



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2023/07

17 March 2023

CHANGES TO THE MINIMUM SURVEILLANCE PERIOD FOR IMPORTS OF POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS FROM AVIAN INFLUENZA AFFECTED COUNTRIES

Purpose

1. To advise you of a change to the surveillance period required to regain Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) disease-free status.

Background

2. The surveillance period required to regain HPAI disease-free status for imports of live poultry (including ratites) and certain poultry/ratite products from HPAI control zones has reduced from 90 days to 30 days.
3. This follows an assessment of risk by Defra, Scottish Government and Welsh Government. Import requirements for Great Britain are now more closely in line with the 2021 updates to the Avian Influenza (AI) Chapter of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
4. GB has adopted a 30-day period rather than 28 days (the WOA update) to align with our domestic Avian Influenza movement rules.
5. This is only available for countries approved to export to Great Britain and can demonstrate:
 - adequate cleansing and disinfection has been carried out
 - the required surveillance activity has been completed
 - the zone has been lifted (minimum of 30 days after effective cleansing and disinfection)

6. The requirements are set out in the model health certificates for:
- Poultry/ratites (live animals including hatching eggs and day old chicks)
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-live-health-certificates>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ratites-health-certificates>
 - poultry/ratite meat
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-meat-health-certificates>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ratite-meat-health-certificates>
 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/meat-products-health-certificates>
7. We have published a short update on the 'Topical Issues' GOV.UK page, to support OVAs and certifying officers in non-EU countries:
- [Imports, exports and EU trade of animals and animal products: topical issues - GOV.UK](#)

Action for OVSs

8. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Trade Team