



Animal &  
Plant Health  
Agency

## APHA Briefing Note 38/22

# Pre-Slaughter Inspection Visits for Movement of Poultry Within an Avian Influenza Protection Zone – APHA Veterinary Inspector Status Required. **Amendment to the deadline**

Date issued: 18 October 2022 / **updated 31 October 2022 and 1 November 2022**

Amendments are highlighted in yellow.

### Purpose

To notify veterinary surgeons that in order to carry out pre-slaughter inspections within an Avian Influenza (AI) Protection Zone (PZ), a veterinary surgeon must first be appointed by APHA as a Veterinary Inspector (VI) under the AI legislation.

To notify veterinary surgeons of the following deadlines:

- From 1 November 2022, all veterinary surgeons carrying out an initial pre-slaughter inspection on a premises must be appointed as VIs
- From 1 January 2023, all veterinary surgeons carrying out second and subsequent pre-slaughter inspections on a premises must also be appointed as VIs. In the interim period, Official Veterinarians (OVs) can continue to carry out these subsequent inspections without being appointed as inspectors.

To notify veterinary surgeons of the process required to attain VI appointment in order to carry out these visits.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

## Background

[The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals \(England\) \(No.2\) Order 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#) (Schedule 4), [The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals \(Wales\) \(No 2\) Order 2006](#) (Schedule 4) and [The Avian Influenza and Influenza of Avian Origin in Mammals \(Scotland\) Order 2006 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

(Schedule 4) require that when birds are moved from the PZ to slaughter they must be inspected by a Veterinary Inspector (VI), appointed under the relevant legislation, less than 24 hours before movement.

Most AI work is delivered by APHA, either directly or through the Veterinary Delivery Partners in England and Wales or specially appointed OVs in Scotland. All of these personnel are appointed as VIs.

Pre-slaughter inspections can be carried out in a private capacity by a Private Veterinary Surgeon (PVS) but the PVS must also be appointed as a VI by APHA. The work carried out is chargeable to the owner/keeper directly from the PVS.

In order to be appointed as a Veterinary Inspector for this purpose, a veterinary surgeon, who is a fully practising MRCVS, must hold the Official Controls Qualification (Veterinary) – Essential Skills (OCQ(V) – ES) They will also need to successfully complete the Notifiable Disease Outbreak Training (NDOT) course available online before they can be appointed as a VI.

Both of these courses are delivered by APHA's training provider Improve International.

If not already registered with Improve International, veterinary surgeons will need to pay to register and then enrol on the OCQ(V) – ES course. They will be authorised by APHA as an OV on successful completion of the OCQ(V) – ES and allocated a unique OV number.

There is no charge for the NDOT course to OVs who are already registered with Improve International but the course cannot be accessed without permission.

In order to access the NDOT course, an OV must send an email to the APHA OV team and provide their OV number and RCVS membership number. The email subject heading 'Request for NDOT code' should be used.

The APHA OV Team will validate the request before providing instructions by email on how to access the course. **Once the course has been completed, an OV must notify the OV team by email who will arrange for their appointment as a Veterinary Inspector.** An OV must await receipt of a letter of appointment by email before commencing this inspection work.

## Action

We would encourage any veterinary surgeons who may wish to carry out these pre-slaughter inspections in a PZ during the current AI outbreak to undertake the required training and seek VI appointment, if you have not already done so. With the increase in the number of AI cases, the demand for these inspections is increasing.

Any OVs who have completed the NDOT course within the last six months do not need to repeat the training. However, they should check that they have a valid OCQ(V) – ES authorisation and are currently appointed as VIs. The NDOT training certificate expires every six months and once expired, OVs must re-enrol and complete the course again.

To note that OVs currently delivering AI work through the VDPs in England and Wales and directly in Scotland are already appointed as VIs under the relevant legislation and they do not need to take any further action.

If you have any doubt about your VI status, please contact the APHA OV team by email, providing your OV and RCVS numbers, so that this can be checked and confirmed.

OVs are encouraged to share this information with any non-OV veterinary surgeons who may be interested in taking up this work.

## Further Information

APHA OV team - [CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk](mailto:CSCOneHealthOVTeam@apha.gov.uk)

Improve International - <https://www.improve-ov.com/home/>