



INTERNATIONAL POULTRY COUNCIL  
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### **Statement by the International Poultry Council on influenza outbreaks and measures in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code to safeguard continued trade in poultry**

#### **Countries must use all OIE measures to prevent influenza risk to global food security**

There has been a recent surge in reported cases of highly pathogenic influenza type H5 and H7 variants in commercial poultry flocks in several geographically spread countries linked to major wild bird migratory routes. The reaction of many national veterinary authorities has been to impose national bans on all poultry imports without consideration of alternate risk-management strategies. National veterinary authorities may not always be using all the available measures agreed by OIE for the continuation of safe trade, specifically in the kind of disease circumstances currently being experienced.

This very specific interpretation of the OIE rules by veterinary authorities in several countries is causing widespread disruption to the trade in poultry breeding stock and poultry meat, causing potentially serious damage to poultry production in their own countries, and jeopardising an essential element of sustainable global food security.

#### **Urgent action needed to continue safe and essential trade**

IPC urges veterinary authorities in all OIE Member Countries to apply without delay the measures of compartments, zoning and regionalisation established in accordance with the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code giving due regard for the applicable risk profiles of the products traded.

In respect of imports, veterinary authorities are strongly urged to follow the Code recommendations for importation of all categories of poultry, conditions for which are laid down in Chapter 10.4, and in particular breeding stock, deriving from regions, zones or compartments certified as being free from infection with notifiable avian influenza.

IPC requests all OIE Member Countries' veterinary authorities to allow consignments of poultry breeding stock (fertile hatching eggs, day-old chicks, and turkey poults) contained within an aircraft cargo hold or transferred between aircraft under bond in the same airport, to transit through their airports without delay.

IPC further requests that OIE consider the need to elaborate additional guidance in the Terrestrial Code for veterinary authorities in both exporting and importing countries on the recognition of compartments, zones and regions to enable the continuation of safe trade in poultry and poultry products that derive from such compartments, zones and regions

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## **Supporting Justification**

### **Sustainable Development Facilitated by Safe Trade**

Poultry meat consumption and production is the fastest-growing global animal protein sector, with growth in developing countries progressing at a much higher rate than in the developed world. Poultry meat now provides a significant and increasing part of the nutritional needs of the populations in developing countries as well as being a valuable source of income for millions of rural communities.

The productivity of poultry systems and the reduction of their environmental impact are considerably enhanced by the use of modern poultry breeds and the application of appropriate husbandry and hygiene methods. Poultry rearing in all countries is highly dependent on the regular and timely import of modern breeding stock in the form of fertile hatching eggs or day-old breeder chicks and turkey poults whose progeny's progeny are the poultry grown for meat production. This essential trade in breeding stock is undertaken by specialist primary breeding companies operating to the highest standards of bird health, biosecurity, and specific disease surveillance measures.

Trade in raw and cooked poultry meat also provides affordable and healthy protein in many regions of the world where demand exceeds production capacity.

### **Safe Trade Facilitated by Countries Adhering to OIE Code**

OIE Member Countries have agreed to procedures for the conduct of trade in breeding stock, live poultry, and poultry meat, including compartmentalisation, zoning and regionalisation, for managing safe trade in the event of notifiable avian influenza disease outbreaks in exporting countries. The procedures set down in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code provide comprehensive guidance to veterinary authorities for establishing zones and regions free of notifiable avian influenza, and to veterinary authorities and poultry companies for establishing and maintaining compartments free of notifiable avian influenza for the purposes of safe export.

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code also sets out in Chapter 10.4 detailed recommendations for veterinary authorities regarding importation of each category of poultry from a country, zone or compartment free from avian influenza. Veterinary authorities in the importing country should require the presentation of an international veterinary certificate attesting that the particular category of poultry being imported has complied with specific conditions.

The recommendations set out agreed-upon conditions for the safe importation of live poultry, day-old poultry, hatching eggs, fresh poultry meat, and meat products (including cooked poultry meat), as well as other avian products, from countries, zones or compartments free from infection with avian influenza or highly pathogenic influenza. However, these recommendations, designed to enable continued safe imports in the event of an influenza infection in poultry in an exporting country, are not being used by veterinary authorities in several importing countries.

Fertile hatching eggs and day-old breeding poultry from a compartment, zone or region certified free of notifiable avian influenza, which are consigned by air, present no risk to a transited country when the consignment remains in the aircraft or is transferred under bond between aircraft at the same airport.

### **The International Poultry Council**

The International Poultry Council (IPC) represents national associations and companies engaged in commercial poultry breeding, rearing, and processing; exporters and importers of poultry and poultry products; and suppliers and customers of the poultry sector worldwide. The IPC works with international intergovernmental organisations and other bodies to encourage sustainable development of national poultry industries and the facilitation of safe international trade in poultry and poultry products by adherence to common definitions, standards, codes of recommendations, and guidelines.

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