



> Retouradres Postbus 20401 2500 EK Den Haag

De heer B. Dellaert, Secretaris  
AVINED  
Postbus 750  
3700 AT ZEIST

Datum 27 November 2014  
Betreft Outbreaks of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)

Dear Mr Dellaert,

This letter gives you information on the 4 outbreaks of high pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks of the H5N8 type and the measures taken in the Netherlands. The minimal control measures for avian influenza as described in the European Directive 2005/94 were implemented by the Netherlands accordingly. The most important measure was culling of the infected farms and the establishment of a protection and surveillance zone of 3 and 10 kilometres with additional transport bans and surveillance.

The H5N8 virus originates from Asia. Possibly migrating wild birds introduced the virus in western Europe. It is important to gather knowledge on the origin and introduction route of the virus.

The Netherlands has an intensive poultry sector. During the HPAI H7N7 outbreak in 2003, the two most poultry dense areas in the Netherlands were affected and to control the disease 30 million heads of poultry had to be culled. Based on this experience the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs developed, in cooperation with the poultry sector, HPAI contingency plans that in some cases are more strict than EU legislation requires and that are particularly aimed at protecting these poultry dense areas, as well as other EU member states and trading partners.

Initially, the Dutch Minister for Agriculture implemented a standstill period of 72 hours. During this period no transports of poultry, eggs and poultry manure to and from poultry farms were allowed. This period was meant to get insight in the situation, do the first tracing investigation for the affected farm and meanwhile avoid further spread of the virus. After this standstill period the measures were regionalised to find a balance between risk mitigation and practicability. The Netherlands was consequently divided into four regions. The main goal of the measures within the regions is to prevent contacts between poultry farms. A summary of the measures is:

- The supply of day old chicks on poultry farms is prohibited with the aim to reduce the density of poultry in farms and regions and therewith to reduce the sensitive poultry population;

**Directoraat-generaal Agro**  
Directie Dierlijke Agroketens en  
Dierenwelzijn

**Bezoekadres**  
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73  
2594 AC Den Haag

**Postadres**  
Postbus 20401  
2500 EK Den Haag

**Factuuradres**  
Postbus 16180  
2500 BD Den Haag

**Overheidsidentificatienr**  
00000001003214369000

T 070 379 8911 (algemeen)  
[www.rijksoverheid.nl/ez](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl/ez)

**Behandeld door**  
dr. C.J.M. Bruschke

T 070 379 8903  
F 070 378 6134  
[c.j.m.bruschke@minez.nl](mailto:c.j.m.bruschke@minez.nl)

**Ons kenmerk**  
DGA-DAD / 14195794

**Uw kenmerk**

**Bijlage(n)**

- The transport of live poultry is prohibited in order to minimise contacts. An exception is made for broilers destined for slaughter houses. These transports are allowed after a clinical inspection of the animals by a veterinarian;
- The transport of manure from poultry farms is prohibited;
- Hunting is prohibited to minimise the unnatural migrating of birds.

As said, the measures we took are also to protect our trading partners against the import of HPAI virus from the Netherlands. In addition to the national measures taken, export is therefore only allowed for animals or products for which safety can be guaranteed. This means, for example that export is not allowed from the protection and surveillance zones and that only certain commodities from outside that zone can be exported, due to its nature (one day old chicks) or measures taken (outside zone, 100% inspection on clinical signs before export). Imports from other member states are allowed when respecting the additional preventive national measures.

I hope that the information provided assures our trading partners that The Netherlands have done and will be doing all we can to avoid spread of the detected HPAI-virus.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. C.J.M. Brusckke  
Chief Veterinary Officer