



BAGONG PILIPINAS



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
*Masaganang Agrikultura,  
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## ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR

No. 09  
Series of 2024

**SUBJECT: INTERIM GUIDELINES ON THE TRANSPORT OF BROILER CHICKENS INTENDED FOR SLAUGHTER FROM AREAS WITHOUT ONGOING CASE OF HIGH PATHOGENICITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)**

**WHEREAS**, the HPAI is a highly contagious disease that is often deadly in poultry and is caused by highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5) or A (H7) viruses. It is also known as bird flu or avian influenza;

**WHEREAS**, Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order (AO) No. 05, series of 2019 (*Guidelines on the Local Transport/Shipment of Animals, Animal Products and By-Products*) prescribes the requirements for transporting animals, animal products and by-products, including broilers, and mandates the concurrence of Local Government Unit (LGU) or DA Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) Veterinarian on the Veterinary Health Certificates (VHCs) prior to the issuance of Local Shipping Permits (LSPs) by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) for the transport of such animals;

**WHEREAS**, DA Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 43, series of 2022 (*Updated Guidelines on the Movement of Live Poultry and Non-Poultry and Poultry Products and By-Products During the Avian Influenza Outbreak*) provides the scope of movement and local shipping permit (LSP) requirements per commodity related to poultry during avian influenza outbreaks;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 10611, otherwise known as the “*Food Safety Act of 2013*,” emphasizes the need for robust food safety standards and practices to protect public health, while promoting the development of an efficient food safety regulatory system to ensure safe, affordable, and accessible food for all;

**WHEREAS**, Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the “*Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act of 2018*,” mandates the streamlining of government services and regulations to promote an efficient and conducive business environment, reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens while ensuring public welfare;

**WHEREAS**, the current requirement for VHC concurrence by LGU or DA-RFO for local shipment of broilers pose an undue burden on the poultry industry, adding regulatory hurdles and costs that may not align with the principles of balanced regulation and streamlined processes, particularly in the absence of any poultry disease outbreak;

**WHEREAS**, DA MC No. 49, series of 2023 (*Guidelines on Targeted Vaccination as a Complementary Tool for the Control of Avian Influenza*) states that broiler chickens are excluded from the vaccination protocol due to their short production cycle;



**WHEREAS**, broilers, having a relatively short production cycle, are less prone to disease outbreaks. Any potential outbreak can be effectively managed through the existing Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP) Manual of Procedures, which provides specific guidelines and safety measures;

**WHEREAS**, a formal request and petition has been submitted by stakeholders seeking to exempt broiler chicken from the VHC concurrence requirements of AO No. 05 as implemented by some LGUs;

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) affirmed that, in areas without ongoing cases or declared outbreaks of HPAI, a VHC duly issued by a licensed veterinarian is sufficient to certify that the broilers have been inspected and found free from transmissible diseases, thereby ensuring their health and safety for transport and slaughter. The BAI remains committed to the implementation of a risk-based animal disease surveillance and monitoring system to effectively prevent the spread of animal diseases, while ensuring the safe and efficient transport of broiler chickens;

**WHEREAS**, the removal of the LGU or DA-RFO concurrence on the VHC for broilers is consistent with the Department's policy to balance regulatory efficiency with food safety and industry development, thereby facilitating the timely transport of broiler chickens and ensuring the continued availability of affordable and safe chicken products to consumers;

**WHEREAS**, notwithstanding the proposed removal, broiler farms and operations shall ensure compliance with biosecurity and safety protocols to prevent the spread of diseases and to ensure the continuous safety of the broiler supply chain.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and other issuances, do hereby issue the following guidelines on the transport of broiler chickens intended for slaughter from areas without ongoing case of HPAI:

## **SECTION I. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

As used in this Circular, the following terms are hereby defined:

1. **Broiler** – refers to chicken raised for slaughter purposes, but does not include day-old chicks, broiler breeder and culls for slaughter.
2. **Ongoing case** – pertains to a farm or facility with a confirmed incidence of HPAI by a BAI-accredited laboratory, wherein the following disease control measures have not yet been undertaken: a) depopulation of the affected flock; b) initial cleaning and disinfection; and c) testing within a 1-kilometer radius surrounding the farm or facility. A case shall be deemed resolved upon the completion of these prescribed measures.



## **SECTION II. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The transport of broilers from farms or establishments without ongoing HPAI shall be permitted upon presentation of a valid Local Shipping Permit (LSP) and the relevant documentary requirements set forth in this Circular.
2. Concurrence from the LGU or the DA-RFO veterinarian shall no longer be required for VHCs issued by attending licensed veterinarians.
3. The broilers must be transported directly from the source farm to the designated location as specified in the LSP. Loading and unloading of broilers during transit is strictly prohibited.
4. Broilers shall not be permitted to be returned to their point of origin if they have already been transported to areas with confirmed cases of HPAI.
5. The trader/shipper shall implement the necessary precautionary measures to ensure that all vehicles and conveyances used for hauling are subjected to appropriate biosecurity protocols before and after shipment.
6. In the event of an ongoing case or declared outbreak in the area or municipality/city where the broiler chickens are transported from, the provisions under the Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP) Manual of Procedures and the existing transport guidelines during outbreak shall be enforced.
7. The BAI shall conduct random inspections of issued VHCs to ensure compliance with established protocols. Any failure by attending veterinarians to adhere to these protocols, or any act of willful and intentional negligence in the issuance of VHCs, shall be grounds for the filing of appropriate administrative or criminal charges against the responsible parties.
8. The BAI shall, upon request, periodically furnish the provincial governments with copies of all LSPs issued within their respective jurisdictions for their information and perusal. This is to ensure transparency and coordination between the BAI and LGUs in the movement of broiler chickens.
9. These interim guidelines shall remain in full force and effect until such time as superseding guidelines are duly promulgated and issued, upon which the provisions herein shall be deemed amended, modified, or repealed accordingly.

## **SECTION III. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS**

The following are the requirements for the transport of broiler chickens intended for slaughter from areas without ongoing case of HPAI:

1. Local Shipping Permit (LSP) valid for seven (7) days from the date of issuance to start counting the following day after its issuance date including Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays. All LSP issuances shall comply with the one VHC, one destination, one shipment policy.
  - a. Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) valid for seven (7) days from the date of issuance to start counting the following day after its issuance date including Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays.
    - i. The VHC may be issued by the attending veterinarian of the source farm or establishment, or by the LGU/DA-RFO veterinarian for farms or establishments without an attending veterinarian.
    - ii. The VHC shall certify that the source farm has no reported case of Newcastle Disease (ND) for the past 21 days, and that the broiler



chickens were vaccinated at least once against ND. The dates of vaccination and the type of vaccines used shall be indicated.

iii. The VHC shall attest Avian Influenza (AI)-free status of the source farm, that the broilers did not exhibit clinical signs of AI on the day of the examination, and that they were kept in AI-free areas for the past 21 days.

- b. Livestock, poultry products and by-products Carrier Transport Registration; and
- c. Livestock, poultry products and by-products Handler's License (*optional*).

#### **SECTION IV. VIOLATIONS**

Any violation of this Circular by the shipper shall result in the immediate suspension of the BAI Handler's License and Transport Carrier Registration, and may lead to the issuance of a show cause order or criminal prosecution.

#### **SECTION V. AMENDMENT CLAUSE**

The provisions of this Circular may be amended or supplemented as necessary to ensure the effective implementation of its objectives.

#### **SECTION VI. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE**

Should any provision of this Circular be declared invalid, ineffective, or unenforceable, the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be affected or impaired thereby.

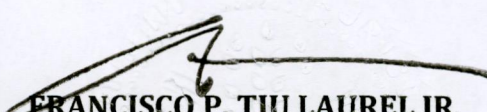
#### **SECTION VII. REPEALING CLAUSE**

All other existing Order, Circulars, Issuances, Rules and Regulations that are inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Circular are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

#### **SECTION VIII. EFFECTIVITY**

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

Done this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 2024.

  
FRANCISCO P. TIULAUREL JR.  
Secretary



DA-CO-USECL-AC20240920-00005



**Annex 1. BAI Prescribed Form of the Veterinary Health Certificate**

VHC Control Number: \_\_\_\_\_

<Heading of the Name of the Clinic/Institution/Veterinarian>

**VETERINARY HEALTH CERTIFICATE**

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that the broiler chicken, produced by [name of farm/farmer] and harvested from [address of farm/farmer] have complied with the provisions of the Department of Agriculture Administrative Circular No. \_\_\_\_ Series of \_\_\_\_, also known as the "Interim Guidelines on the Transport of Broiler Chickens Intended for Slaughter from Areas without Ongoing Case of High Pathogenicity of Avian Influenza (HPAI)" and other biosecurity protocols, to wit:

1. No reported case of Newcastle Disease (ND) or Avian Influenza (AI) at the source farm within the last 21 days;
2. The poultry showed no clinical signs suggestive of ND or AI on the day of shipment;
3. The broiler chickens (Day-Old Chicks) were vaccinated against ND, Infectious Bronchitis (IB), and Infectious Bursal Disease (IBD) both at the hatchery and farm level. Below are the vaccination details:

Date of Vaccination	Age of Vaccination	Type of Vaccines	Serial No./ Lot No.
Example: August 16, 2024	Day 01	ND B1 Type + IB Live, IBD Live	
August 30, 2024	Day 14	ND La Sota + IB Live, IBD Live	

Furthermore, this certification affirms that all the broiler chickens produced and harvested from the farm are apparently healthy and exhibit no clinical signs of any other poultry diseases.

This certification is issued on [date format: MM/DD/YY] in [municipality and province] for use in the application of Local Shipping Permit for [number of heads] broiler chickens from [complete origin address: Barangay, Municipality, Province] for transport to [indicate if "NCR", otherwise exact establishment name and address of destination: Barangay, Municipality, Province].

I declare under oath that I have personally examined the broiler chicken from [name of farm/farmer] in accordance with the pertinent laws, rules, and regulations of the Republic of the Philippines. I acknowledge that any misrepresentation made in this document or its attachments may result in administrative or criminal charges being filed against me.

Issued by:

<Name of Veterinarian>

PRC License No.:

PTR No:

Contact No.:

Email Address: