



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 51

Series of 2023

SUBJECT: WAIVING OF AVIAN INFLUENZA TESTING PER SHIPMENT OF LIVE POULTRY, OTHER BIRD SPECIES, EGGS, AND POULTRY PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS EXCEPT LIVE DUCKS COMING FROM REGION VI (WESTERN VISAYAS REGION) FOR LOCAL MOVEMENT PURPOSES UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2023 ONLY

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture issued Memorandum Circular No. 43, Series of 2022 on 9 December, 2022, which provide guidance on movement of poultry, other birds species, eggs and poultry products and by-products across different regions in the Philippines due to incidence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 in the country;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture issued Memorandum Circular No. 38, Series of 2022 entitled "Updated Guidelines on the Movement of Live Poultry, other Bird Species, Eggs, and Poultry Products and By-products Except Live Ducks During the Avian Influenza Outbreak for Avian Influenza-Free Regions" to facilitate unhampered movement of live poultry, other bird species, eggs, poultry products and by-products except live ducks coming from regions of the country with NO REPORTED CASES of HPAI Subtype H5N1 and to supplement DA MC No. 43, Series of 2022, as appropriate, particularly on the requirement of accreditation and tests per shipment for movement purposes;

WHEREAS, surveillance for HPAI or Bird Flu is a routine bi-annual activity required by the Bureau of Animal Industry, to support our claim freedom in the community of nations, particularly the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) formerly known as OIE, which is a standard setting body on all matters relating to animal health;

WHEREAS, Region 6 or the Western Visayas Region composed of the Provinces of Aklan, Antique, Negros Occidental, Capiz, Guimaras and Iloilo have conducted series of surveillance activities in the identified high-risk areas in the region and shown negative test results for influenza type A virus;

WHEREAS, previous HPAI case recorded in the Province of Capiz on 2 December 2022 had been resolved and the Avian Influenza-Free Status of the province had been reinstated by virtue of DA MC No. 27 Series of 2023 on 4 July 2023;



WHEREAS, as per DA MC No. 38, Series of 2022, surveillance data of the DA-Regional Field Office VI (DA-RFO VI) showing **NEGATIVE** test result for HPAI submitted to the Bureau of Animal Industry, shall be used as basis for backyard and commercial farms in the Region to be allowed to transport their commodities to its respective destination **AND** shall be used as basis for the issuance/concurrence of the Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) by the government veterinarian to attest Avian Influenza-free status of the farms;

WHEREAS, all backyard and commercial farms in Region VI shall still need to comply with the other documentary requirements as per DA Administrative Order No.5 series of 2019 "Guidelines on the Local Transport/Shipment of Animals, Animal Products and by products", depending on the type of commodity to be transported;

WHEREAS, Provincial Veterinary Offices in Region VI are required to submit a Monthly Negative Monitoring Data for HPAI through email at ahwd@bai.gov.ph. The data entry will serve as an attestation that for the said reporting period, there has been no reported HPAI cases, suspect or otherwise in all localities in their province.

WHEREAS, the test result, which are the basis of surveillance shall be valid for 6 months only from the date of the first sample collection for bi-annual surveillance activities conducted in the region;

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, Avian Influenza testing per shipment of live poultry, other bird species, eggs, and poultry products and by-products **except live ducks** coming from Region VI (Western Visayas Region) for local movement purposes only until **31 December 2023** is hereby waived.

This circular shall take effect upon signing and shall be valid only until **31 December 2023**.

Done this 1st of DECEMBER 2023.


PAUL C. LIMSON, DVM
Director

