites of the compartment premises: All movements to be banned except when justified as absolutely necessary. Separate sites to be treated as far as possible as isolated units.

- 16.4. **New Risk Assessment** of critical points of the whole compartment: If the compartment consists of more than one premises, the entire structure of the compartment must be reviewed by compartment manager, to assess increased levels of risk of spread disease to other sites within the compartment, and appropriate measures must be taken.

Annex III - Model veterinary statement referred to in 14.3 D of Annex II

I, (name of veterinarian), being a qualified veterinarian working for (company name and address) hereby certify as follows:

- a. The consignment consists of (number) hatching eggs destined for despatch to (name and address of destination) on (date)
- b. The eggs were collected between (start date) and..... (finish date) on the following farms (names and addresses of source farms)
- c. Each of these source farms is a current, approved member of the following government supervised poultry health scheme (name of health scheme)
- d. The eggs were sanitised promptly after collection by a method recommended in the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- e. On (date), being not less than 7 days after the last day of egg collection, blood samples were collected at random from at least *11 birds per airspace / *20 birds per airspace and tested serologically for avian influenza.
- f. All the samples gave a negative result for avian influenza. In the case of samples which were re-tested because of an inconclusive or positive titre, the re-test gave a negative result, and the laboratory reports are attached. The number re-tested for this reason is (number).
- g. The testing laboratory and the test method are officially approved by the competent authority in..... (country of origin).
- h. Each of the flocks of origin is subject to a programme of vaccination for Newcastle disease, and I have no reason to suspect the presence of Newcastle disease in any of the flocks.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Stamp.....

Name and Address.....

**Delete as applicable:*

- *In a case of eggs originating from flocks in avian influenza/ Newcastle disease free country, each flock of origin must be sampled at 95:25 (95% confidence 25% prevalence, **equivalent to 11 birds per airspace**).*
- *In a case of eggs originating from country where confirmed disease is present, statistical sampling must be increased to 95:15 (95% confidence 15% prevalence, **equivalent to 20 birds per airspace**), until the country of origin regains disease freedom in accordance with WOAH criteria.*