OIE international standards for Avian Influenza: Current state and future challenges

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AVIAN INFLUENZA: A GLOBAL THREAT
ROME, 4 OCTOBER 2017
Agenda

- Overview of OIE international standards
- Acknowledging the current challenges
- OIE Commitments
OIE Standards for Avian Influenza

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

- **Volume 1: General Provisions (Horizontal):**
  - Chapter 1.1: Notifications
  - Chapter 1.4: Surveillance
  - Chapter 1.6: Self-declaration
  - Chapter 4.3: Zoning and Compartmentalisation
  - Section 5: Trade Measures, Import/Export Procedures and Certification

- **Volume 2: Recommendations applicable to listed diseases**
  - Chapter 10.4: Infection with avian influenza viruses
OIE Standards for Avian Influenza

Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals

- **Part 1: General Standards (Horizontal)**
  - Chapter 1.1.1: Management of Diagnostic Laboratories
  - Chapter 1.1.2: Collection, submission and storage of samples
  - Chapter 1.1.4: Biosafety and Biosecurity
  - Chapter 1.1.6: Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays

- **Part 2: OIE Listed Diseases**
  - Chapter 2.3.4: Avian Influenza
    - Diagnostic assays; Vaccines
Fundamentals – the OIE definitions

Chapter 1.3: Diseases listed by the OIE

- Infection with avian influenza viruses
- Infection with influenza A viruses of high pathogenicity in birds other than poultry including wild birds (2016)

Chapter 10.4: Definition of avian influenza

- An infection of poultry caused by any influenza A virus
  - H5 or H7 subtypes or
  - IVPI greater than 1.2 (or as an alternative at least 75% mortality)
- Further categorised as high pathogenicity or low pathogenicity (same basis)

Chapter 10.4: Definition of poultry

- means all domesticated birds used for production, restocking supplies of game, or breeding, including backyard poultry and fighting cocks
- Birds kept in captivity for any other reason, including, races, exhibitions, competitions or as pet birds, are not considered to be poultry
Requirements to demonstrate country, zone, compartment and establishment freedom

- High pathogenic avian influenza
- Avian influenza

Commodity-based trade

- Live birds
- Hatching eggs
- Semen
- Eggs and egg products for human consumption
- Meat and meat products
- Feathers and feather products
- Inactivation

Vaccinated Populations
TAHC Chapter 10.4: Summary overview

Infection with Avian Influenza Viruses

- Surveillance system expectations
  - Early warning system throughout production, marketing and processing chain
  - Frequent and regular clinical inspection, and serological and virological testing of high-risk populations
    - Adjacent to infected countries or zones
    - Places where poultry and birds of different origins are mixed e.g. live bird markets
    - Poultry in close proximity to waterfowl or other potential sources of Influenza A
  - Follow-up and investigation of suspect cases
  - Procedures for rapid collection and transport of samples to laboratory for diagnosis
  - System for recording, managing and analysing diagnostic and surveillance data

- Surveillance in vaccinated populations
- Surveillance to document freedom or regain freedom
- Use and interpretation of diagnostic tests
OIE Global Situation Report for Avian Influenza
The Challenges

- The current epidemiological situation is the new normal
  - Annual spread events associated with wild bird reservoirs exposing poultry
  - Complexity associated with outbreak strains and outbreak status
  - 25% of all Immediate Notifications through WAHIS are AI related
  - Members re-evaluation of prevention and control approaches, particularly the use of vaccination

- Risk management settings of the OIE standards may need adjusting
  - Understanding zoonotic risk and mutation risk to high pathogenicity
  - Further clarification of vaccination in relation to surveillance requirements, disease control approaches and commodity trade

- Poor uptake of risk management provisions supported by OIE standards
  - Compartmentalisation to secure genetics supply chain

- Trade-based reactions that do not follow OIE standards
  - Lack of recognition of zoning
  - Trade reaction to notifications in wild birds
Adjusting to the new normal: strategic challenges

- Understanding the global epidemiology of influenza A creates a global threat that requires a global response
  - Cooperation in surveillance, early warning and research to improve our understanding
  - Intersectoral and interdisciplinary One Health approach
  - Comprehensive emergency management frameworks focused across Reduction, Readiness, Response, Recovery

- Balancing a rational approach to public and animal health risk management with other strategic objectives
  - Commitment to multi-lateral standards development processes and harmonisation
  - Driving biosecure approaches within industry supply chains to protect food security

- Veterinary Services capacity challenges
Lancashire, UK: Avian Influenza H7N7 outbreak 2015


Responding to the challenges – OIE tools already available

Checklist on the Practical Application of Compartimentalisation for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease


Compartments for protection against avian influenza and Newcastle disease in poultry breeding companies in Great Britain

Summary of rules for a poultry breeding compartment in Great Britain
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
May 2012
Self-declaration of freedom following outbreaks

Chapter 1.6: Self-declaration

Self-declaration of a compartment, as is the case for a country or zone, is made under the full responsibility of the Member Country concerned. The OIE is not responsible for inaccuracies in self-declarations concerning a compartment, for the absence of information allowing for verification that the compartment meets the OIE standards, nor for the maintenance of the status of the compartment. In addition, the OIE does not take responsibility for the content of publications or websites at the quoted URL link, which could be updated or modified at any time without the OIE's knowledge. This is the full responsibility of the concerned Member Country and all enquiries should be directed to the contact provided by the Member Country.

Checklist on the Practical Application of Compartmentalisation for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease

List of self-declarations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Self-declared freedom from</th>
<th>Country/ zone / compartment</th>
<th>Status (Link to WAHIS)</th>
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Zoning and Regionalisation: Implementation challenges

- Complex epidemiological situations
- Regulatory responses are also complex, sometimes not transparent, or not harmonised to OIE standards
- Selecting the most appropriate approach for the epidemiological situation and the risk management objective
- Legislative frameworks may not support the required agility for fast-moving situations
- Bilateral recognition may be detailed, time-consuming, expensive and/or lack commitment to equivalence principles
- Trust and confidence between Veterinary Services
  - open sharing of information
  - investing in relationship development
  - in some cases capacity development
- Domestic stakeholders in importing countries may leap to irrational responses based on fear or opportunism during outbreaks
- Recognition for trade used as a bargaining point in bilateral negotiations
OIE commitments: review of Chapter 10.4 Avian Influenza

- Overarching problem
  - Providing risk management for a highly complex situation

- Problem area 1: The failure of AI standards to induce its Members to implement them
  - Clear and consistently interpretable guidelines and recommendations
  - Compelling Members to implement

- Problem area 2: The lack of detailed provisions on risk mitigation measures
  - Zoning and compartmentalisation
  - Safe commodities
  - Vaccination
  - Commodity-based recommendations for importations from HPAI-infected countries

- Problem area 3: The need for reconsidering the epidemiology of AI viruses
  - The definitions of “avian influenza” and “poultry” in relation to risk
  - the role and importance of LPAI in the epidemiology of HPAI
  - Surveillance programmes
  - Recovery of status
Additional OIE commitments

- **Ongoing review and refinement of Horizontal Chapters**
  - Chapter 5.3 updated 2017
  - Chapter 4.3. undergoing consultation currently (including new/updated articles clarifying Free Zone, Infected Zone, Protection Zone and Containment Zone; and Bilateral Recognition processes)

- **Capacity development programmes for Veterinary Services (with partner assistance):**
  - Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) pathway
  - Targeted training for implementation of OIE Standards

- **OIE Observatory for monitoring implementation of Standards**
  - System scoping and design over next 12 months
  - Feedback to standard development cycle and capacity development programme
Thank you