

# HPAI H5N1 proposed regulations in commercial poultry

- **Proposal 1: Commercial poultry operators must develop an avian biosecurity control programme.**

Commercial poultry operators would have to develop an avian biosecurity control programme. Guidance would be available to support operators to develop their programme. An avian biosecurity control programme would:

- identify the risks associated with HPAI H5N1 on-farm
- specify how the operator would manage those risks and meet on-farm biosecurity standards.

- **Proposal 2: All poultry operators/owners must meet appropriate biosecurity standards.**

Regulations would set biosecurity standards for certain activities. These could include:

- depopulation
- disposal
- cleaning and disinfection.

Commercial poultry operators would use their avian biosecurity control programmes to specify how they will meet biosecurity standards. These requirements would also apply to semi-commercial poultry operators and non-commercial poultry owners, as relevant and appropriate.

- **Proposal 3: Commercial poultry operators must keep appropriate records and provide information to MPI when required.**

Proposal 3 would set record-keeping requirements for avian biosecurity control programmes. These would be similar to the record-keeping requirements for risk management programmes under the Animal Products Regulations 2021.

HPAI H5N1 is a notifiable organism under the Biosecurity Act 1993, meaning people must report to MPI if they suspect the presence of HPAI H5N1. Under proposal 3, commercial poultry operators with avian biosecurity control programmes could also be required to provide detailed information to MPI if they suspect the presence of HPAI H5N1 on their property.

- **Proposal 4: Avian biosecurity control programmes must be audited.**

MPI, or a qualified third party, would visit the site to ensure biosecurity standards are being met. Audits would be risk-based. High-risk operations are likely to need annual auditing. Smaller or lower-risk operations may not need such frequent auditing.

- **Proposal 5: Regulations provide for appropriate offences and penalties.**

Proposal 5 would provide for offences and penalties for breaching regulations. A person who commits an offence against biosecurity regulations is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of \$5,000 for an individual or \$15,000 for a corporation. Regulations would need to specify the breaches that are intended to be offences.

- **Proposal 6: Costs of auditing are at least partially recovered from commercial poultry operators.**

Auditing would come with costs to MPI (when MPI audits - third-party auditors could set their own fees). MPI proposes to at least partially recover these costs through existing fees.