Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Animal Products Notice

Poultry Compartments for Export

Issued under the Animal Products Act 1999

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

TITLE

Animal Products Notice: Poultry Compartments for Export

COMMENCEMENT

This Animal Products Notice comes into force on [Effective Date]

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Animal Products Notice is issued under section 167(1) of the Animal Products Act 1999 for the purposes of setting export requirements under section 60 and establishing a regulated control scheme under section 38(2)(b), and section 167(2) of the Act for the purposes of supplementing Part 4 and Part 9 of the Animal Product Regulations 2021.

Dated at Wellington,

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(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Animal Products Notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

The purpose of this Notice is to set export requirements and a supporting Regulated Control Scheme (RCS) for the production and management of day-old chicks and hatching eggs within a compartment to facilitate trade and market access.

Background

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) introduced the concept of compartmentalisation in 2004 following concerns about the spread of H5N1 avian influenza in 2003. Compartmentalisation is a preventative measure, serving both to protect the health status of an animal subpopulation and to avoid the disruption of export markets in the event of an exotic disease outbreak (for example avian influenza (AI) or Newcastle disease (ND)).

Chapter 4.4 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code) provides recommendations on the principles of zoning and compartmentalisation to establish and maintain different subpopulations with specific health status. Zoning applies to an animal subpopulation defined primarily on a geographical basis (using natural, artificial, or legal boundaries), whereas compartmentalisation applies to an animal subpopulation defined primarily by management and husbandry practices related to biosecurity.

In addition, Chapter 4.5 of the Code provides a structured framework for the application and recognition of compartments within countries.

In the context of this Notice, compartmentalisation refers to the procedures implemented by New Zealand with a view to defining subpopulations of chickens with distinct health status within New Zealand for the purpose of disease control and the continuation of international trade or the resumption of international trade in the event of a disease outbreak.

A compartment may consist of one or several premises and may be approved for a relevant disease or diseases, based on a detailed and documented biosecurity plan drawn up and implemented for the management of relevant risk factors associated with the disease(s) concerned.

Section 60 of the Animal Products Act 1999 (the Act) empowers the Director General (DG) to set requirements in relation to animal material and product intended for export.

Section 38(2) of the Act empowers the DG to set an RCS, which sets out the risk management measures that are necessary or desirable to meet the export requirements.

Who should read this Animal Products Notice?

The following people involved in the production, handling and other activities associated with the establishment and maintenance of a compartment or listed compartment should read this Notice:

- operators;
- evaluators;
- verifiers; and
- other people involved in the operation of a compartment or listed compartment.

Why is this important?

Compliance with this Notice is a condition for obtaining official assurances, which attest that day old chicks and hatching eggs are sourced from a population that is free from a relevant disease or diseases, where an importing country accepts a compartment as a basis for this and such assurances are necessary to facilitate access into that market.

Failure to comply with this notice may result in the refusal to issue an official assurance for day-old chicks and/or hatching eggs where alternative assurances on the health status of the chicks/eggs cannot be given.

Other information

The WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code

The following Chapters of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code are particularly relevant to compartmentalisation and the relevant diseases:

- Chapter 1.4: Animal Health Surveillance
- Chapters 3.1, 3.2 & 3.3: Veterinary Services
- Chapters 4.1, 4.2 & 4.3 Traceability
- Chapter 4.4: Zoning and Compartmentalisation
- Chapter 4.5: Application of Compartmentalisation
- Chapter 10.4: Infection with High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza Viruses
- Chapter 10.7: Fowl Typhoid and Pullorum Disease
- Chapter 10.9: Infection with Newcastle Virus

Surveillance requirements outside of the compartment

WOAH Chapter 4.5 states that surveillance needs to be present outside of the compartment to detect changes in disease status with respect to the relevant diseases of the compartment.

Under the Biosecurity Act New Zealand maintains a general surveillance system designed to rapidly detect exotic, emerging and new diseases. The Biosecurity Act also empowers MPI to undertake active surveillance where this is required to determine the extent of a detection, or where required by the level of risk.

Part 1: Preliminary Requirements

1.1 Relevant diseases

(1) In this Notice **relevant diseases** mean any or all of the following diseases or pathogens:

a) High pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI).
b) Low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI).
c) Newcastle disease (ND).
d) *Salmonella* Pullorum.
e) *Salmonella* Gallinarum.

1.2 Definitions

(1) In this Notice, unless the context otherwise requires:

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999.

biosecure zone means a designated area within a compartment where the compartment's freedom status is being maintained.

chicken farm means a facility where breeder chickens are kept, typically consisting of one or more flocks housed in one or more buildings or sheds.

chicken hatchery means a premises or part of a premises where chicken eggs are temporarily stored, incubated, hatched, and from where chicken eggs or day-old chicks are distributed.

controlled area means an area for the time being declared under subsection 131 (2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to be an area that is controlled for the purposes of that section.

export requirement means the requirements issued under section 60 of the Act set out in Part 2 of this Notice.

evaluator means a person who is recognised under section 103 of the Act to carry out a pre-listing assessment of a biosecurity management plan in relation to a compartment under this RCS for the pre-listing assessment.

epidemiological unit means a group of chickens with a defined epidemiological relationship that share approximately the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogenic agent.

flock:

a) as applied to breeds means all cohabiting breeder and rearer laying chickens of one kind; or
b) as applied to disease control means all breeder and rearer laying chickens in one compartment and excludes any group of such chickens which is segregated within or outside of the compartment and has been so segregated for a period of at least 21 days, which may be considered as a separate flock.

hatching egg means fertilised eggs, suitable for incubation and hatching.

high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) means an infection of poultry with:

a) an influenza A virus of H5 or H7 subtype which does not have the intravenous lethality level in b)(i) or b)(ii) but sequencing to determine whether multiple basic amino acids are present at the cleavage site of the hemagglutinin molecule (HA) showed that the amino acid motif is similar to that observed for other high pathogenicity AI isolates, so the isolate being tested is considered high pathogenicity AI virus; or
b) an influenza A virus of H5 or H7 subtype which:
    i) has an intravenous pathogenicity index in 6-week-old chickens greater than 1.2; or

ii) causes at least 75 percent mortality in 4-to 8-week-old chickens infected intravenously.

low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI) means an infection of poultry:

a) with influenza A viruses of H5 or H7 subtype with a cleavage site that is not consistent with a previously identified highly pathogenic avian influenza virus; or
b) caused by an influenza A virus of H5 or H7 subtype that:

i) has an intravenous pathogenicity index in 6-week-old chickens less than or equal to 1.2; or
ii) causes less than 75 percent mortality in 4- to 8-week-old chickens infected intravenously.

Newcastle disease (ND) means an infection of poultry caused by a virus of avian paramyxovirus serotype 1 (APMV-1) that meets one of the following criteria for virulence:

a) multiple basic amino acids have been demonstrated in the virus (either directly or by deduction) at the C-terminus of the F2 protein and phenylalanine at residue 117, which is the N-terminus of the F1 protein. The term' multiple basic amino acids' refers to at least three arginine or lysine residues between residues 113 and 116. Failure to demonstrate the characteristic pattern of amino acid residues as described above would require characterisation of the isolated virus by an ICPI test; or
b) the virus has an intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) in day-old chicks (Gallus gallus) of 0.7 or greater.

Poultry means all birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of any commercial animal products or for breeding for this purpose, fighting cocks used for any purpose, and all birds used for restocking supplies of game or for breeding for this purpose, until they are released from captivity.

Birds that are kept in a single household, the products of which are used within the same household exclusively, are not considered poultry, provided that they have no direct or indirect contact with poultry or poultry facilities.

Birds that are kept in captivity for other reasons, including those that are kept for shows, racing, exhibitions, zoological collections and competitions, and for breeding or selling for these purposes, as well as pet birds, are not considered poultry, provided that they have no direct or indirect contact with poultry or poultry facilities.

RCS means the regulated control scheme imposed under Parts 3 - 11 of this Notice.

Regulations means the Animal Products Regulations 2021.

representative sample means a sample of chickens selected at random from a homogenous chicken population where each bird has an equal chance of being selected.

risk factors mean:

a) factors which change the risk of transmission of relevant disease into a compartment from outside sources;
b) factors which change the risk of transmission of relevant disease between compartments.

sampling fraction is the ratio of the sample size to the population size of the epidemiological unit being sampled.

source flock means a group of breeder chicken housed on a single chicken farm and managed as a single epidemiological unit.

subpopulation means a distinct part of a chicken population identifiable according to specific common animal health characteristics.

visitor means any person who enters a chicken farm or a chicken hatchery but is not employed by the business to work at those premises as their principal work location.

(2) Terms that are defined in the Act and the Regulations used, but not defined, in this notice, have the meanings ascribed to them in the Act or the Regulations.

Part 2: Export requirements

2.1 Purpose of this Part

(1) This Part sets export requirements that recognise compartments as a mechanism for providing official assurances attesting to the establishment and maintenance of freedom status of day-old chicks and hatching eggs from any relevant diseases.

2.2 Application

(1) This Part applies to day-old chicks and hatching eggs produced for export.

2.3 Compartment as a trade facilitation option

(1) Day-old chicks and hatching eggs for export may be produced within a compartment in accordance with the requirements of the RCS in order to facilitate the continuation or resumption of trade, under any of the following circumstances:

a) where establishing or maintaining a freedom status from a relevant disease or diseases throughout New Zealand (e.g., country freedom status) as a basis for official assurances is difficult to achieve; or
b) where there is country freedom status from a relevant disease or diseases as a basis of official assurances, but the operator has chosen to establish and operate a compartment for readiness purposes to facilitate the continuation or resumption of trade in case of an outbreak of a relevant disease or diseases.

2.4 Official assurances

(1) An official assurance attesting that day-old chicks and hatching eggs are sourced from a population that is free from relevant diseases is required for chicks and eggs that are intended for export in reliance on being produced in a compartment listed in accordance with this notice where:

a) an importing country accepts a compartment as a basis of official assurances attesting that day-old chicks and hatching eggs are sourced from a population that is free from relevant diseases, as specified in a notice issued under section 60 of the Act; and
b) assurances cannot be given for the chicken population of the whole of New Zealand.

Part 3: Regulated control scheme

3.1 RCS imposed

(1) An RCS is imposed in relation to producing day-old chicks and hatching eggs for export in a compartment for the purposes of the export requirements set out in section 2.4 of this Notice.

3.2 Prime purpose of the RCS

(1) The prime purpose of this RCS is to impose risk management measures in relation to operating a compartment to facilitate trade where an importing country accepts a compartment as a basis of official assurances attesting that day-old chicks and hatching eggs are sourced from a population that is free from relevant diseases.

3.3 Activities to which the RCS applies

(1) The RCS applies to the production of day-old chicks and hatching eggs within a compartment and activities associated with such operations, including the management of breeder chickens during rearing and egg production.

3.4 People to whom the RCS applies

(1) This RCS applies to operators producing hatching eggs and day-old chicks within a compartment.

Part 4: Listing of compartments

4.1 Listing of compartments

(1) A compartment must be listed in accordance with Part 10 of the Regulations and the requirements of this Part.

4.2 Matters to be shown on the list

(1) In addition to the matters set out in regulation 223(3) of the Regulations, the list must contain the following particulars in relation to each listed compartment:

a) the risk management plan (RMP) identifier;
b) the unique identifier of the listed compartment;
c) the address(es) or location(s) of the listed compartment;
d) the date of listing and the date the listing expires;
e) the name of the responsible verifier;
f) the relevant diseases for which the compartment is listed.

4.3 Pre-listing assessment of Biosecurity Management Plans

(1) The operator of a compartment must arrange for a pre-listing assessment of the Biosecurity Management Plan (BMP) covering that compartment:

a) prior to applying for listing under clause 4.4 of this Notice; and
b) prior to notifying any significant change in circumstances under clause 4.7 of this Notice.

(2) The purpose of the pre-listing assessment is to:

a) assess whether the BMP or any amendments to that BMP comply with the requirements of this RCS and its applicability to the operations of the compartment;
b) assess the compartment's readiness and capability to effectively implement the BMP or amended BMP;
c) assess whether the BMP or amended BMP, if implemented effectively at the compartment, can be expected to ensure the effective management of relevant risk factors and the maintenance of the compartment's freedom status from relevant diseases.

(3) The pre-listing assessment must be carried out by an evaluator.

4.4 Application for listing of a compartment

(1) An application for listing of a compartment by an operator must contain the following information:

a) name, RMP identifier and contact details (including electronic contact details) of the operator applying to list the compartment;
b) the address(es) or location(s) of the compartment;
c) the list of relevant diseases within scope of the compartment's BMP;
d) a copy of the compartment's BMP according to clauses 5.1 and 5.2;
e) a report on the pre-listing assessment according to clause 4.3;
f) evidence of freedom from the relevant diseases for at least three (3) months prior to the application being made, based on the surveillance requirements under section 9.2 of this Notice; and
g) the name and details of the responsible verifier.

4.5 Listing

(1) In addition to the matters set out in regulation 225 of the Regulations, the notice issued by the Director-General will state:

a) the unique identifier;
b) the address(es) and location(s) of the compartment; and
c) the relevant diseases covered by the compartment.

4.6 Refusal to list

(1) In addition to the matters set out in regulation 228 of the Regulations, the Director-General may refuse to list a compartment if:

a) the Director-General considers that the pre-listing assessment report or the BMP would not adequately manage the relevant risk factors in accordance with this Notice; or
b) a suspension of operations under the Act in relation to the RMP has been imposed on any operations under the Act within which the compartment is established.

4.7 Duty to notify change of circumstances

(1) In addition to the matters set out in regulation 229 of the Regulations, the operator of a compartment must give the Director-General written notice in a form provided by the Director-General of the following additional significant changes that may introduce new risk factors, or have an adverse effect on existing risk factors within the compartment:

a) Alterations to the compartment premises including the physical boundary, facilities or equipment that may adversely affect the disease-free status of the compartment.
b) Addition of a new relevant disease to the scope of the BMP.
c) Setting up a new process or process modification that is not covered by the BMP, unless the process or process modification is substantially similar to existing processes; and a documented risk factor identification and hazard analysis has shown that all risk factors associated with that process are already adequately addressed by the BMP.
d) The merging of a listed compartment with one (1) or more other compartments.
e) The splitting of a compartment into two (2) or more compartments.

(2) In addition to the matters set out in regulation 229, the notification by the operator of a compartment must include:

a) an amended BMP reflecting the significant change in circumstances notified; and
b) a report on the pe-listing assessment according to clause 4.3 (1)b) with any amendments to the BMP assessed no earlier than 6 months prior to the date of implementation.

4.8 Suspension of listing by the Director-General

(1) The Director-General may suspend the listing of a compartment for up to three (3) months if the Director-General is satisfied that:

a) there has been a serious or repeated failure by the operator to comply with any applicable export requirements, and the requirements imposed by this RCS; or
b) the operator has failed to comply with any conditions imposed under regulation 227 of the Regulations; or
c) the RMP of the premises to which the compartment relates has had operations suspended.

(2) The Director-General may impose conditions and requirements relating to the suspension and resumption of operations.

(3) Where the Director-General suspends approval, the Director-General must give written notice to the operator stating:

a) the reasons for the suspension;
b) the period during which approval is suspended;
c) the date or time that the suspension commences (which must not be earlier than the date or time of notification); and
d) any conditions or requirements imposed by the Director-General.

(4) The Director-General may extend the suspension of a listing for a further period not exceeding three (3) months if the Director–General:

a) considers the extension is necessary in the circumstances;
b) has notified the operator of the proposed extension and the reasons for it before the expiry of the initial period of suspension; and
c) has given the operator a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

(5) The Director-General:

a) must notify the responsible verifier of any suspension or any extension under this notice; and
b) must ensure any suspension or any extension under this notice is recorded in the list.

4.9 Effect of suspension of listing

(1) Where the listing of a compartment is suspended:

a) the operator must not claim disease-free status for any day-old chicks or hatching eggs that leave the compartment or are present within the compartment based on being produced in a compartment during the suspension period; and
b) the suspension does not affect any other provisions of the RCS.

4.10 Delisting

(1) In addition to the matters set out in regulation 233(2) of the Regulations, the Director-General may delist a compartment if the Director-General considers that:

a) the operator has failed to pay the applicable fee; or
b) the RMP of the premises to which the compartment relates has been removed from the list of registered RMPs.

(2) Where any relevant disease is confirmed within the compartment, the Director-General must delist the compartment.

(3) The operator responsible for a compartment which has been delisted under subclause 2 must not apply for relisting of that compartment unless clause 9.2.2 has been complied with.

Part 5: Biosecurity management system

5.1 Biosecurity management plans (BMP)

(1) Every compartment must be managed in accordance with a biosecurity management plan (BMP).

(2) The BMP must be individually tailored to the compartment.

(3) The BMP must identify potential pathways for the introduction and spread of a relevant disease or diseases in the compartment and describe the measures which are being or will be applied to mitigate the disease risks.

5.2 Contents and requirements of a BMP

5.2.1 Scope and description of the compartment

(1) A BMP must include a clear description of the compartment, including:

a) the relevant diseases to which the compartment relates;
b) the location of all its components including all premises, as well as related functional units (such as, but not limited to, farms, feed mills, chicken hatchery, buildings housing chickens);
c) the interrelationships between those components; and
d) the contribution of those components to an epidemiological separation between the animals in a compartment and animals outside of the compartment.

5.2.2 Hazard analysis and critical control points

(1) A BMP must clearly describe the following:

a) potential pathways for introduction into and spread within the compartment of the relevant diseases for which the compartment has been defined;
b) the critical control points for each pathway;
c) measures to mitigate the risk of introduction and exposure for each critical control point;
d) standard operating procedures for the implementation, maintenance, monitoring of the measures, application of corrective actions, verification of the processes and record keeping; and
e) contingency plan in the event of an increased risk of introduction.

5.2.3 Other relevant measures

(1) Subject to subclause 2, a BMP must also incorporate procedures documenting the following matters:

a) biosecurity training for employees, contract staff, and visitors, and records of their training;
b) biosecurity compliance agreement for employees, contract staff, and visitors;
c) biosecurity risk assessment for each component of the compartment;
d) control of risks associated with pests according to clause 6.4 of this Notice;
e) control of movement of employees, contract staff, and visitors according to clause 7.1 of this Notice;
f) control of movement of vehicles according to clause 7.2 of this Notice;
g) control of movement of hatching eggs and birds according to clause 7.3 of this Notice;
h) control of movement of production inputs according to clause 7.4 of this Notice;
i) control of movement during heightened risk period according to clause 7.5 of this Notice;
j) traceability of movements according to clause 7.6 of this Notice;
k) sanitisation and hygiene requirements for employees, contract staff, and visitors according to clause 8.1 of this Notice;
l) sanitisation and hygiene requirements for vehicles according to clause 8.2 of this Notice;
m) sanitisation and hygiene requirements for hatching eggs according to clause 8.3 of this Notice;
n) sanitisation and hygiene requirements for chicken farms according to clause 8.4 of this Notice;

o) sanitisation and hygiene requirements in relation to rodent control according to clause 8.5 of this Notice;
p) how the company would respond to emergencies;
q) veterinary health plan, including the monitoring requirements according to clause 9.1 of this Notice;
r) vaccination program if applicable;
s) surveillance requirements for the relevant diseases for which the compartment is listed according to clause 9.2 of this Notice;
t) recording of key animal health events e.g., dates and types of vaccination, treatments and other interventions;
u) recording of clinical signs of disease and associated investigation in compliance with the company veterinary health plan; and
v) reporting of events and information to verifiers, and to MPI.

(2) Where any of the procedures in subclause 1 already exist as part of the operator's RMP, the operator is not required to duplicate such procedures in their BMP.

Part 6: Physical, spatial, and infrastructural requirements

6.1 Boundary and biosecurity fence

(1) A BMP must clearly identify the physical boundary of the compartment and the biosecure zone within the compartment.

(2) The compartment must be enclosed by a boundary fence.

(3) The compartment boundary fence must:

a) be built in a way to exclude livestock, unauthorised vehicles, employees, contract staff and visitors from entering the compartment;
b) be at least 120 cm high;
c) if less than 150 cm high, have at least one strand of tensioned barbed wire along the top of the fence;
d) be constructed of materials that prevent people from climbing over or through it; and
e) present a barrier, in the bottom 60cm, that will prevent waterfowl from walking through, if there are local features which indicate the possible presence of wild waterfowl.

(4) The gates through the boundary fence must:

a) be at least to the same standard as the fence itself;
b) be locked or controlled; and
c) have signs clearly stating that access is prohibited except with specific authorisation from the operator.

(5) The biosecure zone must be enclosed and no employees, contract staff, visitors, or vehicles may pass into the biosecure zone without first going through a transition zone where appropriate decontamination is undertaken.

(6) Each entrance to the biosecure zone should be locked or controlled at all times.

6.2 Buildings within the biosecure zone

(1) Buildings within the biosecure zone must be constructed of materials that are durable and moisture proof and that can withstand routine cleaning and disinfection.

(2) All ventilation openings on buildings within the biosecure zone must be protected by structures designed to prevent the entry of pests.

(3) Routine maintenance must, where possible, be conducted during empty time. There must be procedures describing this maintenance.

6.3 Hygiene facility

(1) There must be a hygiene facility at the entry/exit to the biosecure zone, where employees, contract staff, and visitors will undergo sanitation and hygiene procedures according to clause 8.1 before entering the biosecure zone.

(2) The hygiene facility must:

a) have one entrance and one exit;
b) have at least a shower; and
c) have a dedicated area to leave clothing and footwear that is separate to the area where clean clothes are changed into.

6.4 Control of risks associated with pests (wild birds, insects and rodents)

(1) The operator must ensure that wild birds, insects, and rodents are controlled or excluded from the compartment by ensuring that:

a) vegetation inside and along the periphery of the biosecure zone is maintained;
b) water in the environment is managed to prevent attraction of wildlife/waterfowl, pests and entry of relevant diseases;
c) any feed spills are removed; and
d) bedding materials are stored in a manner that prevents access from pests and wild birds.

Part 7: Control and traceability of movements

7.1 Movement control of employees, contract staff, and visitors

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) – f) are complied with at all times and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) It must be clear and recorded which employees and contract staff are nominated to work; in which parts of the compartment, and whether employees and contract staff can, or cannot enter other parts of the compartment.
b) Only operator authorised employees and contract staff may enter the biosecure zone.
c) Employees and contract staff must only enter the biosecure zone in accordance with the compartment's BMP.
d) Employees and contract staff must sign in before entering the biosecure zone.
e) Employees and contract staff must not have been in contact with birds, or any epidemiologically important species, except birds within the compartment, during the 72 hours prior to entering the biosecure zone.
f) Entry from the fumigation/egg sanitizing room into other areas of the biosecure zone must be restricted.

(2) All employees and contract staff must be required to sign a statement confirming they will not work with, keep, or have direct contact with any collection of chickens or hobby or pet birds, and will inform management prior to entering the biosecure zone if they have had such contact outside the compartment within the previous 72 hours.

(3) Only visitors who are authorised by the operator may enter the biosecure zone. Visitors must:

a) only enter the biosecure zone in accordance with the compartment's BMP;
b) be required to sign in before entering the biosecure zone; and
c) be required to sign a statement declaring that they have not visited, worked with, or had any other form of direct contact with chickens or hobby or pet birds, except for birds within this compartment, during the 72 hours prior to their visit.

7.2 Movement control of vehicles

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) and b) are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) Only vehicles authorised by the operator must be allowed to enter the biosecure zone.
b) Authorised vehicles must only enter the biosecure zone after completing sanitation procedures in accordance with clause 8.2.

7.3 Movement control of hatching eggs and birds (including day-old chicks)

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in parts a) and b) are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) Hatching eggs and day-old chicks entering the compartment must:

i) be imported from countries, zones or compartments certified free of the relevant diseases or tested free from the relevant diseases; or
ii) be sourced from another compartment listed for the relevant diseases in accordance with this notice.

b) Birds being moved between areas within the compartment must be free of clinical signs of disease and, except in the case of day-old chicks, test negative to all the relevant diseases for which the compartment is listed within 21 days prior to moving.

7.4 Movement control of production inputs

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) – d) are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) All feed used within the compartment must be:

i) free from agents causing the relevant diseases;
ii) transported to the compartment and within the compartment in pest proof containers; and
iii) stored within the compartment in pest proof containers.

b) All water used within the compartment must be free from agents causing the relevant diseases.
c) All bedding used within the compartment must be free from agents causing the relevant diseases.

(2) The operator must ensure that where *Salmonella* species are included in the relevant diseases for which the compartment is listed, chicken feed used in the compartment must have either been treated or have tested negative for *Salmonella* in one of the following ways as relevant and the operator must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) Extruded pellet feed with a final moisture content of 8-13% must undergo a *Salmonella* inactivation treatment of at least 80°C for 60 seconds, or equivalent.
b) Mash feed, extruded or press-pelleted feed that does not meet the parameters of subclause a) above, and any other type of feed, are sampled and tested as follows or via an alternative method approved by the relevant recognised agency as meeting alternative MPI criteria:

i) For feed made up on site, at least five random 25g grab samples, which can be composited, must be tested from each finished batch before it is used.
ii) For feed brought in, suppliers must demonstrate evidence of a negative *Salmonella* test for each batch, or it must be tested as per clause i) above.

7.5 Movement control during heightened risk periods

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) – d) are complied with to allow for enhanced biosecurity including monitoring and surveillance as soon as an incursion of a relevant disease is confirmed outside the compartment and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) All vehicle entry to the compartment premises must be restricted except for those that are essential for the operation of the chicken hatchery and associated source flocks, and if appropriate, additional decontamination procedures must be applied to all vehicles which have to come onto the compartment premises.
b) All employee and equipment movements between compartment premises must be restricted except where absolutely necessary.
c) Separate compartment premises must be treated as far as possible as isolated units.
d) All visitors and contractors must be prohibited, except those that are essential for the operation of the facility.

7.6 Traceability of movements

(1) The movement of all employees, contract staff, visitors, vehicles, birds or hatching eggs, samples, feed, bedding and any other potential conveyors of disease agents into, within and out of the

compartment must be recorded, including the date and time of the movement as well as source and destination of the movement.

(2) All movement data must be recorded in an electronic traceability system that is accessible at any time upon request unless a non-electronic system is agreed to by the Director-General.

Part 8: Sanitisation and hygiene requirements

8.1 Sanitisation and hygiene requirements for employees, contract staff, and visitors

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) – f) are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) Authorised employees, contract staff and visitors must have a whole-body shower and change into clean clothing and footwear before entering the biosecure zone.
b) Any employees, contract staff or visitors who exit the biosecure zone for any reason, must have a full shower and change into clean clothing before re-entering.
c) Where there are multiple buildings within the biosecure zone there must be effective arrangements to ensure that footwear cannot transmit infection (e.g., bench type boot change, boot dip system), and to disinfect hands (e.g., hand steriliser, hand wash with sanitised soap) at the entrance to every building.
d) Where boot dips are used employees, contract staff and visitors must be instructed about the type of disinfectant, concentration, and renewal requirements that apply.
e) Hand wash or hand sterilisation facilities must be used, and employees, contract staff and visitors instructed about their use.
f) If there is a communal or social area for employees and/or contract staff within the biosecure zone, boots must be managed according to clause (4) above prior to and after the employees and/or contract staff mix in the communal area.

8.2 Sanitisation and hygiene requirements for vehicles

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) – e) are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) There must be a clear identification and designation of an area for the decontamination and disinfection of vehicle wheels, mudflaps and wheel arches, which must meet the following requirements:

i) the area must be located immediately before the vehicle enters into the biosecure zone;
ii) it must be clearly demarcated, by lines painted on the ground or a similarly understandable method;
iii) the surface must be a concrete pad or similar which can be easily disinfected (porous surfaces such as gravel or hardcore are not acceptable); and
iv) wastewater and spray must be controlled so that it does not contaminate the biosecure zone.

b) The equipment for decontaminating and disinfecting the wheels, mudflaps and wheel arches, must satisfy the following requirements:

i) the water pressure must be adequate to remove mud from the wheels, mudflaps and wheel arches;
ii) the equipment must deliver disinfectant to the wheels, mudflaps and wheel arches; and
iii) the equipment must be sufficiently flexible to direct the spray into the inaccessible recesses of the wheel arches.

c) Vehicle drivers must contact the local manager to inform them that the vehicle is at the gate, without entering the biosecure zone.
d) Decontamination/disinfection records must be maintained on site and signed off by a responsible member of staff for each vehicle visit and it must show:

i) the date and time, owner of vehicle, registration of vehicle, driver name, cargo, last address visited, date and time of visit to last address; and
ii) the responsible staff member's confirmation of decontamination.

e) Procedures must:

i) define and control the areas to which the driver has access;
ii) ensure that driver's footwear is risk free (e.g., provision of company boots, boot disinfection, disposable boot covers etc); and
iii) contain instructions for disinfectant spray of foot well in driver's cab if the driver will be dismounting from the vehicle inside the biosecure zone.

8.3 Sanitisation and hygiene requirements for hatching eggs

(1) The operator must ensure that hatching eggs are sanitised with a maintenance compound that has been approved for the purpose under the Regulations prior to delivery at a compartment facility and must keep procedures to show how this requirement will be met.

8.4 Sanitisation and hygiene requirements for the compartment

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) – f) are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) If the compartment is multi-age, the prevention of access by cleaning teams, and their vehicles, to the rest of the biosecure zone.
b) The removal and disposal of mortalities, litter, biological waste, and culled eggs.
c) The effective cleaning and disinfection of sheds following depopulation (physical processes of de-greasing, washing, disinfecting, and drying out sheds).
d) Depopulation in a manner that ensures biosecurity is maintained.
e) The use of effective disinfectant types and recording type used, concentration, and method of application.
f) The effective disinfection of all equipment and vehicles.

8.5 Sanitisation and hygiene requirements - rodent control

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) – e) are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) Define the responsibility for rodent control operations on site, which may be company employees or an external operator, in which case there must be a written contract with the external operator which covers the matters in subclauses b) – e) as a minimum.
b) Record the number, location, bait type and frequency of checks for each bait site.
c) The type of bait must be effective.
d) Bait sites must be checked regularly.
e) Establish remedial activity which will be initiated if there is evidence of increasing rodent activity.

Part 9: Monitoring and surveillance requirements

9.1 Monitoring

(1) In relation to chicken farms, the operator must ensure that the following requirements are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) Record in an electronic format which is easily shared with the Director-General and analyse the feed and water consumption, production, morbidity, mortality; significant changes of behaviour.
b) Define thresholds for conducting an investigation and for reporting changes and corrective actions taken. Thresholds must be at a maximum two standard deviations different from the running average.

(2) In relation to chicken hatcheries, the operator must ensure that the following requirements are complied with and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) Record in an electronic format easily shared with the Director-General and analyse hatch data and chick viability.
b) Define thresholds for conducting an investigation and for reporting changes and corrective actions taken. Thresholds must be at a maximum two standard deviations different from the running average.

(3) An investigation conducted in accordance with clause (1) b) or (2) b) above must include the submission of six (6) birds from any relevant epidemiological unit for full post-mortem examination by a veterinarian registered with the New Zealand Veterinary council or a registered pathologist at a regional veterinary laboratory to rule out the relevant diseases as part of any investigation by the operator into the aetiology.

9.2 Surveillance

9.2.1 General surveillance requirements

(1) The operator must ensure that the requirements in subclauses a) and e) are complied with at all times and must keep procedures describing how those requirements are to be met:

a) All birds present within the compartment must be allocated to defined epidemiological units for surveillance.
b) Specific surveillance must be carried out as follows, for each relevant disease:

i) Sampling and testing must be carried out in relation to each epidemiological unit in the numbers of samples and tests for various levels of disease status as set in **Schedule 2**.
ii) The frequency of sampling at various levels of disease risk must be carried out, according to **Schedule 2**.
iii) The applicable test methods for screening tests and confirmatory tests to be completed when the screening tests are not negative must be used according to **Schedule 1**.

c) All samples for the purposes of meeting surveillance requirements must be representative samples of the defined epidemiological unit or using an approved targeted.
d) Sampling for the purposes of meeting surveillance requirements must be undertaken by a registered veterinarian or an appropriately trained sampling person working under the supervision of a registered veterinarian.

(2) All testing for the purpose of surveillance must be carried out in a laboratory recognised under the Act to undertake the relevant test.

(3) The operator must provide the results of all testing carried out in accordance with **Schedule 2** to MPI in a format that is suitable for MPI to compile and analyse.

(4) All positive screening test results for relevant diseases which cannot be confirmed negative based on the confirmatory testing specified in **Schedule 1** must be reported to the MPI Animal Exports team (animalexports@mpi.govt.nz) and the MPI Exotic Pests and Disease hotline (0800 80 99 66) without unreasonable delay and in any case not later than 12 hours after the results become available to the operator, either directly or indirectly via the testing laboratory.

9.2.2 Relisting following relevant disease confirmation:

(1) A compartment may only apply for relisting following confirmation of a relevant disease once:

a) the Chief Technical Officer under the Biosecurity Act has revoked any restrictions on the place; and

b) the compartment was negative on repeated testing for the relevant disease, using ELISA and PCR of a representative sample of at least 30 birds per epidemiological unit, at intervals of not more than 21 days for four (4) cycles.

Part 10: Verification requirements

10.1 Listed compartments to be verified

(1) An animal product business operating a compartment is subject to verification as set out in Part 4 of the Regulations.

(2) Part M2 of the Animal Product Notice: Production, Supply and Processing applies with any necessary modifications, and in reading RMP to mean operating a compartment under this RCS.

(3) Verification must be in relation to the requirements of this RCS and the BMP.

(4) The initial verification and the verification frequency under this Part is that set out in Part M1 of the Animal Product Notice: Production, Supply and Processing in relation to item 21 of table 21 - Chicken producers who produce fertile eggs or day-old chicks.

(5) The following clauses of the Animal Product Notice: Production, Supply and Processing apply to verification under this Part:

a) clauses M1.1 – M1.3;
b) clause M1.5; and
c) clauses M1.6(1); M1.6(2)c); M1.6(3)c); M1.6(4).

10.2 Verifiers or verifying agency reporting obligation

(1) In addition to regulation 92 of the Regulations, if a verifier or verifying agency assigns an unacceptable outcome after carrying out a verification the verifier or verifying agency must report to the Director-General that unacceptable outcome as soon as practicable.

Part 11: Requirements for evaluators and pre-listing assessment of Biosecurity Management Plans

11.1 Requirements for evaluators

(1) In addition to the matters specified in regulation 208(1) of the Animal Product Regulations 2021, a natural person applying to be an evaluator must demonstrate knowledge and understanding of both:

a) poultry biosecurity systems; and
b) poultry health and diseases.

11.2 Performance standards for evaluators

(1) If the evaluator is not a veterinarian, then the evaluator must engage a technical expert who is a veterinarian and who has both:

a) experience in the implementation of poultry biosecurity systems; and
b) has experience in poultry health and diseases.

(2) The pre-listing assessment of the BMP or amendment to the BMP must include a documentation check and an on-site assessment of the compartment unless subclause 3 applies.

(3) The Director-General may, on the recommendation of the evaluator, decide that the requirement for an on-site assessment is not necessary if satisfied that the evaluator has current first-hand knowledge of the compartment to warrant a desktop assessment only and an on-site assessment would not result in any added benefit in terms of assessing the validity of the BMP for the purposes of clause 4.3 (2) of this Notice.

(4) For the purposes of clause 11.2 (3), current first-hand knowledge means knowledge obtained through current experience in direct observation of production and handling undertaken within the relevant premises and includes an understanding of the relevant requirements of and under the Act, including this Notice and other export requirements.

11.3 Restrictions on evaluators and technical experts

(1) An evaluator who was involved in the design or development of a BMP or a significant amendment to that BMP must not carry out an assessment of that BMP under this Part for a period of 2 years after the date on which the BMP or amendment is made, unless the Director-General agrees otherwise in writing.

(2) An evaluator must not use a technical expert for the purposes of clause 11.2 (1) if the technical expert was also involved in the design or development of that BMP or the amendment being assessed, for a period of 2 years after the date on which the BMP or amendment is registered, unless the Director-General agrees otherwise in writing.

11.4 Pre-listing assessment reports

(1) The evaluator must, after carrying out the pre-listing assessment of a BMP or an amendment to the BMP as required by clause 4.7, provide the operator of the compartment with a report.

(2) The report must:

a) state whether the evaluator has determined that the BMP or the amendment being assessed complies with clauses 5.1 and 5.2 of this Notice;

b) state whether the compartments covered by the BMP are in a position to effectively implement the BMP or the amended BMP;
c) state whether the BMP or the amended BMP, if effectively implemented, can be expected to result in the effective management of the relevant risk factors applying to the compartments; and
d) specify any conditions that the evaluator recommends should apply to the listing of the compartment to which the BMP relates.

(3) The report must also contain:

a) the name and recognition identifier of the responsible evaluator:
b) where applicable, the name of any technical expert who assisted, along with:

i) a description of the aspect of the assessment that each technical expert assisted with;
ii) a copy of any supporting reports provided by each technical expert; and
iii) a copy of the competency assessment, with any supporting information, for each technical expert;

c) if an on-site visit was done, the date and a brief description of the on-site visit;
d) if an on-site visit was not done, the approval;
e) the date the pre-listing assessment was complete;
f) the name, the trading name, if applicable, and RMP identifier of the business that owns or manages the compartments;
g) the date or version identification of the BMP, or the version of the amendment, that was assessed;
h) a list of all documents that make up the BMP or amendment that were assessed during the pre-listing assessment, giving the documents' version, date, or other unique identifier, and any validation information that was assessed as part of the assessment;
i) in relation to the compartment premises covered by the BMP:

i) the physical address of the compartment and any unique location identifier assigned to it; and
ii) in the case of a BMP covering multiple compartments, the number of compartments covered by the BMP at the time of assessment;

j) a description of the processing activities covered by the BMP or BMP amendment; and
k) any other information necessary to enable the reader to understand the determination of validity given by the evaluator and any conditions recommended in the report.

(4) A report on a pre-listing assessment of a BMP or amendment that is complete must contain the following statement and be signed and dated by the evaluator responsible for the assessment:

I confirm that a full assessment of the Biosecurity Management Plan or amendment to the Biosecurity Management Plan {title, date and identified by version} has been undertaken.

I am satisfied that this Biosecurity Management Plan or amendment to this Biosecurity Management Plan is valid in terms of achieving the purpose of Part 5 of the Animal Products Notice: Regulated Control Scheme – Production of day-old chicks and hatching eggs within a compartment for export

Schedule 1: The acceptable sample types and tests (screening and confirmatory) for surveillance

Disease	Screening test*		Confirmatory test*	
	Test	Sample	Test	Sample
Avian Influenza (HPAI and LPAI)	ELISA	Serum	HI or AGID test on the same serum sample from the reactor(s) or PCR or VIT on new random sample of 60 birds	HI or AGID: Serum PCR: Oropharyngeal/cloacal swabs VIT: Oropharyngeal swabs
Newcastle disease	ELISA, or HI	Serum	HI on same serum sample from ELISA reactor(s) or PCR or VIT on new random sample of 60 birds	HI: Serum PCR: Oropharyngeal/cloacal swabs VIT: Oropharyngeal swabs
Salmonella Pullorum and *Salmonella* Gallinarum**	ELISA, or SAT or PCR with a selective pre-enrichment step	ELISA: Serum SAT: Serum PCR: Cloacal swabs	PCR (with selective pre-enrichment) with Sequencing or Culture	Cloacal swabs
* Screening and confirmatory tests (other than sequencing and culture) can be performed in laboratories which are part of the RLP (recognised laboratories programme).				
** Any drug, for which there is scientific evidence of masking the test reaction or hindering the bacteriological recovery of Salmonella organisms, must not be fed or administered to chickens within 3 weeks prior to a test or bacteriological examination upon which a Salmonella classification is required.				
AGID = Agar Gel Immunodiffusion Assay; ELISA = Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay; HI = Haemagglutination Inhibition Test; PCR = Polymerase Chain Reaction Test; SAT = Serum Agglutination Test; VIT = Virus Isolation Test.				

Schedule 2: Specific surveillance requirements by disease including frequency of testing under different country and compartment disease statuses

Disease	Disease Status	Surveillance Schedule			
		Test mode	Sample Numbers	Test Types	Test Frequency
Avian Influenza (HPAI or LPAI in poultry, or detection of highly pathogenic H5 or H7 avian influenza viruses in any species)	HPAI and LPAI have not been reported in poultry; and highly pathogenic H5 or H7 avian influenza viruses have not been reported in any species in New Zealand	Routine	60 birds per epidemiological unit	ELISA	At least every 6 months
	Confirmed detection of HPAI in poultry in New Zealand outside of the compartment, or confirmed detection of LPAI in poultry anywhere in New Zealand, or confirmed detection of highly pathogenic H5 or H7 avian influenza viruses in any other species anywhere in New Zealand	Enhanced	60 birds per epidemiological unit	ELISA	At least every 3 months
	Compartment is situated within a controlled area declared following the confirmed detection of HPAI	Enhanced+	60 birds per epidemiological unit	ELISA (serum samples), PCR (Oropharyngeal/ cloacal swabs), and dead birds	Test within 1 week of the controlled area declaration and every 28 days. Plus PCR testing within 48 hours prior to movement When mortalities occur: 6 dead birds to be submitted for PCR testing weekly

Disease	Disease Status	Surveillance Schedule			
		Test mode	Sample Numbers	Test Types	Test Frequency
Newcastle Disease (ND)	Disease not reported in country	Routine	60 birds per epidemiological unit	ELISA	At least every 6 months
	Confirmed detection of ND outside of the compartment	Enhanced	60 birds per epidemiological unit	ELISA and PCR	At least every 3 months
	Compartment is situated within a controlled area declared following the confirmed detection of ND	Enhanced+	60 birds per epidemiological unit	ELISA (serum samples), PCR (Oropharyngeal/cloacal swabs), and dead birds	Test within 1 week of the controlled area declaration and every 28 days thereafter. Plus PCR testing within 48 hours prior to movement When mortalities occur: 6 dead birds to be submitted for PCR testing weekly

Disease	Disease Status	Surveillance Schedule			
		Test mode	Sample Numbers	Test Types	Test Frequency
***Salmonella* Pullorum and *Salmonella* Gallinarum**	Disease not reported in country	Routine	30 birds per shed increasing to 60 birds if over 500 birds per shed	ELISA or SAT or PCR	6 months
	Confirmed detection of *Salmonella* Pullorum and/or *Salmonella* G outside of the compartment	Enhanced		ELISA or SAT and PCR	3 months
	Compartment is situated within a controlled area declared following the confirmed detection of *Salmonella* Pullorum and/or *Salmonella* Gallinarum	Enhanced+		ELISA or SAT (serum samples), PCR (cloacal swabs), and dead birds	Test within 1 week of controlled area declaration and every 21 days thereafter. If mortalities occur: 6 dead birds to be submitted for testing weekly