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REPLACEMENT POLICY ON HIGH PATHOGENECITY AVIAN INFLUENZA (REPLACING G.A.P. POLICY STATEMENT OF February 2, 2022)

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 19, 2022

As part of G.A.P.'s commitment to monitoring farm animal disease threats, we issue this Replacement Policy on High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), which supersedes and replaces the February 2, 2022 policy.

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

Given that remote auditing is already in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, audits for certified operations will continue as normal, regardless of their proximity to any confirmed case of HPAI¹.

Policy²:

- a. Step 3-5+ operations **must notify their certifier immediately** if there is a confirmed case of HPAI within a 200-mile radius of the operation OR an official regulatory request is issued that orders birds to stay inside during the HPAI outbreak.
- b. For any certified Step 4-5+ operations located within a 200-mile radius of a confirmed case (HPAI only) OR where an official regulatory request is issued, where seasonal confinement to housing is not permitted under the standard³, operations can confine birds indoors for up to 16 weeks and still maintain their Step-level, as long as all other Step 4-5+ standards are met.
- c. For any certified Step 3 operations located within a 200-mile radius of a confirmed case (HPAI only) OR where an official regulatory request is issued, where seasonal confinement is only permitted if climatic conditions pose a welfare risk⁴, operations can confine birds indoors for up to 16 weeks and still maintain their Step-level, as long as all other Step 3 standards are met.
- d. Any certified Step 3-5+ operation located outside of the 200-mile radius stipulated above OR an official regulatory request has not been issued, found to be restricting outdoor or pasture access to poultry, will drop to a lower applicable Step-level.

¹ If there is a confirmed case at your operation, please reach out to your certifier to discuss next steps.

² This policy does not supersede governmental regulations or requirements, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.

³ G.A.P. Section 5.1 for Meat Chickens, Section 5.1 for Turkeys, Section 5.1 and 5.3 for Laying Hens, and Section P5.1 for Pullets

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- e. Any certified Step 3-5+ operation located inside the 200-mile radius stipulated above OR where an official regulatory request is issued, restricting outdoor or pasture access to poultry **after 16 weeks will drop to a lower applicable Step-level.**
- f. Suppliers of Step 3-5+ product sourcing from operations that continue to restrict outdoor or pasture access to poultry after 16 weeks, will need to update the Step-level on master carton and retail ready packages. The use of updated Step stickers on product or a label/sign in front of product is acceptable as a way to communicate to consumers this temporary change due to HPAI as long as this is permitted by the country's regulatory authority.
- g. Certified Step 3-5+ operations that had to confine poultry for longer than 16 weeks can request an upgrade once they resume providing outdoor or pasture access to birds.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

- i. Notify your certifier if there is a confirmed case of HPAI within a 200-mile radius of the operation OR if there's an official regulatory request issued that orders birds to stay inside during the HPAI outbreak; and
- ii. Provide your certifier with documentation of the confirmed case or the official regulatory letter; and
- iii. Keep records of the date of confinement for each flock; and
- iv. Provide confinement dates for each flock to the Certifier.