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HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Unit G5 - Veterinary Programmes

SANCO/10782/2012

*Programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain
animal diseases and zoonoses*

Survey programme for Avian Influenza (AI)

Approved* for 2012 by Commission Decision 2011/807/EU

Latvia

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC

ANNEX IV

Standard requirements for the submission of survey programmes for avian influenza co-financed by the Community

1. Identification of the programme

Member State: LATVIA

Disease: AVIAN INFLUENZA

Year of implementation: 2012

Reference of this document: Avian influenza surveillance program in poultry and wild birds

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2. Description of the programme in poultry:

2.1 Objectives, general requirements and criteria:

Serological surveys for LPAI subtypes H5 and H7 in poultry will aim at:

Detecting subclinical infections with LPAI of subtypes H5 and H7 thereby complementing early detection systems and preventing possible mutation of these viruses to HPAI.

Detecting infections of LPAI H5 and H7 subtypes in specifically targeted poultry populations at specific risk for infection due to their husbandry system or species-specific susceptibility.

2.2 Design and implementation:

The **Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) of the Republic of Latvia** is a state administrative institution headed by the CVO and supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The FVS consists of the central body placed in Riga and territorial structural units (the local level) – 10 territorial offices and one city office. The central body coordinates activities of the local level and ensure a unified implementation of legislation. The local level carries out the official surveillance in accordance with the state surveillance programmes and reports to the central body. The State authorised veterinarians report to the respective local veterinary office. Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for implementation of AI surveillance programme. The inspectors of FVS will take samples in commercial poultry farms. Testing will be carried out in National Reference laboratory for AI. Duration of program is from 1st January 2012 till 31st December 2012.

Table 2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS^(a) (except ducks and geese) TO BE SAMPLED

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I on holdings of [chicken breeders](#)*

NUT (3) code*	Total number of holdings^(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Methods of laboratory analysis.
LV007	1	1	150	150	HI test for H5/H7
Total	1	1	150	150	

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) 3 can not be used, coordinates (long/lat- to write out) are requested.

(c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 3 region.

* There are no separate chicken breeding farms in Latvia. Small number of breeders is kept in largest poultry farms. Where it will be possible breeders will be subjected to sampling.

Table 2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS ^(a) (except ducks and geese) TO BE SAMPLED

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I on holdings of [laying hens](#)

NUT (3) code *	Total number of holdings ^(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Methods of laboratory analysis.
LV003	13	13	95	95	HI test for H5/H7
LV005	8	8	50	50	HI test for H5/H7
LV007	8	8	50	50	HI test for H5/H7
LV008	11	11	110	110	HI test for H5/H7
LV009	11	11	325	325	HI test for H5/H7
Total	51	51	630	630	

- (a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
- (b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) 3 can not be used, coordinates (long/lat- to write out) are requested.
- (c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 3 region.

Table 2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS ^(a) (except ducks and geese) TO BE SAMPLED

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I on holdings of [ratites](#)

NUT (3) code*	Total number of holdings^(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Methods of laboratory analysis.
	0	0	0	0	0
Total					

- (a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
- (b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) 3 can not be used, coordinates (long/lat- to write out) are requested.
- (c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 3 region.

Table 2.2.1 POULTRY HOLDINGS^(a) (except ducks and geese) TO BE SAMPLED

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I on holdings of "[backyard flocks](#)"

NUT (2) code*	Total number of holdings^(c)	Total number of holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Methods of laboratory analysis.
All regions	-	~140	3	430	HI test for H5/H7
Total		140	3	430	

- (a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.
- (b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) 3 can not be used, coordinates (long/lat- to write out) are requested.
- (c) Total number of holdings of one category of poultry in concerned NUTS 3 region.

Table 2.2.2 DUCK HOLDINGS TO BE SAMPLED ^(a) according to point C of Annex I.
Serological investigation

NUT (3) code*	Total number of duck holdings	Total number of duck holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Methods of laboratory analysis.
LV 005	1	1	20	20	HI test for H5/H7
LV009	1	1	20	20	HI test for H5/H7
Total	2	2	40	40	

(a) Holdings or herds or flocks or establishments as appropriate.

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS 3 code can not be used, coordinates (long/lat – to write out) are requested.

** NUTS 2 codes are not available for Latvia, therefore NUTS 3 codes are used.*

2.3 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used

Serological testing for sera of all categories of poultry will be carried out. The haemagglutination – inhibition test (HI) (according to Commission decision 2006/437/EC approving Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza, Chapter VIII, 4th August, 2006) will be used.

3. Description of the surveillance programme in wild birds:

3.1 Objectives, general requirements and criteria

The aim of the program is survey for avian influenza in wild birds and to identify the risk of introduction of AI viruses (LPAI and HPAI) to domestic poultry and continue a “baseline” surveillance of different species of free-living migratory birds as part of continuous monitoring of LPAI viruses. Anseriformes (water fowl) and Charadriiformes (shorebirds and gulls) will be the main sampling targets to assess if they carry LPAI viruses of H5 and H7 subtypes (which would in any case also detect HPAI H5N1 and other HPAI, if present). Samples will be taken in a frame of passive and active surveillance.

3.2 Design and implementation

Food and Veterinary Service (FVS) is responsible for implementation of this programme. Active surveillance of wild birds will be done in a close collaboration with ornithologists samples will be taken during ringing and hunting processes. Sampling will take place in different parts of Latvia especially in areas close to sea, lakes and rivers. Testing will be carried out in Institute of Food Safety, Animal Health and Environment - "BIOR" - National Reference laboratory for AI. Passive surveillance of wild birds will be implemented in a whole territory of Latvia.

Duration of program is from 1st January 2012 till 31st December 2012.

Table 3.2.1. WILD BIRDS - investigation according to the surveillance programme for avian influenza in wild birds set out in Annex II to Decision 2010/367/EC

NUT (3) code	Wild birds to be sampled ^(b)	Total number of birds to be sampled	Total number of samples to be taken for active survey	Total number of samples to be taken for passive survey
LV007	Birds hunted and ringed	100	200	
LV003	Birds hunted and ringed	100	200	
LV005	Birds hunted and ringed	100	200	
Latvia	Wild birds found dead	50		50
Total		350	600	50

(b) General description of the wild birds is intended to be sampled in the framework of active and passive surveillance.

3.3. Laboratory testing: description of the used laboratory tests:

Real-time RT-PCR (HA2 region of the H7 gene and N1 gene (according to VLA, 6th February, 2007), M gene and H5 gene (according to Commission decision 2006/437/EC approving Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza, Chapter VI; 4th August, 2006)) and Virus isolation test in embryonated fowls' eggs (according to Commission decision 2006/437/EC approving Diagnostic Manual for avian influenza, Chapter VIII, 4th August, 2006) will be used for monitoring of wild birds.

4. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in poultry during the last five years

AI is not registered in Latvia in poultry.

4.1 Measures included in the programme for poultry survey:

4.1.1 Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for implementation of AI surveillance programme. The inspectors of FVS will take samples in commercial poultry farms. Veterinarians will take blood samples from poultry in backyard flocks.

4.1.2 System in place for the registration of holdings

Regulation of Cabinet of Ministers No 712, 16 December, 2003 "Order of registration of animals, herds and holdings and identification of animals" determines order of individual identification of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and horses and registration of holdings of agricultural animals (including poultry), bee gardens, fishponds, hatcheries of aquatic animals.

To ensure common data registration system, State Agency "Agricultural Data Centre" (ADC) develops register of animals, herds and holdings. ADC gives number for holding and this number is not changed during holding or herd is active. Animal owner informs ADC on animal movement, liquidation of herd or holding, change of owners within seven days.

4.1.3 Data on vaccination

Vaccination against AI is prohibited in Latvia.

5. Description of the epidemiological situation of the disease in wild birds during the last five years

HPAI in wild birds is not registered in Latvia. In 2006 in a frame of AI surveillance program 44, in 2007- 27, in 2008 - 1 and in 2009 - 18, 2010 - 19 wild ducks were found positive to LPAI (other than H5 and H7)

5.1. Measures included in the programme for wild birds' survey

5.1.1 Designation of the central authority charged with supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme:

Food and Veterinary Service is responsible for implementation of AI surveillance programme. FVS will set bilateral agreement with Laboratory of ornithology of Faculty of Biology of the Latvian University on sampling of wild birds during ringing and hunting.

5.1.2 Description and delimitation of the geographical and administrative areas in which the programme is to be applied:

Sampling will take place in different parts of Latvia especially in areas close to sea, lakes and rivers. Passive surveillance of wild birds will be implemented in a whole territory of Latvia.

5.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

Data is not available at the moment of preparation of the programme.

6. Measures in place as regards the notification of the disease

Animal owners must immediately notify to veterinarian on animal death, abortions, simultaneous affection of several animals and any case, which arise suspicions that animal are affected by infectious disease (Chapter XI, Article 59, and point 8.a of the Law of Veterinary medicine).

FVS Order No 32, 23.02.2011. issued by Food and Veterinary Service determines the list of diseases immediately notified to the Central Authority of Food and Veterinary Service (also includes AI).

Regulation of Cabinet of Ministers No 405, 19 June, 2007 “Order of avian influenza prophylaxis and eradication” and FVS Order No 79, 19.07.2010. “Instruction on eradication of avian influenza” determines measures to be taken in case of AI suspicion and confirmation (in line with Council directive 2005/94/EC).

7. Costs

7.1. Detailed analysis of the costs:

7.1.1 Poultry

Cost of HI test to subtypes H5 or H7 is 6,47 Euro. Testing of one bird to H5 and H7 – $6,47 \times 2 = 12,95$ Euro.

7.1.2 Wild birds

Cost of RT PCR (M gene) – 37,83 Euro

Cost of RT PCR (H5, H7, N1) – 45,00 Euro

5% of samples requires re-testing using virus isolation. Cost of virus izolation test – 67,51 Euro

7.2 Summary of the costs

7.2.1 Poultry survey

Measures eligible for co-financing survey in poultry			
Methods of laboratory analysis	Number of tests to perform per method	Unitary test cost (per method)	Total cost
Serological pre-screening ¹			
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5/H7 ²	1250/1250	6,47	16 175
Virus isolation test			
PCR test			
Other measures to be covered	Specify activities		
Sampling	430	0.5	215
Others			
Total	2500		16 390

¹ Specify the laboratory test to be used

² Specify number of tests for H5 and for H7

7.2.2 Wild bird survey

Measures eligible for co-financing survey wild birds			
Methods of laboratory analysis	Number tests to perform per method	Unitary test cost (per method)	Total cost
Serological pre-screening			
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5/H7			
Virus isolation test	30	67,51	2 025,3
PCR (M gene) test	600	37,83	22 698
PCR (H5, H7, N1) test	100	45,00	4 500
Other measures to be covered	Specify activities		
Sampling	300	20	6 000
Others			
Total			35 223.3

All costs are given in EURO