



BIOSECURITY PROTOCOL FOR THE DELIVERY OF CHICKS AND POULTS AT THE FARM

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This biosecurity protocol is intended for **those responsible for the delivery of chicks and poults (suppliers) and the deliverers** so that they may always take the necessary measures to minimize the risks of spreading reportable diseases or other serious diseases within poultry flocks. The employer is responsible for ensuring that the employees have completed basic training on this biosecurity protocol.

There are two biosecurity levels:

ROUTINE BIOSECURITY (green code): Biosecurity measures to apply at all times.

BIOSECURITY IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION (orange code): Biosecurity measures to apply proactively or upon the request of the EQCMA in the following situations:

- when a producer or his/her employee or an attending veterinarian suspects the presence of a disease that is reportable to the federal government among the birds and they are waiting for an evaluation by a veterinarian from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA);
- during a suspected case, investigated by the CFIA, for all farms that have not been quarantined within a 3-km radius;
- during a case confirmed by the CFIA, for all farms that have not been quarantined in a 10-km radius.

In an emergency situation, all routine visits are suspended; only essential visits (e.g. veterinarian, feed or propane delivery) are authorized.

When a reportable disease is confirmed in a flock of domestic poultry, the CFIA takes control of the situation and prescribes the biosecurity measures to implement.

ROUTINE BIOSECURITY (GREEN CODE)

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS AT ALL TIMES

For the deliverer-supplier

- Never enter the barns.
- Keep a log of all the places visited.
- Schedule a delivery time with the producer in advance;
 - Advise the producer of any change to the scheduled delivery time with a difference of ± 30 mins.
- Do not deliver chicks that have tested positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) on sites that also have pullets or commercial laying hens.
- Use chick or poult boxes that have been cleaned, washed, disinfected and dried with new and dry absorbent material.

For the producer and farm employees

- Keep unloading areas clean and clear (the doorsill and area along the barn must be clear of manure). Failure to comply with this recommendation will be written on the delivery note.
- Plan the necessary staff and equipment (e.g. carts) and in a sufficient amount to support efficient unloading of chick or poult boxes, through a minimum of doors (e.g. every 100 feet).
- Do not go into the delivery vehicle (trailer or cab).

Dress code for the deliverer

- Clean and washable work clothes or coveralls.
- Clean work gloves or hand washing.
- Clean shoes.



Instructions upon arrival at the site

Never go into the barns.

- Follow the producer's biosecurity instructions if they are more stringent than those of the hatchery otherwise apply the measures prescribed by the hatchery.
- Drive slowly to avoid lifting the dirt or splashing the underside of the vehicle. Avoid all puddles, mud and manure.
- Head directly to the barn where the unloading is to take place.
- Unload the chick or poult boxes through a minimum of doors (e.g. every 100 feet), to minimize the risks of contaminating the delivery vehicle.
- Make sure the producer comes to meet the hatchery deliverer at the entrance of the barn to sign the delivery note since the deliverer must never go inside the barns.

Instructions upon leaving the site

- Dispose of the absorbents or papers at the bottom of the boxes at the farm (place in one or more large garbage bags) or bring them back to the hatchery and dispose of them outside the hatchery.
- Drive slowly to avoid lifting the dirt or splashing the underside of the vehicle. Avoid all puddles, mud and manure.
- Report any abnormality to the dispatcher and/or the owner of the production site.

Return to the hatchery

- Clean, wash, disinfect and dry the chick or poult boxes before the next delivery.
- To wash and disinfect the inside and trailer of the vehicle, apply the EQCMA *Procedures for Cleaning, Washing, Disinfecting and Drying Hatchery Vehicles used to Transport Chicks and Poults* in routine biosecurity (see **Appendix 1**).

BIOSECURITY IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION (ORANGE CODE)

In an emergency situation, the delivery of new birds could be re-evaluated. If an authorized passenger accompanies the deliverer, he/she must follow the same instructions if he/she must exit the vehicle. Do not deliver chicks or poults without the presence of the producer or a farm employee. **Dress code:** Emergency kit – see **Appendix 2**.

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS AT ALL TIMES

For the deliverer-supplier

- For the same load in a vehicle, a lot of chicks or poults can be delivered to a site in routine biosecurity (green code) first and end with a site in biosecurity in an emergency situation (orange code), but never the opposite. These deliveries must be done at the end of a daily delivery run.
- Before leaving the hatchery, pick up an emergency kit.
- Use a clean vehicle for the delivery.
- Never go into the barns.
- Keep a log of all the places visited.
- Agree on a delivery time with the producer in advance:
 - Warn the producer of any change in the scheduled delivery time with a difference of ± 30 mins.
- Do not deliver chicks that have tested positive for *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) on sites that also have commercial layer pullets or hens.
- Use chick or poult boxes that have been cleaned, washed, disinfected and dried with a new and dry absorbent material.

For the producer and farm employees

- Keep the unloading areas clean and clear (the doorsill and area running along the barn must be free of manure). Failure to comply with this recommendation will be written on the delivery note.
- Plan the necessary personnel and equipment (e.g. carts) and in sufficient numbers to facilitate the unloading of chick or poult boxes through one single door for an entire section of the barn.
- Do not enter the delivery vehicle (cab or trailer).

Dress code for the deliverer

- Clean washable work clothes or coveralls.
- Clean work gloves or hand washing.
- Clean shoes.

Instructions upon entering the site

Do not enter the production site without the producer or a farm employee present.

Never go into the barns.

- Follow the producer's instructions in terms of biosecurity if they are more stringent than those of the hatchery otherwise apply the measures prescribed by the hatchery:
 - Upon arrival at the production site, keep the windows closed until the end of the visit;
 - Park at the gate and contact the producer.
- At the gate, put on the personal protective equipment:
 - coveralls:
 - a pair of disposable plastic boots OR a pair of rubber shoe covers;
 - the work gloves, THEN the disposable gloves;
 - if the deliverer is alone, set up the following material in the cab of the vehicle:
 - the disposable mat on the floor of the cab;
 - the disposable seat cover.
- Drive slowly to avoid lifting the dirt or splashing the underside of the vehicle. Avoid puddles, mud and manure.
- Agree with the producer to unload the chick or poult boxes through one single door for an entire section of the barn to minimize the risks of contaminating the delivery vehicle.
- Head straight to the barn where the unloading will take place.
- Make sure the producer comes to meet the hatchery deliverer at the entrance of the barn to sign the delivery note as the deliverer must never go into the barns.

Instructions upon exiting the site

- Dispose of the absorbents or papers at the bottom of the boxes at the farm (place in one or more large garbage bags).
- Once the chick or poult boxes have been unloaded, they must be put back in the truck. When cardboard boxes are used for poults, the boxes must be placed in several garbage bags and disposed of at the farm.
- Before entering the cab, remove the personal protective equipment:
 - remove the coveralls and then one disposable boot. Place that foot on the step. Lift yourself to remove the other disposable boot and place that foot on the step.
- Place the disposable personal protective equipment in a small garbage bag with the mat, seat cover and lastly the gloves:
 - if rubber shoe covers are worn, remove them according to the same procedure as the disposable boots, but place them in a small garbage bag while making sure not to contaminate the outside of the bag. Double this small bag before putting it in the cab to avoid contaminating the cab.
- Disinfect the steering wheel and gearshift with a disinfectant spray and a paper towel. Throw the paper towel in the small garbage bag with the other disposable equipment and leave it with the producer or employee.

- Disinfect your hands with disinfecting gel.
- Make sure there are no more flies in the cab of your vehicle before leaving the farm.
- Drive slowly to avoid lifting the dirt or splashing the underside of the vehicle. Avoid puddles, mud and manure.
- Report any abnormality to the dispatcher and production site owner.

Return to the hatchery

- Clean, wash, disinfect and dry the chick or poult boxes before reintroducing them in the hatchery.
- After each delivery made to a potentially contaminated site and before returning to the hatchery, clean, wash, disinfect and dry the vehicle at the designated washing station according to the EQCMA *Procedures for Cleaning, Washing, Disinfecting and Drying Vehicles used to Transport Chicks and Poults* in Biosecurity in an Emergency Situation (see **Appendix 3**).

BIOSECURITY DURING A **RED ALERT**

When a reportable disease (e.g. avian influenza) is confirmed in a flock of domestic poultry, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) takes control of the situation and identifies the biosecurity measures to follow.

CHICKS OR POULTS WILL BE DELIVERED ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS PRESCRIBED BY THE CFIA.

ROUTINE BIOSECURITY

Procedures for Cleaning, Washing, Disinfecting and Drying Hatchery Vehicles used to Transport Chicks and Poults

Instructions at all times

- The vehicles must be washed at a sufficient distance from other unwashed vehicles to minimize cross-contamination between clean and dirty vehicles.
- Keep a wash log of the vehicles.
- Clean, wash, disinfect and dry the vehicles at the hatchery or usual washing station.

Inside of the vehicle

Weekly

- Remove the rubber mats and pressure wash them at the same time as the outside of the vehicle.
- Brush or wipe the seats. If seat covers are used, they should be changed or washed.
- Brush or wipe the pedals and vacuum or broom to remove the debris.
- Clean the following with soap and water or a wet disinfectant wipe:
 - steering wheel;
 - rear-view mirror;
 - dashboard;
 - inside storage compartments (e.g. glove compartment);
 - radio;
 - any communication device (if applicable);
 - gearshift;
 - door handles;
 - windows;
 - seatbelt;
 - seats if they are made of washable material, and
 - pedals.
- Throw the trash in a garbage can.

Inside of the trailer for single productions (broiler and pullet chicks)

After each production day

- Dust using an air blower or vacuum or rinse with water according to the configuration of the inside of the trailer.

- Spray a disinfectant solution with a sprayer (e.g. garden sprayer).

Bi-yearly (e.g. in the spring and fall)

- Clean, wash and disinfect thoroughly and dry the inside of the trailer. To wash thoroughly, remove the electrical units, floors, heating units and any mechanism that prevents the use of pressure water to clean and disinfect thoroughly.
- Start from the inside and work your way out.

Inside the trailer for more than one type of chick (broiler and pullet chicks)

At all times

- Clean, wash and disinfect thoroughly and dry the inside of the trailer of the vehicle that delivered broiler chicks and before delivering pullet chicks. To wash thoroughly, remove the electrical units, floors, heating units and any mechanism that prevents the use of pressure water to wash and disinfect thoroughly.
- Start from the inside and work your way out.

Outside of the vehicle

Weekly

- Use a pressure washer to remove organic matter (e.g. mud, manure) from the running gear, chassis, steps and boot brush.
- Clean the outside storage compartment(s).
- Rinse to remove organic matter from the outside of the vehicle from top to bottom and front to back.
- Scrub with a scrub brush if parts seem dirty and rinse to remove any organic matter.
- Apply an appropriate soap (foam) over the entire vehicle from bottom to top and front to back. Do not let the foam dry.
- Rinse with a pressure washer or a hose with a watering spray gun and hot water.
- Repeat for the rubber mats and other equipment (e.g. rubber boots).
- Conduct a visual inspection to make sure everything has been well washed and rinsed. Rewash, if necessary.
- Park the vehicle, avoiding passing over the dirty vehicle lane, and let it drip dry completely in an area far from dirty vehicles.
- Let the rubber mats and other equipment dry before reusing them.
- If you use a private washing station, clean the washing area to eliminate any debris.

Supplies in the emergency kit

Number of items	Items
1	Disposable coveralls with or without an integrated hood, resistant to splashes and aerosols
1	Pair of disposable plastic boots OR pair of rubber shoe covers
1	Pair of disposable gloves (e.g. nitrile gloves)
1	Pair of clean thin cotton work gloves
1	Disposable mat
3	Large garbage bags (e.g. 26 X 36 in.)
3	Small garbage bags (e.g. 20 X 22 in.)
1	Bottle of hand disinfecting gel (small size: 59 ml)
1	Disinfectant for the inside of the vehicle (e.g. LYSOL® spray)
1	Disposable seat cover
4	Paper towels

ROUTINE BIOSECURITY IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION

Procedures for Cleaning, Washing, Disinfecting and Drying Hatchery Vehicles used to Transport Chicks and Poults

Instructions at all times

- If you must intervene on a farm where biosecurity measures in an emergency situation are being applied, use a clean vehicle to deliver the service or products.
- The vehicles must be washed at a sufficient distance from other unwashed vehicles to minimize cross-contamination between clean and dirty vehicles.
- Keep a vehicle washing log.
- Clean, wash, disinfect and dry vehicles at the hatchery or the usual washing station.

Vehicle cab

After each delivery

- Remove the rubber mats and pressure wash them at the same time as the outside of the vehicle.
- Brush or wipe the seats. If seat covers are used, they should be changed or washed.
- Brush or wipe the pedals and vacuum or broom to remove the debris.
- Clean the following with soap and water or a wet disinfectant wipe:
 - steering wheel;
 - rear-view mirror;
 - dashboard;
 - inside storage compartments (e.g. glove compartment);
 - radio;
 - any communication device (if applicable);
 - gearshift;
 - door handles;
 - windows;
 - seatbelt;
 - seats if they are made of washable material, and
 - pedals.
- Throw the trash in a garbage can.

Inside the trailer

After each delivery

- Clean, wash, thoroughly disinfect and dry the inside of the trailer. To wash thoroughly, remove the electrical units, floors, heating units and any mechanism that prevents the use of pressure water to wash and disinfect thoroughly.
- Start from the inside and work your way out.

Outside of the vehicle

After each delivery

- Use a pressure washer to remove organic matter (e.g. mud, manure) from the running gear, chassis, steps and boot brush.
- Clean the outside storage compartment(s).
- Rinse to remove organic matter from the outside of the vehicle from top to bottom and front to back.
- Scrub with a scrub brush if parts seem dirty and rinse to remove any organic matter.
- Apply an appropriate soap (foam) over the entire vehicle from bottom to top and front to back. Do not let the foam dry.
- Rinse with a pressure washer or a hose with a watering spray gun and hot water.
- Repeat for the rubber mats and other equipment (e.g. rubber boots).
- Conduct a visual inspection to make sure everything has been well washed and rinsed. Rewash, if necessary.
- Apply a disinfectant (recommended) according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Apply from top to bottom, especially on the wheels, splash guards and underside of the vehicle. The disinfectant must cover all surfaces of the vehicle. Also apply disinfectant to the rubber mats and other equipment (e.g. rubber boots).
- Park the vehicle, avoiding passing over the dirty vehicle lane, and let it drip dry completely in an area far from dirty vehicles.
- Let the rubber mats and other equipment dry before reusing them.
- If you use a private washing station, clean the washing area to eliminate any debris and apply a disinfectant.