



Temporary Operational Instruction

Action note: 2024-09-11 - Avian Influenza Designation review - Chapter 6 of the Manual for Official Controls (MOC)

Purpose

This action note is to inform operational staff of a new temporary operational instruction relating to the upcoming administrative season for Avian Influenza starting on 1 October 2025.

Background

The current outbreak of Avian influenza in the United Kingdom started on 17 November 2024. Cases have been confirmed throughout the year since that date and therefore freedom of disease has not been gained during the summer months. The new administrative season will commence on 1 October 2025.

Procedure

The designations issued during this outbreak will remain active during the new season, however, a light touch review of the designation must be conducted to verify that the procedures in place remain compliant with the designation requirements.

Front line staff are required to note the following action

Official Veterinarians working in designated poultry slaughterhouses must:

1. Confirm Procedures with the Food Business Operator (FBO)
 - Ensure that the FBO has procedures in place that meet the requirements of the Designation.
 - Confirm that these procedures are up to date.
2. Review the Procedures
 - Carefully go through the procedures provided by the FBO to verify they align with designation requirements.
3. Complete the checklist provided in the Annex of this TOI
 - Fill out the checklist based on the reviewed procedures.
 - Save a copy in the relevant plant folder located in SharePoint.
 - Send the checklist to the Approvals team (Approvals@food.gov.uk) and copy in the relevant Field Veterinary Leader and Field Veterinary Coordinator, and the Notifiable disease portfolio (notifiable-disease.portfolio@food.gov.uk).
4. Discuss outcome of the review with the FBO.
 - If there have been any changes, ask the FBO to submit a new Annex 25.

- Where the designation conditions have not been met, follow Chapter 6, Section 13.3 of the Manual for Official Controls.

Note the contents of the action note, ensuring it is read by all front-line staff.

Where necessary, print a copy for the plant file.

Distribution

This action note will be:

- uploaded to the [Temporary Operational Instruction Folder held in the MOC area of SharePoint](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- logged on the [Temporary Operational Instruction tracker](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- published alongside the [MOC chapters on food.gov.uk](#)

The action note will remain live until either incorporated into the MOC or revoked.

Annex

Checklist

Avian Influenza – Poultry Slaughterhouse Designation

2025/2026 Season Review

Plant details

Approval number:

Address:

Designation level:

Question	Yes/No/NA	Comments
Have the designation operational procedures been amended since the designation was granted?		Note – Moderate or major procedural changes must trigger a reapplication for designated status.
Are these procedures still in line with the designation requirements as per Annex 25?		
Has the establishment received any animals from the controlled zone since the designation was granted? If so, were the designation conditions adequately implemented?		
Has any enforcement activity or non-compliance related to the designation requirements been raised since the designation was granted?		
Have any identified issues identified been considered rectified?		

I confirm that a review of the Avian Influenza designation has been carried out and this **still does / does not** meet (*delete as required*) the requirements of Annex 25.

Official Veterinarian:

Email address:

Signature:

Date:

Action note drafted by and date	Action note agreed by and date	Published and date
Rocio Martinez 5/09/2025	Laureano Garcia 8/09/2025	11/09/2025