

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: The Philippines Issues Guidelines for Avian Influenza
Vaccination

Country: Philippines

Post: Manila

Report Category: Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

The Philippine Department of Agriculture released "Guidelines on Targeted Vaccination as a Complementary Tool for the Control of Avian Influenza (AI)" on November 3, 2023. While this new policy provides procedures on the use of vaccines in domestic poultry to prevent the spread of bird flu, the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not issued Certificates of Product Registration or special import permits for any AI vaccines. The FDA is the regulatory agency mandated to oversee the importation of all vaccines.

On November 3, 2023, the Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) issued Memorandum Circular No. 49 (see attached) or “Guidelines on Targeted Vaccination as a Complementary Tool for the Control of Avian Influenza (AI) in the Philippines.” While this new policy provides procedures on the use of vaccines in domestic poultry to prevent the spread of bird flu, the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not issued Certificates of Product Registration or special import permits for any AI vaccines. The FDA is the regulatory agency mandated to oversee the importation of vaccines, including veterinary vaccines.

According to the DA, the vaccination program aims to complement the existing preventive and control measures of the Philippine government with the goal of reducing the risk of further spread of the virus from affected areas and consequently its eventual eradication. The program is also expected to preempt potential bird flu outbreaks in highly vulnerable areas to prevent significant economic losses and reduce human exposure risk to various AI viruses with zoonotic potential.

Currently, the DA permits the use of inactivated, vectored, and combination vaccines for the control of AI. Under the guidelines, the use of the bird flu vaccines is not mandatory and left to the discretion of poultry raisers. The agriculture department has identified priority groups for the use of AI vaccines depending on their risk to the virus. The department also determined two types of vaccination: 1) protective emergency vaccination for areas with significant highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) cases; and 2) the preventive vaccination for areas that face significant risk of HPAI outbreak.

Under the guidelines, only the following avian types are eligible for vaccination: commercial layer chicken, layer breeder, broiler breeder, colored/free-range breeder, grandparent broiler breeder, small-hold layer/native chicken, duck, game fowl, turkey, and goose. The following are ineligible to be vaccinated: commercial broiler chicken, small-hold broiler, quail, pigeon, and exotic birds.

The DA guidelines stipulates distribution and monitoring rules on the use of AI vaccines. Vaccine companies are required to provide an inventory list and distribution list of their vaccines.

Attachments:

[mc49_s2023.pdf](#)