

## **AVIAN FLU RESTRICTIONS Up-date 28.2.2017**

The AI Prevention Zone expired on 28 February 2017 after 12 weeks and has been replaced with targeted zones known as High Risk Areas (HRAs) where measures to separate poultry and captive birds from wild birds remain mandatory through housing or keeping them within completely netted outside pens.

HRAs will be reassessed after 30th April 2017 unless the situation changes before. Outside these HRAs, keepers should continue to comply with minimum biosecurity measures but they have the option to allow poultry and other captive birds to have managed access to fenced outdoor areas.

The States Veterinary Officer (SVO) has assessed that the Islands of the Bailiwick of Guernsey are not within an HRA.

However, all Bailiwick keepers of poultry and other captive birds (irrespective of the number of birds or how they are kept) should continue to implement minimum biosecurity requirements measures at all times (Appendix 1).

Restrictions on the importation of poultry from England will be relaxed, but import applications for poultry from within a HRA will not be granted.

It goes without saying that import applications from 3km protection zones (PZ) and 10km surveillance zones (SZ) around infected premises (IP) will not be granted.

To determine if a potential poultry import originates from a HRA, PZ, or SZ, please use the 'Avian Influenza Interactive Map' which can be found at the following link:

<http://www.gisdiseasemap.defra.gov.uk/intmaps/avian/map.jsp>

Applications to import poultry from outside HRAs will be considered, but additional requirements will apply (see Appendix 2).

Local poultry gatherings can recommence as long as the show organisers put in place minimum biosecurity measures and ensure that all entrants and visitors apply them diligently when attending the show (see Appendix 3).

### **Appendix 1.**

Minimum biosecurity measures for poultry and captive birds include:

- 1) Reducing the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry are kept.
- 2) Taking all reasonable precautions to avoid the transfer of contamination between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear.
- 3) Keeping domestic ducks and geese separated from other species (for example by keeping them in separate runs or sheds).
- 4) Ensuring feed, water and bedding has not been contaminated by or been in contact with wild birds and in particular gulls and waterfowl.
- 5) Implementing effective vermin control where poultry or captive birds are kept,
- 6) Placing foot dips & boot brush containing a Defra-approved general poultry order disinfectant at the entry and exit of all houses and outdoor areas/range where birds are kept.

7) Make the range and outside areas unattractive to wild birds

- a. Drain wet patches and areas of standing water,
- b. Net/cover ponds,
- c. Fence off ponds, streams, standing water or wet or boggy areas from your poultry,
- d. Remove any wild bird feed sources.

8) Keep wild birds (in particular gulls and wild waterfowl) off the poultry range by regularly walking the area, using predator decoys and using wild bird visual bird scarers.

### **Appendix 2.**

Examples of additional requirements for the importation of poultry from outside HRAs:

- 1) Imported poultry must never have resided within a HRA for any period of time.
- 2) Imported poultry may travel through HRAs, both Portsmouth and Poole are inside HRAs, but must be transported in a way that guarantees that they will not come into contact with wild birds or their faeces directly or indirectly.
- 3) Imported poultry must be kept in isolation from other poultry for 2 weeks and any deaths that are greater than anticipated during this period must be reported to the SVO.

### **Appendix 3.**

Minimum biosecurity measures for poultry gatherings include:

- 1) Taking all reasonable precautions to avoid the transfer of contamination between premises, including cleansing and disinfection of equipment, vehicles and footwear.
- 2) Placing foot dips & boot brush containing a Defra-approved general poultry order disinfectant at the entrance to the show.
- 3) Ensuring feed, water and bedding has not been contaminated by or been in contact with wild birds and in particular gulls and waterfowl.

### **Additional notes**

Pigeons or birds of prey can be flown but keepers should try to prevent them from making direct contact with (or catching) wildfowl.

Keepers of captive game birds should continue to implement minimum biosecurity requirements measures at all times. Once the game birds are released the person who cared for the birds is no longer classed as the 'keeper'. Where released game birds continue to be fed and watered this can continue, though reasonable attempts should be made to minimise the chance of other wild birds accessing their feed and water.