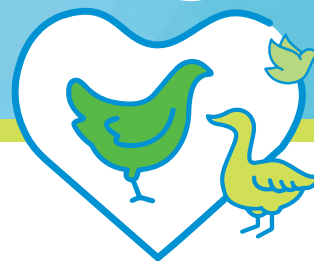


ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Poultry, captive birds and hatching eggs



Did you know?

Like other animals, birds are susceptible to disease, the impact of which varies widely depending on the disease in question. Aside from the negative effects on the health of the infected animal, the disease can result in increased costs to farmers and industry arising from the need to treat the disease and from disruption to business. Disease outbreaks can often have significant and long-lasting impacts on the international trade of animals and animal products, so it is important that all stakeholders are aware of their responsibilities.



Depending on the purpose for which they are kept, birds are considered to be poultry, captive birds or pets:

- ♥ Poultry are birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of meat, eggs for consumption, and other products for restocking supplies of game birds or for breeding for those types of production (including hatching eggs);
- ♥ Captive birds are birds kept in captivity for purposes other than those for which poultry are kept, including birds that are kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or selling;
- ♥ Pet birds are birds kept for private, non-commercial purposes.¹

Persons keeping poultry or captive birds are operators, whereas those keeping pet birds are pet owners.

What are the EU rules for animal health?

Regulation (EU) 2016/429 on transmissible animal diseases (Animal Health Law) has been in force since 21 April 2021, supplemented by several other Regulations. More information is also available in the factsheet “New Animal Health Law”.

¹ Certain species of birds (fowl, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges and ratites) cannot be considered as pets.



Registration and approval of establishments

The Animal Health Law requires operators of establishments in which poultry, captive birds, or hatching eggs are kept permanently or temporarily to register these establishments. Moreover, operators of the following poultry establishments should apply to the competent authority for approval:

- ♥ Hatcheries of poultry from which hatching eggs or poultry are moved to another Member State;
- ♥ Establishments keeping poultry from which poultry intended for purposes other than slaughter or from which hatching eggs are moved to another Member State.

What are my key responsibilities as an operator under this new legislation?

As the operator of an establishment keeping poultry or captive birds or of a hatchery under the AHL, you must have basic knowledge of animal health and certain disease prevention and control responsibilities. Amongst them, you are responsible for:

- ♥ The health of your animals,
- ♥ The prudent and responsible use of veterinary medicines,
- ♥ Good animal husbandry,
- ♥ Registering your animals, activities and establishment, and keeping records,
- ♥ Biosecurity, disease prevention and control at your establishment,
- ♥ Cooperating with the competent authorities on various measures,
- ♥ Surveillance of diseases in your animals,
- ♥ Ensuring that movements of animals do not risk the spread of animal diseases and making sure that the necessary documents follow the movement.



In addition to registration or approval of their establishments, operators have certain record-keeping obligations in relation to the animals or hatching eggs on their establishments. Specific identification requirements apply to:

- ♥ Hatching eggs moved to another Member State, each of which should be marked with the unique approval number of the establishment of origin of the hatching eggs;





- ♥ Captive birds of the Psittacidae family moved to another Member State, which should be individually identified by a leg ring, an injectable transponder or a tattoo.

Additional rules on the registration and approval of establishments of poultry, captive birds or hatching eggs, record-keeping obligations and traceability of hatching eggs and captive birds are stipulated in Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035.

Movement within the EU

The Animal Health Law and Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 contain detailed rules on the movement of poultry, captive birds and hatching eggs within the EU, including:

- ♥ Biosecurity measures that apply during transportation;
- ♥ Animal health requirements (including certain derogations) that apply to each category of poultry, captive birds or hatching eggs when they are moved to another Member State;
- ♥ Detailed rules concerning health certificates, and when those are required.

What about captive birds moved to an exhibition or sporting event in another Member State?

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/688 establishes specific animal health rules for the movement of captive birds to exhibitions, and racing pigeons to sporting events, in other Member States.

Entry into the EU

The movement of poultry, captive birds or hatching eggs into the EU from a non-EU country is dealt with within Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 and in relevant implementing acts, as explained in the factsheet on “Entry into the Union”.

What about animal disease prevention, control and surveillance?

The diseases for which prevention and control rules for birds apply are set out in the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882.

What about when animals get sick?

The legislation sets out detailed rules in the event of an outbreak of a Category A avian disease (Highly pathogenic avian influenza, infection with Newcastle disease virus). These rules set out specific disease control measures concerning:

- ♥ The infected establishment, as well as other establishments within restricted zones;
- ♥ Movements in and out of the restricted zones and certain derogations concerning these;
- ♥ Extension of disease control measures by the competent authority, should this be considered necessary to control the outbreak successfully;
- ♥ Duration of measures;
- ♥ De-population, cleaning and disinfection of infected establishments.





For more information on Animal Health Law

If you are interested in other factsheets, please visit:

https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/animal-health/animal-health-law_en