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HEALTH & CONSUMERS DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Unit 04 - Veterinary Control Programmes

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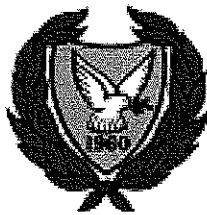
*Programmes for the eradication, control and monitoring of certain
animal diseases and zoonoses*

**Survey programme for Avian Influenza in
poultry and wild birds**

Approved* for 2011 by Commission Decision 2010/712/EU

Cyprus

* in accordance with Council Decision 2009/470/EC



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

CO-FINANCING REQUEST

**ACCORDING TO
COMMISSION DECISION 2008/425/EC**

**AVIAN INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMME
IN POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS**

**FOR THE YEAR
2011**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

VETERINARY SERVICES

ANNEX IV

Standard requirements for the submission of national surveillance programmes for avian influenza in poultry and wild birds as referred to in Article 1(d)

1. Identification of the programme

Member State: Cyprus
Disease: Avian Influenza
Year of implementation: 2011
Reference of this document:
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Date sent to the Commission: 30/04/2009

2. Description of the surveillance programme in poultry

2.1 Objectives, general requirements and criteria

The surveillance programme for Avian Influenza in poultry aims at the early detection of an AI virus infection in poultry farms. In particular the programme aims at achieving an early detection of subclinical infections with LPAI of subtypes H5 and H7 so as to be able to prevent possible mutation of those viruses to HPAI.

The programme will be implemented from 1st January 2011 until 31 December 2011.

All samples are to be tested in the NRL of Cyprus and in case of positive results, samples will be sent to the CRL for confirmation.

2.2 Design and implementation

Samples are to be taken from chickens (breeders and layers), turkeys, ducks, quails, ostriches and wild birds according to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC.

Sampling

Blood sampling for serological examination will be collected from 10 birds (except ducks and quails) per holding or in cases of holdings consisting of more than one shed from 5 birds per shed. Blood samples from chickens (breeders and layers), turkeys, partridges, ostriches and ducks will be collected on the farm. Blood samples from quails will be collected at the slaughterhouse.

All holdings of each species will be included in the sampling frame for serological examination.

Sampling scheme in breeding flocks

In Cyprus there are only 4 breeding companies which have in total 19 breeding holdings and 4 hatcheries. Out of the 19 breeding holdings, 14 house parent stock for broilers and 5 for layers. There are in total 50 sheds housing parent stock for broilers and 5 sheds housing parent stock for layers. The number of samples from breeding flocks is $(50*5) + (5*10) = 300$ samples.

Sampling scheme in broilers

Broiler flocks are not included in the sampling frame for the surveillance on Avian Influenza.

Sampling scheme in layers

There are 30 conventional laying hen holdings with 113 sheds. Ten blood samples will be collected from holdings having one shed and five blood samples per shed in holding with more than one shed. The total number of blood samples to be collected from conventional layer farms is 565 samples

There are 9 free range and organic laying holdings. Surveillance on those farms will consist of 5 blood samples per shed or 10 blood samples in case of a holdings having one shed collected every three months, a total number of blood samples to be collected $(5*3*4)+(5*2*4)+(10*1*4)+(5*2*4)+(10*1*4)+(5*4*4)+(5*3*4)+(10*1*4)+(5*4*4) = 480$ samples.

Sampling scheme in turkey holdings

There are no breeding farms for turkeys in Cyprus. There are 7 holdings for fattening turkeys either on a yearly or a seasonal basis, from September to December for slaughter for Christmas. There is an average of 2 sheds per holding of turkeys. The total number of blood samples to be collected from turkeys is $2*7*5 = 70$ samples.

Sampling scheme in partridges

There are 6 holdings for partridges with an average of 2 sheds per holding. Therefore the total number of blood samples to be collected from partridges will be $2*6*5 = 60$ samples.

Sampling scheme in ostrich farms

There is no slaughterhouse for ostriches in Cyprus. There are in total 4 ostrich holdings.

Veterinary officer in charge will be responsible to collect 10 blood samples per holding. However the three out of the four of the holdings have less than 10 animals each and do not own equipment for the restraining of the animals. Therefore, it might not be possible to collect samples from those holdings.

Sampling scheme in duck holdings

There are no duck holding in Cyprus. In case ducks are placed for fattening 60 blood samples will be taken, equally distributed on quarterly basis, namely 15 samples per quarter.

Sampling scheme for quails:

There is one quail holding. 60 blood samples will be taken, equally distributed on quarterly basis, namely 15 samples per quarter.

Sampling scheme in backyard poultry

Blood samples from backyard poultry will be collected from high risk areas in Cyprus (about 210 blood samples to be tested).

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

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only when at risk)/fattening turkeys/chicken breeders/turkey breeders/laying hens/free range laying hens/ratites/farmed feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/"backyard flocks"/others [delete as appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	19	19	(5 per shed)	300	HI test
Total	19	19	-	300	-

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only when at risk)/fattening turkeys/chicken breeders/turkey breeders/laying hens/free range laying hens/ratites/farmed feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/"backyard flocks"/others [delete as appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	30	30	(5 per shed)	565	HI test
Total	30	30	-	565	-

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only-when-at-risk)/fattening turkeys/ehleken-breeders/turkey breeders/laying-hens/free range laying hens/rattles/farmed-feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/backyard flocks"/others [delete-as-appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	9	9	(5 per shed every two months)	480	HI test
Total	9	9	-	480	-

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only-when-at-risk)/fattening turkeys/ehleken-breeders/turkey breeders/laying-hens/free range laying hens/rattles/farmed-feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/backyard flocks"/others [delete-as-appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	7	7	(5 per shed)	70	HI test
Total	7	7	-	70	-

¹ OJ L 115, 3.5.2007, p. 3.

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only when at risk)/fattening turkeys/chicken breeders/turkey breeders/laying hens/free range laying hens/ratites/farmed feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/"backyard flocks"/others [delete as appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	4	4	10	40	HI test
Total	4	4	-	40	-

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only when at risk)/fattening turkeys/chicken breeders/turkey breeders/laying hens/free range laying hens/ratites/farmed feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/"backyard flocks"/others [delete as appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	6	6	(5 per shed)	60	HI test
Total	6	6	-	60	-

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only when at risk)/fattening turkeys/chicken breeders/turkey breeders/laying hens/free range laying hens/ratites/farmed feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/"backyard flocks"/others [delete as appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	1	1	60	60	HI test
Total	1	1	-	60	-

Serological investigation according to point B of Annex I to Commission Decision 2007/268/EC¹ on holdings of broilers(only when at risk)/fattening turkeys/chicken breeders/turkey breeders/laying hens/free range laying hens/ratites/farmed feathered game (pheasants, partridges, quails...)/"backyard flocks"/others [delete as appropriate]

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER POULTRY CATEGORY

NUT (2) code ^(b)	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.
	8,530	20	-	210	HI test
Total	8,530	20	-	210	-

(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) 2 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 2 region.

Table 2.2.2 DUCK AND GEESE HOLDINGS TO BE SAMPLED(a) according to point C of Annex I to Decision 2007/268/EC

Serological investigation

NUT (2) code ^(b)	Total number of duck and-geese holdings	Total number of duck and-geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Methods of laboratory analysis.
	0	0	60	0	HI test
Total	0	0	60	0	-

Table 2.2.2 DUCK AND GEESE HOLDINGS TO BE SAMPLED(a) according to point C of Annex I to Decision 2007/268/EC

Serological investigation

NUT (2) code ^(b)	Total number of duck and-geese holdings	Total number of duck and-geese holdings to be sampled	Number of samples per holding	Total number of tests to be performed per method	Methods of laboratory analysis.
	0	0	60	0	HI test
Total	0	0	60	0	-

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

(b) Refers to the location of the holding of origin. In case NUTS 2 code can not be used, coordinates (long/lat - to write out) are requested

2.3 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used

According to Part D of Annex I of Commission Decision 2007/268/EC.

3. Description of the surveillance programme in wild birds:

3.1 Objectives, general requirements and criteria

The surveillance programme for Avian Influenza in wild birds aims at the early detection of LPAH and HPAI viruses in wild birds in order to prevent the introduction of the infection in poultry.

3.2 Design and implementation

Samples for virus isolation will be collected from wild birds in high risk areas.

Sampling scheme in Wild Birds in Cyprus

Game fund is a governmental service that cooperates with veterinary services and provides dead or injured wild birds that can be sampled for the A.I. program. The samples will be either a) oropharyngeal and/or cloacal swabs from injured birds, or b) faeces, cloacal swabs, tracheal/oropharyngeal swabs or tissues (brain, heart, lung, kidney and intestines) from dead birds. For sampling purposes, hunters' organizations have also been informed. It must be noted that the presence in Cyprus of birds listed in part D of Annex II of Commission Decision 2007/268/EC depends mainly on the weather conditions in the island during the winter. It can not be ensured that samples from all the species of these wild birds will be collected. It must also be noted that according to the Game Fund's data the Bean Goose (*Anser fabalis*) does not pass from Cyprus.

Active surveillance

In Cyprus there are no stations for capturing and ringing of wild birds and therefore the number of live birds submitted for testing is expected to be limited. Active surveillance will consist of faecal samples collected between October and February from high risk areas such as Achna dam and salt lakes in Larnaca and Acrotiri. During the rest of the year the temperatures in Cyprus are high and faecal samples get dry fast and are not appropriate for testing. Two pooled faecal samples will be collected per high risk area every two weeks between October and February. Therefore, during the five month period we expect to collect and test $2*5*2*3=60$ samples. However, based on the experience of the previous year, in case the draught continues migration of birds might be low and it might not be possible to collect all those samples.

Passive surveillance

Birds found dead in high risk areas will be collected and examined for AI virus. Based on the experience of previous years, it is expected to examine around 100 samples from approximately 150 birds of the species that are considered of high risk for transmitting the virus.

Samples from imported companion birds in quarantine and zoo birds (about 30 samples will be tested for virus isolation).

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 2007/268/EC

NUT (2) code/region ^(a)	Wild birds to be sampled ^(b)	Total number of birds to be sampled	Estimated total number of samples to be taken for active surveillance	Estimated total number of samples to be taken for passive surveillance
	Various species included those listed in Part D of Annex II of Commission Decision 2007/268/EC, depending on migration.	150	60	100
	Zoo birds and companion animals	30	0	30
Total		150	60	130

(a) Refers to the place of collection of birds/samples. In case NUTS 2 code can not be used, region as defined in the programme by the Member State is requested

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

3.3 Laboratory testing: description of the laboratory tests used

According to Chapter V of Commission Decision 2006/437/EC

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

No avian influenza virus was detected in samples collected from poultry farms in the framework of the surveillance programmes carried out by the Veterinary Services during the last years.

4.1 Measures included in the programme for poultry surveillance

4.1.1 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme

The Veterinary Services (VS) are subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture Environment and Natural Recourses. The VS are responsible for the application of the control program of Avian Influenza programme in poultry and wild birds.

The five District Veterinary Offices and the five Regional Veterinary Stations are responsible for the collection and transport of samples to the Laboratories of the Veterinary Services.

4.1.2 System in place for the registration of holdings

The central authority has registered officially all holdings with breeding flocks according to N. 88 (I)/1999 as amended by 281(I)/ 2004, and Directive 90/539/EEC and all holdings with laying flocks according to N. 118 (I)/2000 as amended by 276(I)/ 2004.

The rest of holdings have been identified by the Veterinary Services VS, however, no official registration of has been carried out yet.

4.1.3 Data on vaccination

No vaccination for avian influenza is applied in Cyprus

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

No HPAI virus was detected in wild birds sampled in the framework of the surveillance programmes. However H1N1 was detected in wild birds in August 2006.

5.1. Measures included in the programme for surveillance in wild birds

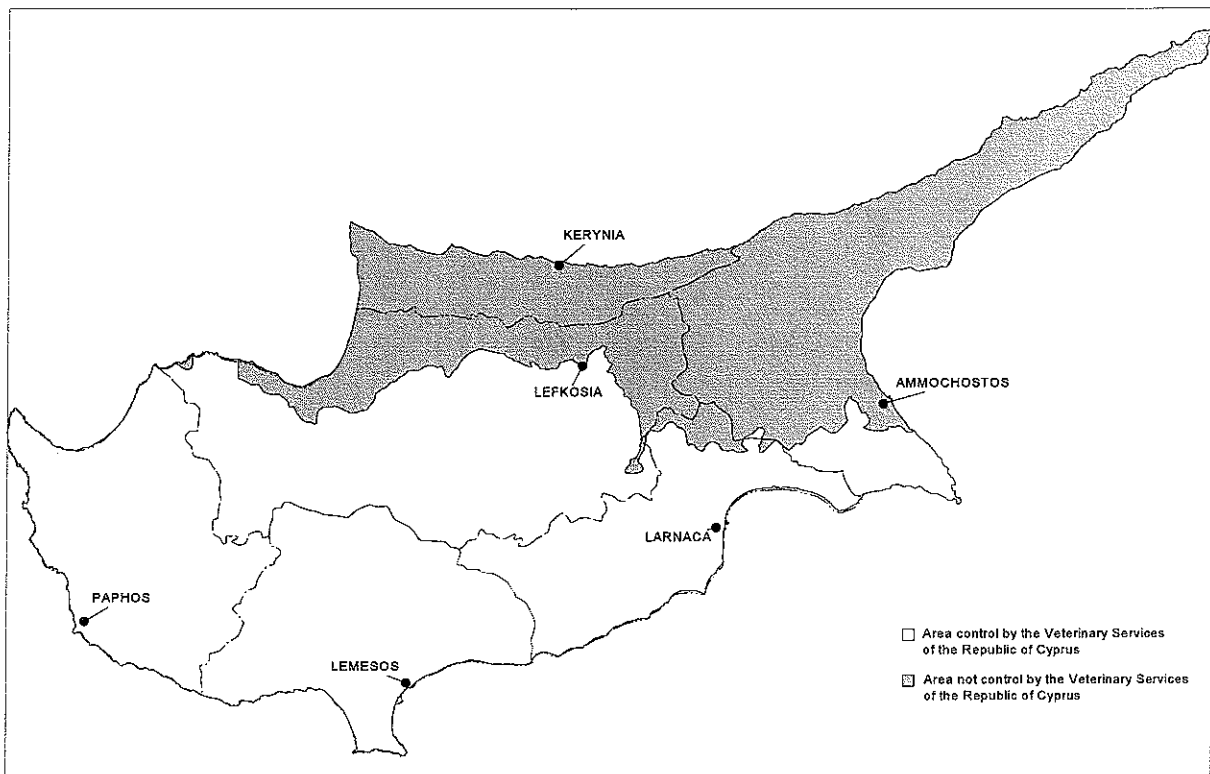
5.1.1 Designation of the central authority in charge of supervising and coordinating the departments responsible for implementing the programme:

The Veterinary Services (VS) are subordinated to the Ministry of Agriculture Environment and Natural Recourses. The VS are responsible for the application of the control program of Avian Influenza programme in poultry and wild birds.

The five District Veterinary Offices and the five District Veterinary Stations are responsible for the collection and transport of samples to the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVS).

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

The program is implemented in the area of Cyprus which is under the effective control of the Government of Cyprus.



5.1.3 Estimation of the local and/or migratory wildlife population

Monitoring of local and migratory wildlife population is performed by the Game Fund. According to its reports the number of migratory birds during 2007-2008 is considerably lower compared to previous years, due to the continuous draught in the area. However, the number of some species of wild migratory birds increased during 2009, whereas the number of other remained low as the previous years. In general the number of migratory wild birds depends on the weather conditions each year.

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

Any case of Avian influenza should be notified according to Animal Health Laws of 2001 until 2007 (N. 109(1)/2001, N. 82(I)/2003, N. 116(I)/2007). Furthermore, any such case will be notified to the EU through ADNS and OIE according to the relevant legislation provisions.

7. Costs

7.1. Detailed analysis of the costs:

7.1.1 Poultry

The cost of the surveillance programme for poultry consists of the cost of the tests performed on samples collected.

7.1.2 Wild birds

The cost of the surveillance programme for wild birds consists of the cost of the tests performed on samples collected.

7.2 Summary of the costs

7.2.1 Poultry surveillance

Measures eligible for co-financing surveillance in poultry				
Methods of laboratory analysis	Number of tests to perform per method	Unitary test cost (per method)	Total cost	
Serological pre-screening ²				
Haemagglutination-inhibition-test (HI) for H5/H7 ³	1,785	€10	€17,850	
Virus isolation test				
PCR test				
Other measures to be covered	Specify activities			
Sampling	1,785	€1	€1,785	
Others				

² Specify the laboratory test to be used

³ Specify number of tests for H5 and for H7

Total		€19,635
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7.2.2 Wild bird surveillance

Measures eligible for co-financing surveillance 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	190	€30	€5,700
PCR test			
Other measures to be covered	Specify activities		
Sampling	190	€1	€190
Others			
Total			€5,890