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**REPLACEMENT POLICY ON AVIAN INFLUENZA
(REPLACING GAP POLICY STATEMENT OF JANUARY 16, 2016)**

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 5, 2017

With Avian Influenza (AI) back in North America, and as part of GAP's commitment to monitoring farm animal disease threats, we issue this Replacement Policy, which supersedes and replaces the January 18, 2016 policy on Avian Influenza.

Please note that the following update applies to all certified operations or operations seeking 5-Step® certification for Meat Chickens, Turkeys, Laying Hens and Pullets regardless of geographic location.

Policy:

- 1) For certified operations of any Step-rating seeking re-certification that are: 1) located within a 200-mile radius of any governmental assigned disease control order (high pathogenicity AI only), or 2) are within a 200-mile radius of a documented outbreak (high pathogenicity AI only), GAP authorizes its certifiers to postpone conducting on-farm audits and to follow GAPs *Protocol during Epidemics (v1.0 – issued April 9, 2014)* (GAP Pilot Policy Manual – Appendix M) which authorizes the use of certificate extensions on active certificates.
- 2) For any certified Step 3-5+ operations 1) located within a 200-mile radius of any governmental assigned disease control order (high pathogenicity AI only), or 2) within a 200-mile radius of an outbreak (high pathogenicity AI only), the following applies for standards regarding outside/pasture access¹:
 - a. For Step 4-5+ operations where seasonal confinement to housing is not permitted under the standard, certified operations can confine birds indoors up to June 28, 2017 (12 weeks from the date of this notification) and still maintain their Step-rating. If an outbreak is still ongoing on June 28, 2017, then GAP will issue further guidance regarding both confinement of birds AND labeling of product.
 - b. For Step 3 operations, where seasonal confinement is only permitted if climatic conditions pose a welfare risk, certified operations can confine birds indoors up to June 28, 2017 (12 weeks from the date of this notification) and still maintain their Step-rating. If an outbreak is still ongoing on June 28, 2017, then GAP will issue further guidance regarding both confinement of birds AND labeling of product.

¹ GAP Standards 6.1-6.2 for Meat Chickens, 5.1.1 – 5.1.3 for Turkeys, 5.1.1-5.1.6 for Laying Hens, and/or P5.1.1 and P5.1.3 for Pullets



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- c. If a governmental assigned disease control order is lifted, or the outbreak is cleared prior to June 28, 2017 then certified operations must resume following GAP Standards 6.1-6.2 for Meat Chickens, 5.1.1 – 5.1.3 for Turkeys, 5.1.1-5.1.6 for Laying Hens, and/or P5.1.1 and P5.1.3 for Pullets regarding outside/pasture access for birds.
 - d. Any certified Step 3-5+ operation restricting outdoor or pasture access located outside of the 200-mile radii stipulated in 2 a) or b) will be issued a certificate for a lower applicable Step-rating unless GAP has authorized the operation to do so.
- 3) New operations, and operations previously certified but without a current active certificate seeking re-certification, cannot be certified unless they have a physical on-farm audit and can show evidence that they meet all standards for the applicable Step-rating at the time of audit (including continuous daily outdoor or pasture applicable to the Step-rating).
 - 4) At this time, any operation seeking to upgrade to a Step 3-5+ (either mid-cycle or at re-certification) cannot do so unless they meet the same requirements laid out in bullet point 3) above.