

Animal Health Requirements for the poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the U.S.

Animal health requirements for poultry meat etc. (herein after referred to as "the exported poultry meat etc.") to be exported to Japan from the United States (U.S.) are applied as follows.

Definitions

"Poultry"

means chicken, quail, pheasant, emu, ostrich, guinea fowl, turkey and birds classified into order Anseriformes (such as duck and goose).

"Poultry meat etc."

means meat, bone, fat, blood, skin, tendon and viscera (only gizzard, heart and liver) derived from poultry.

"Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) "

means an infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of high pathogenicity as defined in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

"Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) "

means an infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of H5 and H7 subtypes other than HPAI virus.

"Notifiable Avian Influenza (referred to as NAI) "

means HPAI and LPAI as defined above.

"Newcastle disease"

Means infection of poultry caused by a Newcastle disease virus as defined in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

"Fowl cholera"

means infection of poultry caused by a bacterium, *Pasteurella multocida* with acute septicemia.

"Outbreak"

means identification of the pathogens of the disease, detection of specific antigens of the disease or the detection of antibodies (NAI only) with clinical symptoms in domestic poultry.

"Seropositive case"

means the case from which only the specific antibodies of NAI was detected without clinical

symptoms and confirmed that the case does not classify as an outbreak as a result of an immediate epidemiological investigation and all the necessary laboratory tests to rule out an outbreak (the test to isolate the pathogen, the test to detect the specific antigens and the specific antibodies.).

"Country of origin"

means country or region where raw materials of the exported poultry meat etc. were produced.

Country of origin must be on the list of the countries and regions which are recognized as free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) by the Japanese animal health authority (hereinafter referred to as “the third free countries”). Please refer to the latest list of the third free countries from the following URL:

<http://www.aff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

(General requirements)

1. NAI and Newcastle disease must be designated as notifiable diseases in the U.S.
2. In case an outbreak is detected or suspected, that must be notified to the animal health authority of the U.S. without delay.
3. The U.S. has a surveillance program for early detection of NAI which Japanese animal health authorities recognizes as appropriate in light of the OIE code.
4. In addition, the U.S. conducts surveillance and reports the results consistent with the OIE code.
5. The U.S. has been free from NAI for at least 28 days before the day of shipment of the exported poultry meat etc. In the case of exported poultry meat etc. derived from poultry slaughtered outside the United States, the country of origin has been free from NAI consistent with the protocol between the country of origin and Japan located at: <https://www.aff.go.jp/aqs/hou/require/chicken-meet.html>
6. If an outbreak of NAI is detected or suspected or the specific antibody of NAI is detected, the animal health authority of the U.S. must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authority and suspend the export of poultry meat etc. to Japan.
7. Vaccination against NAI is prohibited in the U.S., except for the vaccination of rare birds in zoos under official supervision of the animal health authority of the U.S.

(Conditions for the zone of origin (HPAI))

8. Regardless of the item 5, if the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the facts in (1), (2) ,

(3) and (4) below based on the information provided by the animal health authorities of the US, the poultry meat etc. fulfilling the conditions (5) and (6) below are eligible to be exported to Japan from the states which the animal health authority of Japan recognizes as the states free from HPAI (states, other than the states in which control areas and/or a surveillance zones are established in the event of HPAI outbreak (hereinafter referred to as “affected states”)).

- (1) The outbreak was detected without delay by early notification from the affected farm or surveillance.
- (2) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc., and stamping out with disinfection are being implemented or have been completed at the HPAI-affected premises.
- (3) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc. and an appropriate surveillance for NAI are being implemented in any control zone established after the outbreak of HPAI. If the established control zone includes part of a neighboring state of the state where an infection of HPAI has been confirmed, appropriate measures to prevent the spread of HPAI to the neighboring state are being implemented.
- (4) Immediate epidemiological investigation is being implemented, or is complete to identify epidemiologically-linked premises of HPAI-affected premises to determine the presence or absence of NAI outbreak; if new cases of NAI outbreak are detected through the testing, measures described in 8-(2) and 8-(3) are implemented.
- (5) The live poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. originates from areas other than the affected state and has only passed through areas other than the affected state before being carried into poultry processing plants.
- (6) The exported poultry meat etc. are stored in clean and sanitary wrapping and containers and handled in a way to prevent being exposed to any pathogens or animal infectious diseases prior to shipment.

9. If the animal health authority of Japan has a reason to suspect an unsuccessful containment of the infection in the affected state i.e., the case where infections are continuously confirmed in multiple states, condition 8 may not apply at the discretion of the animal health authorities of Japan after consultation with the animal health authorities of the United States.

10. In case of having applied the item 8, if the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed that based on the information provided by the animal health authorities of the US, the outbreak is an isolated case and has not been caused by the horizontal transmission among the farms but by the direct or indirect contact with infectious wild birds, and, as a result, it has concluded that the outbreak is appropriately controlled in the affected county, the poultry meat etc. fulfilling the conditions (1) and (2) from the area in the affected state other than the affected county are eligible to be exported to Japan.

- (1) the live poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. originates from the area other than the affected county and has only passed through the area other than the affected

county since the last outbreak before being carried into poultry processing plants.

(2) the exported poultry meat etc. are stored in clean and sanitary wrapping and containers, and handled in a way to prevent it from being exposed to any pathogens or any animal infectious diseases prior to shipment.

11. In case of having applied the item 10, the poultry meat etc. are eligible to be exported to Japan from the affected county once the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the absence of HPAI outbreak for 28 days after the stamping out policy (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected farms) is applied by the animal health authorities of the U.S.

12. If the animal health authority of Japan had a reason to suspect an unsuccessful containment of the infection in the affected county i.e., the case where infections are continuously confirmed in the area other than the affected county which does not have epidemiological link to the affected county, then item 10 does not apply.

13. In case that the item 10 is not applied, the poultry meat etc. are eligible to be exported to Japan from the affected state once the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the absence of HPAI outbreak for 28 days after the stamping out policy (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected farms) is applied by the animal health authorities of the U.S.

(Conditions for the zone of origin (LPAI))

14. Regardless of the item 5, if the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the facts in (1), (2), (3) and (4) below based on the information provided by the animal health authorities of the U.S., poultry meat etc. fulfilling (5) and (6) are eligible to be exported to Japan from areas other than any zone within 10 km of any LPAI-affected premises in the state where an infection of LPAI has been confirmed (hereinafter referred to as "free zones"):

- (1) The outbreak was detected without delay by early notification from the affected farm or surveillance.
- (2) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc., stamping out with disinfection, or controlled marketing are being implemented or have been completed at the LPAI-affected premises.
- (3) Containment measures including movement restrictions of the poultry etc. and an appropriate surveillance for NAI are being implemented in any control zone established after the outbreak of LPAI. If the established control zone includes part of a neighboring state of the state where an infection of LPAI has been confirmed, appropriate measures to prevent the spread of LPAI to the neighboring state are being implemented.
- (4) Immediate epidemiological investigation is being implemented, or is complete to identify epidemiologically-linked premises of LPAI-affected premises to determine the presence or absence of NAI outbreak; if new cases of NAI outbreak are detected through the testing, measures described in 14-(2) and 14-(3) are implemented.

- (5) The live poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. originates from free zones and has only passed through free zones before being carried into poultry processing plants.
- (6) The exported poultry meat etc. are stored in clean and sanitary wrapping and containers and handled in a way to prevent being exposed to any pathogens or animal infectious diseases prior to shipment.

15. In case of having applied the item 14, the poultry meat etc. are eligible to be exported to Japan from the zones within 10 km of the LPAI-affected premises once the animal health authority of Japan has confirmed the absence of LPAI outbreak for 28 days after the stamping out policy (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected farms) or the depopulation by the controlled marketing (including disinfection/virus elimination of all affected farms) is applied by the animal health authorities of the U.S.

(Conditions for seropositive cases)

16. If the animal health authorities of the U.S. confirms a seropositive case, the date of confirmation and the seropositive region where the seropositive case was identified must be notified to the Japanese animal health authority immediately.

17. The Japanese animal health authority may suspend the import of the exported poultry meat etc. from a seropositive region when they recognize the confirmation of the seropositive case in the US.

18. The exportation of poultry meat etc. derived from the seropositive region can be resumed when the Japanese animal health authority confirms that 28 days have passed since the confirmation of the seropositive case or sooner if the Japanese animal health authority agrees after consultation with the U.S. that an adequate epidemiological investigation has shown that the detection was only of isolated seropositive antibodies and not an active infection of avian influenza.

(Conditions for the zone of origin (Newcastle disease, Fowl cholera and other poultry diseases))

19. The poultry for production of the exported poultry meat etc. originates in counties which are free from Newcastle disease, Fowl cholera and other poultry diseases other than NAI which the animal health authorities of the U.S. recognize as serious outbreaks, for at least 90 days before shipment of the exported poultry meat.

(Conditions for processing)

20. The slaughtering plants and processing plants for production of the exported poultry meat and storage facilities exporting poultry meat etc. (hereinafter referred to as “the establishments”) shall be authorized by the government authorities of the U.S. as the ones in which sanitary inspections are performed routinely by the government inspector or the animal health inspector appointed by the government authorities of an exporting country in order to assure that sanitary measures are taken.

21. The animal health authority of the U.S. shall notify the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address and registration number of the establishments prior to the exportation from the establishments to Japan commences.

22. The Japanese government may conduct on-site audits of the U.S. inspection system through representative samples of establishments that export poultry products to Japan to ensure they comply with the relevant requirements set out in this document and U.S. regulations. When the Japanese animal health authority recognizes that the inspected establishment does not meet the requirements stipulated in this document, the shipment of the poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the said establishment may be suspended.

23. The exported poultry meat etc. has to be found free from any poultry infectious diseases as a consequence of the ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by the inspector mentioned in the item 20 above.

24. The container of the exported poultry meat shall be made from sanitary or new materials and shall have a mark authorized by the inspector for export indicating the exported poultry has passed the inspection, and both the name and the number of the authorized processing plant, on its outside.

(Conditions for storage)

25. The exported poultry meat etc. shall be stored in a safe and sanitary condition from an animal health point of view, until shipment to Japan.

26. The exported poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be transported directly to Japan, or the poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be transported to Japan through the third countries in a hermetic container sealed by the animal health authority of US with a seal that can be obviously differentiated from that of the third countries.

(Certification by the animal health authorities)

27. The animal health authorities of the US shall be responsible for issuing an inspection certificate for the exported poultry meat etc. The inspection certificate contains the information below

(1) Statements regarding the item 1, 3, 5, 7, 19, 20 and 23 above.

(a) In cases in which the United States is not free of HPAI and the item 10 is not applied, the certificate shall also certify the conditions in 8-(5) and 8-(6) above.

(b) In cases in which the item 10 is applied, the certificate shall also certify the conditions in 10-(1) and 10-(2) above.

(c) In cases in which the United States is not free of LPAI, the certificate shall also certify the conditions in 14-(5) and 14-(6) above.

(2) Country of origin.

- (3) Name, address and registration number of slaughterhouse, processing plant and storage facility.
- (4) Date of slaughter, cutting, processing and packing.
- (5) Date and place of issuance of the inspection certificate, and name and official title of the signer.
- (6) Seal number (if sealed).

28. In relation to 23 above, the inspection procedures shall be described in the certificate. In case an exporting country is not the country of origin of the exported poultry meat etc., an original or a copy inspection certificate issued by the government authorities of the country of origin satisfying all the conditions stated above* shall be attached to the inspection certificate issued by the animal health authorities of an exporting country.

*The period specified in item 5 must be aligned with the Animal Health Requirements [available at <https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/hou/require/chicken-meet.html>] between Japan and the country of origin of the exported poultry meat etc.