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WTO Notifications

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Report Highlights:

On February 1, 2018, Morocco published its new policy to specifically counter highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This report contains unofficial translations of the current and former policies as well as two press releases issued in 2016 related to measures Morocco was taking in response to outbreaks of HPAI in neighboring countries and outbreaks of low-pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in Morocco. At present, Morocco continues to operate under the short term measures identified to mitigate the impact of LPAI, including the use of vaccination.

General Information

On February 1, 2018, following WTO notification [G/SPS/N/MAR/50](#) on March 3, 2017, Morocco adopted and published its new avian influenza policy, which specifically targets countering highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The new policy repeals Morocco’s 2006 counter measures against avian influenza (AI) at large. This report contains unofficial translations of the current and former policy as well as two press releases issued in 2016 related to measures being taken in response to outbreaks of low-pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) in Morocco and HPAI in neighboring countries. At present, Morocco remains operating under the short term plan discussed in the press release of February 17, 2016, using vaccination as a primary counter-measure to LPAI.

For additional information, see also [Law No. 44-99](#) relating to the sanitary protection of poultry farms, the control of production and the marketing of poultry products, in particular article 20 ([GAIN](#)).

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**Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development, Water and Forests,
[No. 2466-17](#) of 05 Mahram 1439 (September 26, 2017) related to the complementary and special
measures to combat highly pathogenic avian influenza (avian plague)**

(Official Bulletin [No. 6644](#) of February 01, 2018 - Page 403)

Considering the dahir bearing [Law No. 1-75-292](#), of the 5th of Chaoual 1397 (September 19, 1977), introducing measures designed to protect domestic animals from contagious diseases, in particular articles 3, 5, 6 and 7;

Considering [Law No. 44-99](#) relating to the sanitary protection of poultry farms, the control of production and the marketing of poultry products, enacted by the Dahir No. 1-02-119 of the 1st of Rabii II 1423 (June 13, 2002), in particular article 7;

Considering [Law No. 25-08](#) relating to the creation of the National Office of health security of food products, promulgated by the Dahir No. 1-09-20 of 22 Safar 1430 (18 February 2009), in particular its Article 2;

Considering Order [No. 2-04-684](#) of the 14th Delkaada 1425 (December 27, 2004) issued for the application of [Law No. 44-99](#) relating to the sanitary protection of poultry farms, the control of production and the marketing of poultry products, in particular article 20;

After seeking the opinion of the Minister of Economy and Finance,

ORDER:

Chapter I: General Provisions

ARTICLE 1: The declaration of highly pathogenic avian influenza (avian influenza), hereinafter referred to as (HPAI), shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the dahir bearing [Law No. 1-75-292](#) referred to above by the persons veterinary inspectors of poultry slaughterhouses, border posts and laboratories and by private sector veterinarians, when HPAI symptoms are carcass lesions during an autopsy or an experimental diagnosis.

This declaration, which must be filed immediately with the veterinary service of the National Food Safety Authority (ONSSA) of the place where the poultry or captive birds infected or suspected of being infected with HPAI are located, mentions the identity of the owner or manager of the poultry operation or the holder of the said poultry or captive birds and shall provide the information allowing the identification of the said holding and the poultry or captive birds.

ART. 2. - For the purposes of this Order, the following terms mean:

1) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI):

- any infection of poultry or captive birds caused by any "Influenza" virus of poultry origin with an intravenous pathogenicity index greater than 1.2 in 6-week-old chicken;
- any infection of poultry or captive birds caused by influenza A viruses and H5 or H7 subtypes with genomic sequences, coding for multiple basic amino acids at the cleavage site of the hemagglutinin molecule similar to those observed for other HPAI viruses;

2) Poultry: any bird raised or kept in captivity for the purpose of producing meat or eggs for consumption or hatching, for the production of other products, for the restocking of game bird populations or for the purposes of a program breeding for breeding of these categories of birds, including ratites;

3) Captive bird: any bird other than poultry kept in captivity such as pet birds or birds kept for exhibition or competition purposes;

4) Poultry or captive bird suspected of being infected with HPAI virus: any poultry or captive bird with autopsy symptoms or lesions suggestive of the presence of HPAI or any poultry or captive bird on HPAI virus in which the presence of influenza A virus is detected by laboratory tests, in the absence of clinical manifestations of the disease;

5) Poultry or captive bird infected with HPAI:

- any poultry or captive bird on which the presence of HPAI has been confirmed by laboratory tests;
- any poultry or captive bird on which symptoms or lesions specific to HPAI are found in the case of a secondary outbreak;

6) Animal by-products: whole corpses or parts of dead animals, or products of animals, such as hides, feathers, egg shells, blood, waste from the agri-food or cooking industry, not intended for human consumption;

7) Poultry farm: poultry farms within the meaning of the above-mentioned [Law No. 44-99](#) and any construction or, in the case of poultry or captive birds in open air, any place in which they are raised, kept or handled, permanently or temporarily, including a hatchery, a circus, a zoo, a shop, a market, a laboratory or a bird or pet aviary. This definition does not include slaughterhouses or means of transport;

8) Production unit: any part of a poultry holding which is independent of any other part of that holding in respect of its location and usual activities for the management of the poultry or captive birds of the same species that are kept there;

9) Susceptible animal: any animal, including poultry, susceptible to the HPAI virus and developing clinical signs or lesions specific to this disease;

10) Slaughter: any action causing the death of the animal by bleeding for human consumption;

11) Killing: any action, other than slaughter, causing the death of poultry or captive birds.

ART. 3. - For the HPAI, the complementary and special measures referred to in Article 5 of the aforementioned dahir bearing [Law No. 1-75-292](#) include:

- 1) epidemiological surveillance;
- 2) special animal health measures;
- 3) the provisions relating to vaccination.

When implementing the abovementioned measures, it is the responsibility of the owners or managers of the poultry farms to take, under their responsibility, all the necessary measures to assist in carrying out the said measures in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the aforementioned [Law No. 44-99](#).

Chapter II – Epidemiological surveillance of HPAI

ART. 4. - Epidemiological surveillance of HPAI includes:

- 1) regular visits of poultry and captive birds by ONSSA's veterinary services and private veterinarians with sanitary mandates in souks, poultry farms, poultry slaughterhouses, border posts and generally in all gathering places for said poultry or birds;
- 2) epidemiological surveys carried out by ONSSA's veterinary services and private veterinarians with sanitary mandates. Any investigation leads to the drafting, by the concerned veterinarian of a report established according to the model fixed by ONSSA. These reports are recorded and kept by the relevant ONSSA service;
- 3) analyzes of samples taken during visits and epidemiological surveys.

ART. 5. - Analyzes of the samples referred to in articles 4 and 6 of this decree must be carried out in ONSSA's laboratories. They may also be performed in a reference laboratory listed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Chapter III: Special measures of animal health

Section 1: Actions taken in case of suspected HPAI

ART. 6. - On receipt of the declaration referred to in Article 1 above, the relevant veterinary service shall place the poultry farm under health surveillance. Information of this decision is immediately addressed to the regional director of ONSSA, to the private veterinarian designated by the owner or the manager of the poultry exploitation in accordance with article 7 of the aforementioned law n ° 49-99, and to the governor of the province or prefecture in which the poultry operation is located, for the purpose of implementing the following measures:

- 1) the visit of the poultry farm by the ONSSA veterinarian mentioned above to carry out:
 - a) the census of poultry and captive birds, indicating for each species the number of animals suspected of being infected or already dead;
 - b) the examination of susceptible animals in the poultry farm;
 - c) thorough clinical examination of animals suspected of being infected;
 - d) autopsy of dead animals.

During this visit, the veterinarian ensures that the required biosecurity measures are respected;

- 2) the informing of the ONSSA laboratory closest to the place of the poultry farm concerned, to validate the nature of the samples to be taken and the methods of sending them;
- 3) the taking of the necessary samples for the laboratory examinations while ensuring the respect of the biosecurity measures required;
- 4) carrying out an epidemiological survey carried out under the responsibility of the chief veterinary officer of the above-mentioned veterinary service, for the purpose of determining:
 - a) the length of time that HPAI may have been present in the poultry operation before being suspected;
 - b) the possible extent of infection or contamination in susceptible animals other than poultry and captive birds;
 - c) the possible origin of the HPAI virus present in the poultry farm and the determination of other poultry holdings holding animals suspected of being infected or contaminated from that source;

In addition, during this investigation, it must be carried out:

- necessary sampling for a complementary diagnosis;
- recording the entries and exits of this poultry farm, persons, animals (live or dead), vehicles and materials likely to spread the HPAI virus;

- 5) isolation and sequestration of animals from the suspect poultry operation;
- 6) the prohibition of any entry into or exit from poultry and captive birds suspected of being infected, susceptible animals, dead poultry, meat, eggs, foodstuffs from poultry, feedstuffs, animal by-products, waste, bedding and manure, equipment, materials as well as any material likely to spread the HPAI virus. However, the entry of the products necessary for the life of the animals is authorized under cover of a pass issued for this purpose by the above veterinarian of ONSSA;

- 7) Prohibition of movement of non-susceptible HPAI animals from or to the poultry farm. However, these trips may be authorized under cover of a pass issued for this purpose by the above-mentioned ONSSA veterinarian;
- 8) the prohibition of the movement of means of transport from or to the poultry holding, except for the presentation of a permit issued for that purpose by the above-mentioned veterinarian, at the request of the person concerned, and provided that appropriate means of disinfection are used at the entry and exit of the poultry farm, buildings and premises housing the animals;
- 9) the obligation for persons entering or exiting the poultry farm, production units, buildings or premises housing susceptible animals, to observe the required biosecurity measures;
- 10) the destruction on the spot, at the expense of their owner, of the dead animals, under the control of the above-mentioned veterinary service. This destruction must be carried out in accordance with biosecurity rules by landfill or by incineration or by any other method that makes it possible to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus. However, if it is impossible to destroy dead animals on the spot, the above ONSSA veterinarian may authorize, under his responsibility, their removal to another place, in accordance with the biosecurity to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus;
- 11) cleaning and disinfection by the owner or manager of the poultry operation of the place of destruction of dead animals, using a disinfectant authorized in accordance with the regulations in force.

The measures referred to in 5) to 11) above must be notified by the above-mentioned ONSSA veterinary service, by any means showing receipt to the owner or manager of the poultry operation concerned, who must ensure that the application of the said measures in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the above-mentioned [Law No. 44-99](#).

Every pass shall bear the particulars identifying the poultry holding, its owner or manager and, as the case may be, the products necessary for the life of the animals or the animals or means of transport displaced and the place of provenance and of destination. It also indicates the conditions under which movement must be made to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus.

ART. 7. - The measures referred to in Article 6 above may be extended to other poultry farms in the case where their location, their geographical location or contacts with the poultry farm housing the poultry or captive birds suspected of being infected by HPAI allows suspicion of a contamination by this virus. In this case, the ONSSA veterinary service concerned shall inform the governors of the prefectures and provinces in which the said holdings are located for the purpose of implementing the said measures.

ART. 8. - When the presence of HPAI is suspected in a place or establishment other than a poultry farm, the ONSSA's veterinary service within whose jurisdiction the place where the establishment concerned places it immediately under health surveillance and implements, as appropriate, the following measures:

- 1) one or more of the measures provided for in Article 6 above, taking into account the place or establishment concerned and the circumstances;
- 2) isolation and sequestration of poultry or captive birds or eggs;
- 3) the preservation separately of meat and all products, animal by-products and waste derived from such poultry or captive birds that may have been contaminated during the slaughter or production process, under the control of the veterinary service of the ONSSA mentioned above, until the necessary investigations to confirm or refute the presence of HPAI;
- 4) the application, in the place or establishment concerned, of biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus;
- 5) the carrying out of an epidemiological inquiry in the place or establishment concerned and in the poultry farm or birds of origin of the birds, captive birds or eggs, in order to confirm or exclude the presence of disease.

The measures referred to in 1) to 4) above must be notified by the aforementioned ONSSA's veterinary service, by any means showing receipt, to the owner or manager of the place or establishment concerned, which must ensure the application of those measures.

Where the activities of the place or establishment concerned cannot be interrupted for a long time without causing damage, pending the results of the analyzes of the samples, the veterinary service mentioned above may authorize, under certain particular sanitary conditions, the resumption of these activities, at least 24 hours after the execution of cleaning and disinfection operations of buildings, equipment, materials and means of transport.

ART. 9. - The measures referred to in Articles 6 and 8 above are lifted when the suspicion of HPAI is invalidated by the results of analyzes. The notification of this exercise shall be sent to the governors of the prefectures or provinces concerned and to the owners or managers of the poultry farms or to the persons in charge of the places or establishments referred to in Article 6 or in Article 8 above.

Section 2 - Actions taken in case of confirmation of HPAI

ART. 10. - When, in a poultry farm, the presence of HPAI is confirmed, it is placed under the sanitary supervision of the ONSSA veterinary service in the jurisdiction of which the said holding is situated. Information of the decision to put under surveillance is immediately addressed to the regional director of ONSSA and the governor of the prefecture or province in which this operation is located and, if necessary, to the governors of the prefectures and the neighboring provinces, for the purposes of the implementation of the following special animal health measures:

I. the delimitation of a "restricted area" taking into account the geographical, administrative and epidemiological factors related to HPAI and including:

- infected poultry farm known as "outbreak" of HPAI;
- a protection zone around the hearth, with a minimum radius of 3 kilometers;
- a surveillance zone around the hearth, with a minimum radius of 10 kilometers.

The protection and surveillance zones thus demarcated are indicated by signs, posted at their entrance on the access roads to these zones.

II. the application of measures at the outbreak for a period which cannot be less than the incubation period of the HPAI virus according to the susceptible animals considered:

- 1) killing and immediate destruction on the spot of all poultry and captive birds and dead bodies and eggs in the poultry operation and disinfection of the destruction site with a disinfectant authorized in accordance with the regulations in force. However, if it is impossible to destroy the dead animals on the spot, the above-mentioned ONSSA veterinarians may authorize, under his responsibility, their removal to another place within the protection zone, in compliance with biosecurity measures to avoid any risk of spreading the HPAI virus. Any killing or destruction of poultry or captive birds or eggs shall be the subject of a report drawn up, at the end of the operations, by the ONSSA veterinarian in the jurisdiction which is the place of killing and / or destruction. This record shall include the identification of the poultry farm, the number of poultry, captive birds or eggs and the date and reason for their killing or destruction;
- 2) prohibition of movement of susceptible animals from or to the home;
- 3) the prohibition of the movement of vehicles from or to the home, unless a permit issued for that purpose has been issued by the veterinary surgeon at the request of the person concerned and provided that appropriate means of disinfection be used at the entrance and exit of the home and buildings and premises housing susceptible animals;
- 4) the obligation for persons entering and leaving the poultry farm or buildings and premises housing susceptible animals to observe biosecurity measures to avoid any risk of spreading the HPAI virus;

- 5) destruction on the spot of poultry meat slaughtered during the incubation period of the disease. However, where it is impossible to destroy on the spot the poultry meat, the veterinarian of the above-mentioned veterinary service may authorize, under his responsibility, their movement to another place within the protection zone, in compliance with biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus
- 6) the destruction by their owner and under the supervision of the ONSSA veterinary service in whose jurisdiction they are:
- a) hatching eggs taken out of the poultry holding during the incubation period of the disease;
 - b) eggs for consumption removed from the poultry farm and ceded during the incubation period of the disease;
 - c) feed produced on the poultry holding and ceded during the incubation period of the disease.

However, where it is impossible to destroy, on the spot, the eggs for hatching, the eggs for consumption or the feedstuffs referred to above, the veterinarian of the above-mentioned service may authorize, under his responsibility, their removal in another for destruction, in compliance with biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus. Any destruction of the eggs must be the subject of a report drawn up, at the end of this destruction, by the veterinarian of the ONSSA veterinary service in whose jurisdiction the place of destruction is located. The record must include the identification of the poultry farm, the number of eggs and the date and reason for their destruction;

- 7) cleaning and disinfection, under the supervision of the above-mentioned veterinary service, of buildings, premises and their surroundings used for the accommodation of susceptible animals, vehicles used for transport, all other buildings and any material likely to be contaminated, using a disinfectant authorized in accordance with the regulations in force. Buildings used for housing people or office spaces that may be contaminated with the HPAI virus must also be disinfected.

At the end of this disinfection, a certificate must be issued to the owner or manager of the poultry farm by the veterinarian of the aforementioned veterinary service;

- 8) the destruction, on the spot, by their owner, of the material used for the needs of the breeding and for which the disinfection cannot be carried out in an efficient way, such as the transport cages or the cells for the eggs. However, if it is impossible to destroy, on the spot, this equipment, the veterinarian of the aforementioned service, may authorize, under his responsibility, his removal to another place inside the protection zone, in the respect biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the HPAI virus;
- 9) On-site destruction or treatment, as the case may be, of any material that may be contaminated by the HPAI virus.

The measures referred to above must be notified by the above-mentioned veterinary service by any means showing receipt to the owner or manager of the poultry farm, which must ensure the application of those measures, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of the aforementioned [Law No. 44-99](#).

The above-mentioned veterinary surgeon of the ONSSA, issues to the owner or manager of the poultry operation who has complied with the animal health measures referred to above, a "certificate of compliance with the animal health measures".

III. implementation in the protection zone of the following measures:

- 1) a census of all poultry holdings of poultry or captive birds, and establishments and enterprises at risk such as poultry slaughterhouses or border posts;
- 2) the veterinary control of the above-mentioned poultry farms, involving clinical examination and sampling of susceptible animals, in compliance with biosecurity measures to avoid any risk of spreading the HPAI virus;
- 3) the prohibition of movements of susceptible animals and their transport between poultry farms. However, the transport of susceptible animals may be authorized by the ONSSA veterinary service veterinarian within the jurisdiction of which the protection zone is located, when:

- the clinical examination of the animals and the epidemiological situation in the poultry farm makes it possible not to suspect infection or contamination by the HPAI virus;
- the transport is carried out directly and under the control of the above-mentioned veterinarian from the poultry farm to an approved or regularly monitored slaughterhouse on the sanitary plan situated inside the protection zone or, if necessary, the surveillance zone. In cases where there is no approved or regularly monitored abattoirs on the sanitary plan in these two zones, the transport of susceptible animals for slaughter may be authorized by the above-mentioned veterinary service veterinarian to any other approved or regularly monitored slaughterhouse on the nearest sanitary plan;
- the transport of susceptible animals is carried out by taking the major roads or railways;
- the means of transport used are cleaned and disinfected, before and after each transport operation, using a disinfectant authorized in accordance with the regulations in force;

- 4) the prohibition of gatherings of poultry or captive birds;
- 5) the prohibition of entry into and exit from the protection zone, susceptible animals, poultry and captive birds, eggs and food intended for them as well as droppings, litter and manure from poultry or other birds, corpses or any other by-products derived from poultry or birds. However, the entry of products necessary for the life of the animals is authorized under cover of a pass issued by the veterinary veterinarian mentioned above;
- 6) the prohibition of entry or exit of the non-susceptible animal protection zone. However, the above-mentioned head of the veterinary service may authorize such movements under cover of a pass established for that purpose at the request of the owner or manager of the said animals. This pass shall bear the particulars identifying the owner or manager, the poultry operation of provenance, the animals moved and the place of destination. It indicates the conditions under which movement must be made to avoid the spread of the HPAI virus;
- 7) the isolation and maintenance of poultry and captive birds so that they have no contact with any other poultry, captive bird or wild bird;
- 8) the prohibition on the removal or spreading of droppings, litter, and manure of poultry or other birds;
- 9) the obligation for any person entering or leaving a poultry operation to observe appropriate biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of HPAI;
- 10) the installation of disinfection systems for people and vehicles at all exit points of the protection zone;
- 11) the prohibition of release of poultry or captive birds.

The measures referred to in (3), (4), (5), (6), (9) and (10) above shall not apply to the transit of poultry, captive birds or other animals by road or rail without unloading or stopping in the protection zone.

IV. the implementation in the surveillance zone of the following measures:

- 1) a census of all poultry holdings of susceptible animals and all animals present on these holdings, as well as establishments and undertakings at risk such as slaughterhouses and border posts;
- 2) Prohibition of movement of susceptible animals and their transport between poultry farms. However, the transport of susceptible animals may be authorized by the ONSSA veterinary service veterinarian within the jurisdiction of which the surveillance zone is located, when:
 - the clinical examination of the animals as well as the epidemiological situation in the poultry farm makes it possible not to suspect infection or contamination by the HPAI virus;

- the transport is carried out directly and under the control of the veterinarian from the poultry farm to an approved or regularly monitored slaughterhouse on the sanitary plan located inside the surveillance zone, or if necessary, the protection zone. In the case where there are no slaughterhouses in these two zones, the transport of susceptible animals for slaughter may be authorized by the aforementioned ONSSA veterinary service veterinarian to an approved slaughterhouse or regularly monitored on the closest sanitary plan;
- animals are transported by major road or rail;
- the means of transport used are cleaned and disinfected, before and after each transport operation, using a disinfectant authorized in accordance with the regulations in force;

3) prohibition of gatherings of poultry or captive birds;

4) Entry and exit of domestic mammals from poultry farms holding poultry or captive birds must comply with biosecurity measures to prevent any risk of HPAI virus spread.

The measures provided for in I, II, III and IV above may be extended to other poultry farms situated outside the regulated zone, in the case where their establishment, their geographical situation or the contacts with the household of the HPAI, allow the suspicion of contamination by this virus. These farms are called "secondary homes". In this case, the ONSSA veterinary services in the jurisdiction of which the secondary outbreaks are located shall inform the governors of the prefectures and provinces concerned for the purpose of implementing the said measures.

ART. 11. - The measures provided for in article 10 above are lifted, at minimum, on the thirtieth (30th) day, following the date of the end of the cleaning and disinfection of the place of slaughter and destruction of the last infected animal or contaminated. The notification of this lifting shall be sent to the governors of the prefectures and provinces referred to in Article 10 and to the owners or managers of the poultry farms concerned.

ART. 12. - When the presence of HPAI is confirmed in a place or establishment other than a poultry farm, the veterinarian of the ONSSA veterinary service in whose jurisdiction the said place or establishment is situated, shall ensure the implementation of one or more of the measures provided for in Article 10 (II) above taking into account the specificities of the place or establishment and the constraints related to their activity.

After the application of these measures, no animal may be introduced into the premises or establishments indicated above, before the expiry of a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the cleaning operations and of disinfection carried out.

Chapter IV: Provisions relating to vaccination

ART. 13. - Following the confirmation of the presence of HPAI and the conclusions of an epidemiological survey to assess the risk of spread of the disease carried out by ONSSA's veterinary services for one or more regions, or because of the risk of introduction of HPAI virus into national territory, vaccination of poultry and captive birds may be recommended by the Director General of ONSSA, which determines the territorial extent and the period during which it must be carried out.

This vaccination must be done by ONSSA's veterinary services or by private veterinarians with the health mandate exclusively with vaccines authorized by the ONSSA's Director General.

HPAI vaccination operations are recorded on the breeding register of the poultry farm concerned, specifying the type of vaccine used, the trade name and number of the manufacturing batch, the date of vaccination, and the number, species and age of the poultry or captive birds vaccinated.

In the case of transfer of poultry, day-old chicks, captive birds or their eggs, the information relating to that vaccination must be made known to the recipients of those animals or eggs.

Chapter V: Provisions relating to compensation

ART. 14. - The indemnities provided for in article 7 of the above mentioned [Law No. 1-75-292](#) are granted only to the owners of the poultry killed and destroyed and to the owners of the eggs destroyed in accordance with the provisions of this decree.

The amount of the indemnities is fixed in accordance with the provisions of the annex to this decree.

This allowance is charged to ONSSA's budget.

ART. 15. - In order to allow the owners referred to in Article 14 above to benefit from the indemnities provided for in this Article, a report must be drawn up on the categorization and estimation of the poultry and / or or eggs, by a commission consisting of:

- 1) an expert appointed by the owner of the poultry or eggs and preferably chosen from among the members of a poultry farmers' association;
- 2) a veterinarian of the ONSSA veterinary service of the place within whose jurisdiction the killing or destruction of the poultry and / or eggs was carried out.

ART. 16. - The report of categorization and estimation provided for in Article 15 above must mention the identity of the owner of the poultry and / or eggs concerned and include the indications relating to the poultry exploitation and the category in which the poultry and / or eggs are classified, their number and their estimated value. This report is drawn up in one original and as many copies as necessary.

ART. 17. - The claim for compensation made on the form issued for that purpose by the ONSSA's veterinary service at the poultry farm concerned must be submitted by the owner or his representative to the said service. This request must be dated and signed by the owner.

The compensation file includes, in addition to the above-mentioned request, the following documents:

- an identification sheet of the owner of the poultry and / or eggs and the poultry farm, accompanied, where appropriate, by a copy of the authorization of that holding issued in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned and still valid [Law No. 44-99](#);
- the original of the categorization and estimation report provided for in Article 16 above;
- the original report of killing and destruction of poultry or captive birds and / or destruction of eggs provided for in Article 10 above;
- the certificate of disinfection and the attestation of compliance with the animal health measures provided for in II of Article 10 above.

In view of the above-mentioned documents, the Director General of ONSSA or the person delegated by him for this purpose, draws up a compensation decision.

ART. 18. - The Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Maritime Fisheries [No. 1044-06](#) of 12 Rabii II 1427 (10 May 2006) on complementary and special measures to combat avian influenza , as amended, is repealed.

ART. 19. - This decree will be published in the Official Bulletin.

Rabat, Mahram 5, 1439 (September 26, 2017).
The Minister of Agriculture, maritime fishing, Rural Development and Water and Forests,
Aziz AKHANNOUCH

ANNEX

Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Maritime Fisheries, Rural Development and Waters and Forests No. 2466-17 of 5 moharrem 1439 (September 26, 2017) on complementary and special measures to combat influenza highly pathogenic avian (avian plague).

Amount of compensation awarded by species, type of production and age (in dirhams)

(Article 14)

Breeders, Gallus (male and female), broiler-type:

1-8 weeks	30
9-16 weeks	43
17-25 weeks	59
26-40 weeks	77
41-50 weeks	62
> 50 weeks	40

Breeders, Gallus (male and female), layer-type

1-8 weeks	48
9-16 weeks	61
17-25 weeks	74
26-40 weeks	81
41-50 weeks	52
> 50 weeks	27

Breeders, Turkey (male or female):

1-8 weeks	152
9-16 weeks	211
17-25 weeks	281
26-40 weeks	325
41-50 weeks	192
> 50 weeks	108

Layers:

1-8 weeks	10
9-16 weeks	22
17-25 weeks	33
26-40 weeks	30
41-50 weeks	25
> 50 weeks	18

Broilers:

0-2 weeks	8
2-4 weeks	8
> 4 weeks	13

Turkeys (meat):

0-6 weeks	17
7-12 weeks	40
> 12 weeks	82

Ostriches (male and female):

Ostriches, chicks <3months	600
Ostriches, chicks > 3months	1500
Ostriches, adults	5000

Poultry for gavage feeding:

<1 month	25
1-2 months	50
> 2 months	100

Chicken (non-industrial)

<1 month	4
1-3 months	15
> 3 months	30

Turkey-goose-duck-guinea fowl:

<2 months	8
2-5 months	30
> 5 months	60

Other poultry or captive birds:

	10
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Hatching eggs:

Breeders, Gallus, meat-type	0.9
Breeders, Gallus, layer-type	1
Breeders, Turkey	3.9

Eggs for consumption:

	0.3
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Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development, and Maritime Fisheries, [No. 1044-06](#) of 12 Rabii II 1427 (May 10, 2006) related to the complementary and special measures to combat avian influenza

([Official Bulletin No. 5430](#) of June 15, 2006 - Page 963)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND MARITIME FISHERIES

Considering the dahir bearing [Law No. 1-75-292](#) of 5 chaoual 1397 (19 September 1977) introducing measures designed to protect domestic animals against contagious diseases, such that it has been amended and supplemented, in particular articles 5 and 7;

After the opinion of the Minister of Finance and Privatization,

ORDER:

Article 1: This order establishes additional and special measures to fight against avian influenza in poultry, a disease called avian plague in the dahir bearing [Law No. 1-75-292](#) referred to above.

Article 2: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 05, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) - For the purposes of this decree, we mean by:

a - Avian Influenza:

- Any infection of poultry caused by any Influenza type-A virus with an intravenous pathogenicity index greater than 1.2 in chickens of 4 weeks age, or resulting a mortality of at least 75% in chickens of 4 to 8 weeks age infected intravenously;
- Or any infection caused by influenza type-A and all types of H5 or H7.

b - Poultry suspected to be infected with avian influenza: Any poultry showing symptoms and / or lesions at autopsy, which might be suspected to have avian influenza or any poultry on which the presence of influenza a virus has been revealed by laboratory tests.

c- Poultry infected with avian influenza: Any poultry on which the presence of avian influenza has been officially confirmed as a result of a fault finding procedure carried out by the ONSSA laboratory or by any other laboratory designated to that effect by the direction of the ONSSA, or

- Any poultry on which, in the case of a secondary or subsequent outbreak, symptoms or injuries of avian influenza have been noted at the autopsy.

d - Poultry suspected to be infected with avian influenza: Any poultry that has been in direct or indirect contact with any viral strain, type A avian influenza.

CHAPTER I:
THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN CASE OF SUSPICION OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN POULTRY

Article 3: Without prejudice to the provisions of the dahir bearing [Law No. 1-75-292](#) referred to above, when a holding used for the breeding or the detention of breeding poultry or annuity, poultry suspected to be infected with avian influenza, the head of the veterinary service of ONSSA shall immediately propose, to the local authorities, the establishment and application of the following:

- a-** All poultry, whatever the species, will be isolated, sequestered, visited and identified;
- b-** The necessary samples for diagnosis shall be carried out according to the instructions of the ONSSA;
- c-** Any movement of poultry to or from this facility is prohibited;
- d-** The entry and exit of this farm are prohibited to any animal (dead or alive), object, product, commodity, except with the written permission of the head of the local veterinary service ONSSA in which stating the measures to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease;
- e-** The outflow of eggs from the farm is prohibited;
- f-** More generally, any appropriate measure aimed at stopping the spread of the disease, in particular the disinfection of the entrances and exits of these installations, the restriction of movements, or gathering of animals;
- g-** Carrying out an epidemiological inquiry provided in article 10 below.

Article 4: Pending the implementation of the measures of Article 3 above, the owner or keeper of any poultry farm suspected of the disease shall take all necessary measures to comply with Article 3 except for points (b) and (g).

CHAPTER II:
THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN CASE OF SUSPICION OF CONTAMINATION OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN POULTRY

Article 5: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374)
- When the head of the concerned local veterinary service of ONSSA, has reason to suspect that the poultry of a holding may have been contaminated as a result of movement of persons or in any other way, that holding is under official veterinary control, so that any suspected influenza can be detected immediately.

Article 6: The measures in Article 3 may be applied, in whole or in part to other holdings where their location, topography or contacts with the farm where the infection is suspected suggests a possible contamination.

Article 7: The measures in Article 9 below might be applied, in whole or in part, to other holdings where their location, topography or contacts with the holding where the infection is confirmed predict a possible contamination.

CHAPTER III:
THE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN CASE OF CONFIRMATION OF AVIAN INFLUENZA IN POULTRY

Article 8: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374)
When avian influenza poultry infection is confirmed, the head of the local veterinary service of ONSSA proposes to the local authorities a Gubernatorial Decree on the declaration of infection of the said farm. This decree defines, taking into account

the geographical, ecological and epidemiological factors related to the disease, a prohibited perimeter, successively comprising.

- The infected farm;
- The protection zone with a minimum radius of 3 km (around the infected farm);
- The surveillance zone with a minimum radius of 10 km (around the infected farm).

Article 9: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374)

In addition to the measures set out in Article 3 above, the owner of the infected holding must, under the supervision of the chief veterinarian of the local veterinary service of ONSSA, take the following measures:

- a-** An immediate and *in situ* killing of all poultry on the holding and the destruction of dead or killed poultry and eggs of the holding;
- b-** The destruction or appropriate treatment of any material that may be contaminated.
- c-** The cleaning and disinfection, after completion of the operations referred to in points a- and b-, of the premises and of all equipment likely to be contaminated.

In addition to these measures, the veterinary service concerned undertakes research, as far as possible, and destruction:

- Poultry meat from the holding and slaughtered during the presumed incubation period of the disease;
- Hatching eggs, taken out of the holding and laid during the presumed incubation period of the disease; in the case of poultry already coming from these eggs, they must be placed under official surveillance;
- Eggs for consumption, taken out of the holding, and laid during the presumed incubation period of the disease.

Article 10: The epidemiological inquiry provided in Article 3 (g) of this decree must provide information on:

- The length of time during which the avian influenza may have existed on the holding;
- The possible origin of the disease in the holding and the identification of the sites that could be infected or contaminated from the same source;
- Movements of persons, poultry or other animals and any material (including rolling material) or any material that may have carried the disease virus from or to the concerned holdings.

Article 11: The measures applied in the protection zone are:

- The identification of all farm holding poultry within the zone;
- Periodic visits to all farms holding poultry;
- The isolation of poultry in their local accommodations;
- The use of appropriate means of disinfection in the inputs and outputs of the farms;
- Control the movements of persons handling poultry and any material or material that may carry the virus within the zone;
- The prohibition of the release of poultry and hatching eggs from the holding where they are located, except by special and reasoned derogation from the head of the local veterinary service of ONSSA;
- The prohibition of the outflow of eggs for consumption from the farm where they are located;
- The prohibition to remove or to spread manure, litter and manure from poultry without the authorization of the concerned veterinary services;
- The prohibition of fairs, markets, exhibitions and other gatherings of poultry or birds.

Article 12: The termination of measures in the protection zone takes place at earliest 21 days after the execution of the preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations in the last infected holding in the said zone, which is included in the surveillance zone.

Article 13: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) The measures applied in the surveillance zone are:

- a-** The identification of all farms holding poultry within the zone;
- b-** Control of movements of poultry and hatching eggs within the zone;
- c-** The prohibition of poultry movement out of the zone for the first 15 days, except for direct transport to a slaughterhouse outside the surveillance zone and designated by the head of the local veterinary service of ONSSA;
- d-** The prohibition of hatching egg movement outside the zone, except to hatcheries designated by the head of the local veterinary service of ONSSA. Eggs for consumption and their packaging must be disinfected;
- e-** The prohibition of the removal or spreading of droppings, litter and poultry manure outside the zone without authorization from the veterinary services;
- f-** Prohibition to hold fairs, markets, exhibitions and other gatherings of poultry or birds.

Article 14: The termination of measures in the surveillance zone shall take place not earlier than 30 days after the completion of preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations in the last infected holding.

Article 15: In accordance with Article 7 of the dahir bearing [Law No. 1-75-292](#) referred above, compensation will be granted to breeders whose animals have been killed and / or eggs (hatching or consumption) have been destroyed, in accordance with the provisions of article 9 of this decree.

Article 16: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) - For the purpose of determining compensation envisaged with article 15 above, the Director General of the ONSSA designates a commission composed of:

- A veterinary surgeon of the veterinary service of ONSSA, chairperson;
- A representative of the breeder designated by the professional association in which the breeder is a member; and
- A representative of the local authorities, designated by the local authority concerned, member.

Article 17: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) The commission provided in article 16 above will proceed, on the date of killing the infected, suspect or contaminated animals and / or the destruction of the eggs, draw up a report of categorization of poultry and / or eggs, this will take into consideration the type of production, the number and age of the poultry concerned and the quality of the eggs proposed for destruction. This categorization will allow the Commission to proceed, based on the scales set out in the annex to this Order, to estimate the amount of compensation provided in article 15 above.
This allowance is charged to the budget of ONSSA.

Article 18: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) At the end of the operations of killing and / or destruction eggs, a claim file consisting of the following documents must be drawn up by the veterinary services concerned:

- A report of categorization of poultry and / or eggs;
- A report of the operation of killing the poultry and / or destruction the eggs;
- A certificate of disinfection of the premises and equipment referred to c- of article 9 above issued by the head of the local veterinary service of ONSSA;
- A compensation decision issued by the Director General of ONSSA.

CHAPTER IV: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 19: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) Owners, holders, transporters or traders of poultry or eggs shall, at the request of the head of the local veterinary service of ONSSA, provide information about the movements of these products, by indicating their origin and destination.

Article 20: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) Cleaning and disinfection operations are carried out in the presence of a veterinarian from the local veterinary service of ONSSA, using exclusively products previously authorized in accordance with the regulations in force for the destruction of avian influenza.

Article 21: (Modified by Order No. 2991-10 of November 5, 2010 – [Official Bulletin No. 5932](#) of April 7, 2011, page 374) Vaccination against avian influenza is prohibited except in special circumstances, with the authorization of the Director General of ONSSA, which specifies the procedures and rules of it.

Article 22: The Director of Livestock is responsible for the application of this Order, which is published in the Official Bulletin.

<p>Rabat, Rabii II 12, 1427 (May 10, 2006). The Minister of Agriculture, maritime fishing, Rural Development and Water and Forests, Aziz AKHANNOUCH</p>
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Amount of compensation by type of production (in dirhams)

I - Egg layers for consumption

Age (in weeks)	Amount
1-8	8
9-16	17
17-25	25
26-40	23
41-50	19
>50	14

II - Broiler

Age (in weeks)	Amount
<4	6
>4	10

III - Turkey (meat)

Age (in weeks)	Amount
1-6	13
7-12	31
>12	63

IV – Breeders, Broiler-type

Age (in weeks)	Amount
1-8	23
9-16	33
17-25	45
26-40	59
41-50	48
>50	31

V – Breeders, Layer-type

Age (in weeks)	Amount
1-8	37
9-16	47
17-25	57
26-40	62
41-50	40
>50	21

VI – Breeders, Turkey

Age (in weeks)	Amount
1-8	117
9-16	162
17-25	216
26-40	250
41-50	148
>50	83

VII- Hatching eggs

a- breeders, broiler-type	0.7
b- breeders, layer-type	0.8
c- breeders, turkey	3

VIII- Eggs for Consumption

0.25

IX- Ostriches

Ostriches, chicks <3 months	600
Ostriches, chicks >3 months	1500
Ostriches, adults	5000

X- Poultry for gavage feeding (e.g., foie gras)

< 1 month	25
1-2 months	50
>2 months	100

XI- Beldi chicken

< 1 month	4
1-2 months	15
>2 months	30

XII- Turkey-goose-duck-guinea fowl (beldi)

< 1 month	8
1-2 months	30
>2 months	60

XIII- Other poultry

10

**Poultry farming: Several measures are taken to limit the effects
of low pathogenic avian influenza on poultry farms.**

In the context of the health surveillance of national poultry flocks provided by the National Office for Sanitary Safety of Food Products, the clinical and / or laboratory investigations carried out in nearly 800 poultry farms located in different regions of the country confirmed the presence, for the first time, low pathogenic avian influenza virus (LPAI) of subtype H9N2 at 30 poultry units. This virus is known for its low virulence and exists in several countries in North Africa, the Middle East, Asia and some European countries.

Infection with this virus results in low mortality, decreased immunity and reduced production performance in poultry (egg drop, weight loss); this explains the upward trend in egg and broiler prices observed in recent days in the domestic market. To cope with this situation, a plan of fight was developed by ONSSA in consultation with the Inter-professional Federation of the Poultry Sector (FISA) and the experts of the sector.

This plan aims **in the short term** to limit the impact of the disease in order to reduce mortality and performance declines, by:

- The generalization of preventive vaccination for all poultry farms (including broilers) against the H9N2 virus. In this context, the necessary authorizations have been given to the veterinary pharmaceutical establishments for proceeding with the importation of the vaccine, which will be available from next week.
- Strengthening the biosecurity and hygiene measures at the level of poultry farms, including means of transporting poultry, in collaboration with local authorities and the Royal Gendarmerie.
- The establishment of an epidemiological surveillance system to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the health program put in place.

In the medium term, the plan aims to control the risk factors that are causing the spread of this disease in several regions of the country, including:

- The reorganization of the marketing procedures for live poultry, which must ultimately be sent to approved slaughterhouses to undergo the veterinary health inspection;
- The strengthening of the health supervision of poultry units.

Moreover, ONSSA reaffirms that the consumption of poultry meat, eggs for consumption and any food product made from poultry meat, does not present any risk to human health.

ONSSA is a public institution, under the supervision of the Ministry of Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, created by the [law no. 25-08](#) and endowed with moral personality and financial autonomy, he exercises on behalf of the State relating to the protection of the health of the consumer and the preservation of the health of animals and plants.
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Press release n° 24/2016

Rabat, November 22, 2016

The health status of the poultry flock is satisfactory and preventive measures are taken within the framework of the national health surveillance program.

As part of the health surveillance of the national poultry flock provided by the National Office for Sanitary Safety of Food Products (ONSSA), and following the declaration of the [World Organization for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#) of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Algeria of H7N1 subtype and cases of H5N8 disease in some European countries, this Office has taken immediately a set of preventive measures to prevent the introduction of this disease in Morocco.

These measures are part of the health surveillance program for poultry at the national level and at the borders and aim to protect the national flock from any risk that may threaten its health security. This surveillance is carried out throughout the national territory and along the borders by ONSSA's veterinary services, in close collaboration with the services concerned (Customs, Royal Gendarmerie, Local Authorities, etc.), veterinarians from the private sector and the Interprofessional Federation of the Poultry Sector (FISA).

In this context, this Office has undertaken in coordination with the **Central Command Post for the fight against avian flu** the following preventive measures:

- Strengthening the health surveillance at the national level, particularly at the eastern borders, to quickly detect any suspicion of the disease and take the necessary measures immediately;
- Strengthening the monitoring of the health status of migratory birds at wetland sites, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Waters and Forests and the fight against desertification;
- Strengthening the border control by the services concerned (Customs, Royal Gendarmerie, etc.) and prohibition of entry of all birds, their products or any poultry equipment;
- Strengthening of biosecurity and hygiene measures at the level of poultry farms by professionals of the sector;
- Strengthening the control of means of transport of poultry by the services concerned (Royal Gendarmerie, ...) and prohibition of use of wooden crates in accordance with the regulations in force;
- Mobilization of ONSSA regional laboratories to carry out rapid diagnosis of the disease;
- Continuous monitoring of the situation of the HPAI at regional and international level.

ONSSA reassures the public that the sanitary condition of the poultry population is normal, and that the consumption of poultry meat, table eggs and any poultry meat product, which has undergone veterinary control, does not present any risk to human health.

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