

## IABS Meeting on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza

### ***Vaccination Strategies to prevent and control HPAI: Removing unnecessary barriers for usage***



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“The WOH Code chapter on HPAI: recommendations regarding vaccination as disease prevention or control and consequences on status, surveillance and trade.”

INTRODUCTION — The purpose of WOH Standards (Codes and Manuals) are a.o. to help prevention of the spread of pathogenic agents via international trade in animals and animal products, while avoiding unjustified sanitary barriers to trade. Their application should be in accordance with obligations under the SPS Agreement, i.e. a country’s import health measures must be based on WOH Standards, or on an import risk analysis in the absence of a relevant standard or if a Member chooses to adopt measures more stringent than the WOH standard, which is very frequent.

ISSUES — Countries too often use the WOH Codes as ‘menus’ where they take only what suits or can justify their policies, rather than as a basis to develop and update those policies. They notably do not recognise easily the notion of free vs. infected zones. They also over interpret some recommendations of the Codes. As a result, the impact of trade issues linked to a specific disease threat are often surpassing the direct impact of the disease. Moreover, methods to prevent and control the disease may also have consequences on trade, as is the case with vaccination.

RELEVANT GUIDANCE — Under the WOH Code Chapter 10.4. on HPAI, vaccination may be recommended under specific conditions, including as an



effective complementary control tool when a stamping-out policy alone is not sufficient. Vaccination will not affect the high pathogenicity avian influenza status of a free country or zone if surveillance supports the absence of infection. This surveillance will depend on a number of epidemiological and production factors. Member Countries seeking the demonstration of freedom from HPAI in vaccinated population should also refer to the chapter on avian influenza in the Terrestrial Manual. Evidence to show the effectiveness of the vaccination programme should also be provided.

**CONCLUSIONS** — Regarding sanitary conditions for trade, the first important issue is to establish HPAI free zones and compartments, as there are no current WOAHP recommendations for trade in birds, eggs or fresh meat from infected zones. As there are no 'blocking' recommendations linked with vaccination, it can be implemented not only in infected zones, but also in free zones if needed (after impact assessment) and well supported by surveillance on both effectiveness of vaccines and vaccination campaigns, and on absence of virus circulation. Thus, accurate surveillance, biosecurity and good quality of vaccines are the key elements to avoid importing countries systematically consider vaccinated zones as infected ones.

