

Protocol for Small Flock Burial of Avian Influenza Infected Waste

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION | November 2023

If you have 5 tonnes of mortalities or less and have been directed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to bury infected material, please review the following requirements and complete all information requested.

Poultry carcasses, feed, and manure or litter suspected or known to contain the avian influenza virus is hazardous waste under the BC Hazardous Waste Regulation (HWR) and is also regulated under the BC Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM Code).

When following the instructions in this document, the waste is exempt (delisted) from the requirements of the HWR. It is the waste owner's responsibility to ensure compliance with AEM Code and any other applicable legislation.

This guidance **does not apply** to farms/backyard flocks located in the Metro Vancouver or Fraser Valley regions. If there are any questions regarding burial location or requirements, please contact: envcia@gov.bc.ca

Protocol Conditions

For avian influenza infected waste to be exempt (delisted) from the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulation, a person (i.e., farm owners/operator) must:

1. Waste is buried on the farm where the birds died or were euthanized.
2. Check if the burial location is within a high-risk aquifer. If the burial pit is in a [vulnerable aquifer recharge area](#) the following two conditions must be met:
 - a. Must not bury in a single pit more than 1 tonne of materials; and
 - b. Must ensure that there is a vertical distance of at least 2 metres from the bottom of the pit to either the bedrock or the seasonal high-water table.
3. Burial pits meet the following requirements:
 - a. No more than 2.5 tonnes are buried in a single burial pit;
 - b. Burial pits are not located:
 - closer than 60 m apart, unless each pit has been unused for at least 10 years,
 - not buried soil consisting mainly of sands and gravel (coarse-textured soils),
 - in, or in the vicinity of, unstable soils that might cause the buried materials to escape the burial pit,
 - in any area in which there is standing water or water-saturated soil,
 - in any low-lying area of a field prone to annual seasonal flooding (adjacent to a wetland), or
 - in a field within a floodplain.

- c. There is a vertical distance of at least 1.5 m from the bottom of the pit to either the bedrock or the seasonal high water table;
 - d. Buried materials are covered immediately after burial with at least 0.6 m of soil.
 - e. Burial pit is covered with at least 1 m of soil that is compacted and mounded in a manner that will minimize surface water draining into the pit, divert runoff away from the pit, and deter the attraction of, and access by, domestic pets, wildlife and vectors.
 - f. Monitoring/inspection of burial location monthly for the first 3 months to ensure area is not disturbed and ensure wildlife has not exposed the buried material. If exposed, the material must be recovered immediately.
4. Submit supporting documentation to ENV (instructions in Appendix A)
 5. Follow CFIA direction and requirements for disposal, including how and where appropriate to bury.

If you are in an urban location, please review local bylaws as to whether burial of dead animals on your property is permitted.

APPENDIX A

Instructions for submitting this information are noted after this table

Required Information for Burial of Avian Influenza Infected Wastes	
Infected Premise Information	
Infected premise ID (IP-###)	
Name of producer (Company or Individual)	
Address	
Email address	
Phone number	
Waste Information	
Type of material treated	<input type="checkbox"/> Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Feed/bedding <input type="checkbox"/> Feces <input type="checkbox"/> Eggs
Number of birds and types	
Quantity of material in kg	
Approximate coordinates of burial location (lat/long)	

By completing and signing this form you certify that disposal of waste via burial was in accordance with the *Health of Animals Act* and CFIA requirements, and the Agricultural Environmental Code of Practice (Division 2).

Owner's Signature

Date

Instructions:

Please complete all information requested in the table provided and submit the information by email as follows:

Subject line of the email should be as follows:

YYYY-MM-DD AI Burial Notification – IP-XXX
(e.g. 2022-09-01 AI Burial Notification – IP-010)

Submit the required information to: envcia@gov.bc.ca