



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

HPAI 2022: Exemptions from depopulation



CFIA'S DISEASE RESPONSE POLICY TO HPAI = STAMPING OUT POLICY

As defined by the World Animal Health Organisation (WOAH)



DISTINCT EPIDEMIOLOGICAL UNITS

- In some **exceptional** circumstances, poultry populations on an infected premises may be assessed to determine if they are part of distinct epidemiological units and therefore be exempted from depopulation.
 - The assessment must clearly demonstrate that the susceptible animals which consists of infected or suspected to be infected animals is separated from the non-exposed animals.
- **Distinct epidemiological units meets definition of STAMPING OUT policy**

Protocol for recognizing distinct epi units

1. Screening step prior to full assessment

- 2 screening pathways available (depending on type of birds):
 - Screening for status of rare and valuable genetics
 - Screening for demonstration that a premises with multiple barns holds birds that are not at the same level of risk exposure

2. Full assessment and requirements for Distinct Epi Units

- Are classification criteria met?
- Are the requirements for distinct epi units met?
- Is there further detection of AI on the premises?

If requirements for either screening step are met **AND**
all criteria in the full assessment **AND**
the requirements for distinct epi units are met **AND**
there is no further detection of HPAI on the premises,
then the distinct epi units are not considered part of the susceptible
population.

PROTOCOL

- Screening step PASS
- Full assessment PASS
- Requirements for Distinct Epi Units PASS
- No further detection of HPAI on the premises PASS

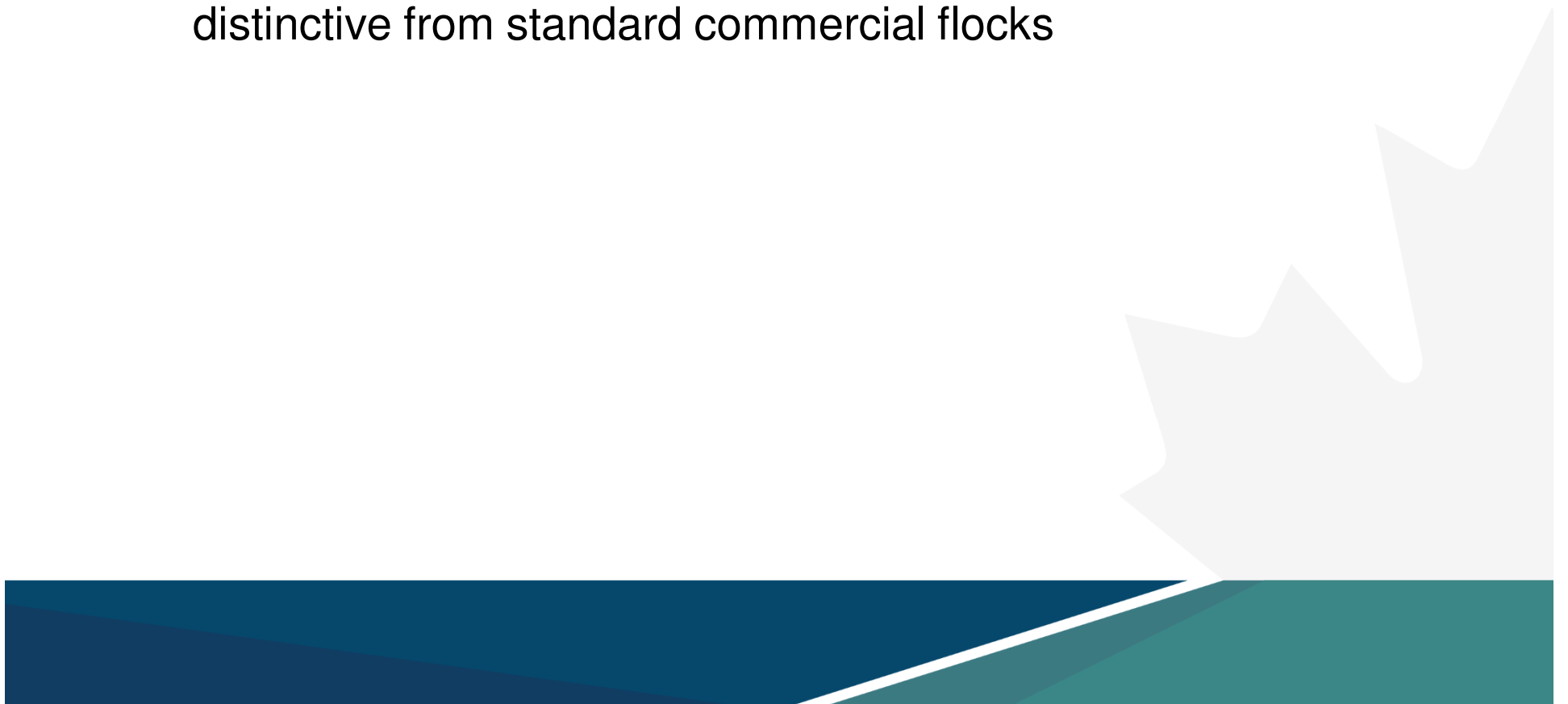
➤ Distinct epi units are not considered part of the susceptible population and can be exempted from depopulation



Screening pathway 1

Screening for rare and valuable genetics

- Screening criteria:
 - The genetics of the flock must be demonstrated to be distinctive from standard commercial flocks



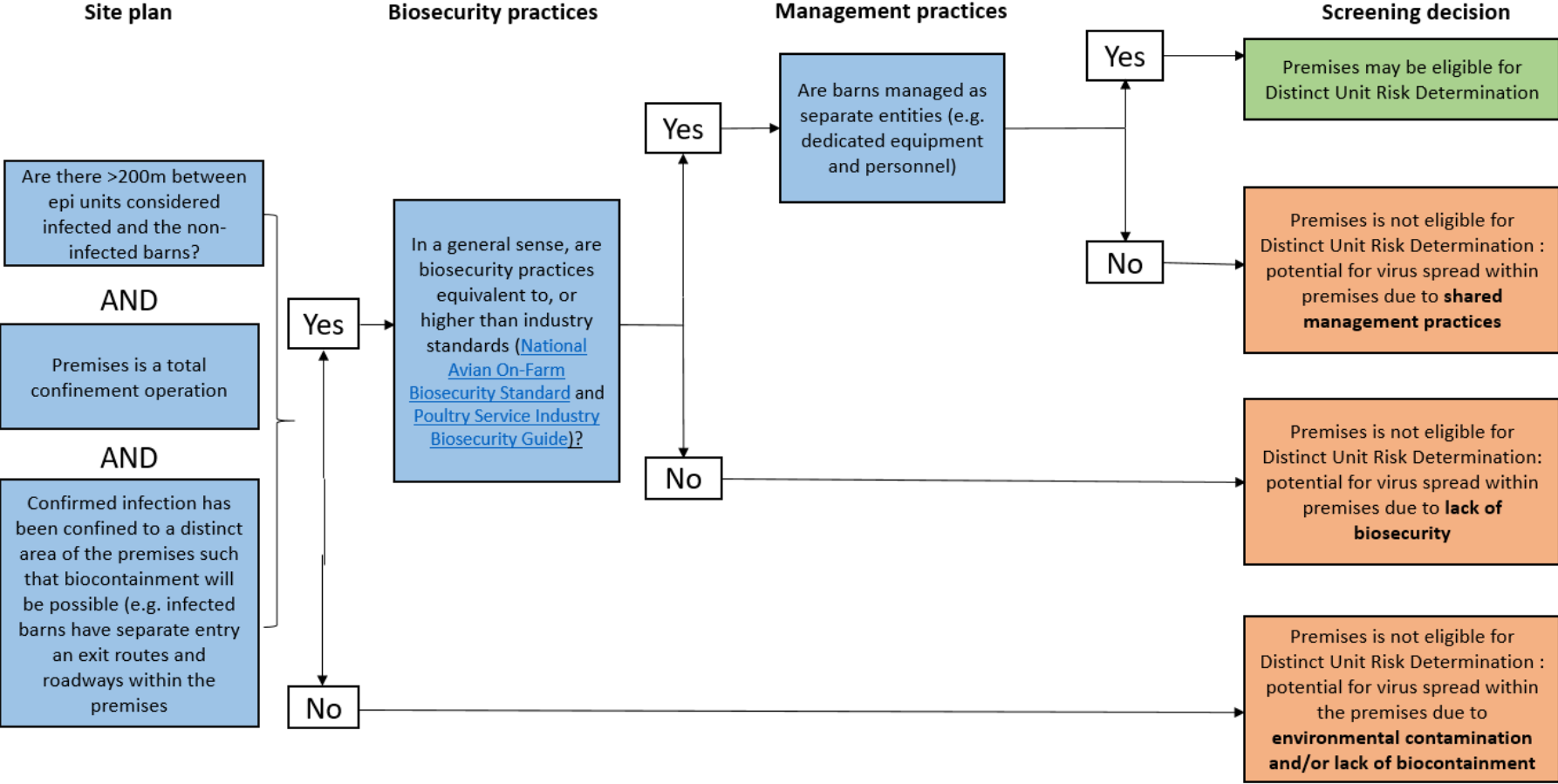
Screening pathway 2

Screening for demonstration that a premises with multiple barns holds birds that are not at the same level of risk exposure

- Screening criteria:
 - Response is “YES” to all questions in Distinct Unit Risk Determination Screening Decision Tree (next slide);
 - AND remaining birds are clinically healthy and therefore not suspect for HPAI at the time of screening step.



Distinct Unit Risk Determination Screening Decision Tree



PROTOCOL

- Screening step
- Full assessment
- Requirements for Distinct Epi Units
- No further detection of HPAI on the premises

PASS



Full assessment

Are classification criteria met?

- Criteria:
 - Discussion with industry has occurred (documented)
 - Industry has considered potential negative impact of lateral spread within the distinct epi units holding birds on the IP
 - Local industry is aware and accepts the risk of lateral spread and that if it was to happen, it would lead to prolonged zoning restrictions and all associated regulatory measures for other premises located in the PCZ
 - Producer has considered the potential negative impact of this process:
 - Going through the full assessment does not guarantee the recognition of distinct epidemiological units on an infected premises
 - Costs associated with keeping flock(s) alive for the time required for the assessment (optimal = 2 weeks)

Full assessment

Are classification criteria met?

- Criteria:
 - Risk determination for each unit seeking to be considered epidemiologically distinct.
 - The evaluation includes elements such as:
 - distance between barns
 - production type
 - location of air intake vents and fans
 - prevailing winds
 - management practices
 - biosecurity practices



Full assessment

Are classification criteria met?

- Criteria cont'd:
 - Evaluation of biosecurity and farm management practices:
 - Review of pre-existing biosecurity plan (SOPs)
 - On-site biosecurity audit
 - Testing:
 - Live bird testing
 - Dead Bird Surveillance



PROTOCOL

- Screening step
- Full assessment
- Requirements for Distinct Epi Units
- No further detection of HPAI on the premises

PASS

PASS



Requirements for Distinct Epi Units

Are the requirements for distinct epi units met?

- Requirements:
 - Surveillance
 - Same as for high-risk contact premises
 - In addition, serology of 20 birds per barn will be required at the time of Quarantine release testing.
 - Movement restrictions
 - Same as for high-risk contact premises apply
 - For minimum 14 days after last contact with IP (date of the capping of the compost piles or alternate disposal completed)
 - Biocontainment
 - Biocontainment plan must be in place to separate the distinct units from the IP
 - Must include the intent to conduct full C&D for the infected unit(s) holding birds (no fallow period is allowed)

PROTOCOL

- Screening step
 - Full assessment
 - Requirements for Distinct Epi Units
 - No further detection of HPAI on the premises
- PASS
PASS
PASS



No further detection of HPAI

Is there further detection of AI on the premises?

- There must be no further detection of avian influenza on the premises
 - Any subsequent detection of avian influenza on the premises will activate a CFIA issuance of an order to dispose for all remaining birds on the premises



SUMMARY

- | | |
|---|------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Screening step | PASS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full assessment | PASS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements for Distinct Epi Units | PASS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No further detection of HPAI on the premises | PASS |
- Distinct epi units are not considered part of the susceptible population and can be exempted from depopulation



My farm has a distinct epi unit...

What does that mean to me?

- Eradication activities on site while maintaining the distinct epi unit
- Full C and D (fallow not an option)
- Maintenance of biocontainment zones for the remainder of the premises as deemed appropriate by CFIA
- Movement permitting requirements apply for the birds that are exempt from depopulation (and appropriate movement permitting conditions)
- Compliance and verification by CFIA of continued use of biosecurity practices for the exempt population until such time that C and D is complete (vacancy or restocking complete) and movement restrictions have been lifted.