



## QAD Biosecurity Policy Appendix A Inspection, Audit, and Supervisory Activities

This document is to be used in conjunction with QAD 730: *QAD Biosecurity Policy* and will assist in determining to delay or cancel on-site Shell Egg Surveillance (SES) inspections, audit activities, or supervisory reviews. This policy appendix does not apply to voluntary grading or certification services provided to applicants, where staffing must be provided on a continuous basis.

Recognizing the mission critical nature of SES inspections, as well as voluntary audit and grading service activities, this policy will allow QAD to continue activities where appropriate, while taking actions necessary to safeguard the health of our applicant's flocks. While there are many reportable avian diseases in the U.S., highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and virulent Newcastle disease (vND) are the two most prevalent with significant economic impacts. Consideration will be given to delays or cancellations of QAD activities in areas where reportable avian diseases, such as HPAI or vND, have been confirmed in commercial poultry flocks.

When confirmations of HPAI, vND, or other diseases identified by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) occur in commercial flocks, APHIS establishes control areas to monitor affected and adjacent premises to prevent the spread of disease. These areas are established around the reported finding in order to restrict movement of poultry in and out of the area. Commercial control areas are identified and maintained on the [APHIS website](#). The Branch Chief or designee will contact the National Shell Egg Office if the website is invalid, or there are reported confirmations of avian diseases identified by APHIS other than HPAI in the U.S. (e.g., vND). When control areas are no longer considered active, APHIS will list the date the area is released. QAD will use this information, along with input from the State Veterinarian, to decide whether to conduct SES, audit, or supervisory activities. As noted above, grading service will continue unless the applicant cancels service due to being in a control area.

**At a minimum, SES, audit, and supervisory activities will be delayed or canceled within active control areas.** For example, if a control area includes audit clients or grading plants, all onsite visits by supervisors or auditors to those facilities would be delayed until safe to perform the activities. Graders would remain in place unless service is discontinued as requested by the applicant.

**Multiple Control areas:** If more than one active control area is established within a state, or there are confirmations of HPAI or vND in multiple commercial flocks within an active control



area, this may be indicative of active disease transmission and warrant further precautions as follows:

The Branch Chief (Grading/Audit) or designee should contact the applicable State Veterinarian's Office to discuss whether QAD activities should be delayed or canceled in an area wider than the established APHIS control zones. A list of State Animal Health Official contacts can be found on the [U.S. Animal Health Associations website](#). Based on the State Veterinarian's guidance, the Branch Chief or designee, after consultation with the National Shell Egg Office, may decide to temporarily (3 months or less) delay or cancel QAD activities in a wider area, even outside of the defined control areas. The Branch Chief is responsible for notifying field personnel of such decisions.

In states with increased disease activity, the National Office must be consulted prior to suspension of grading / audit branch activities when:

1. The State Veterinarian's Office declines to offer guidance.
2. The provided guidance would prevent QAD from performing grading, inspection, or audit activities across multiple work locations.
3. The provided guidance would prevent QAD from performing activities for extended time periods.

Reasons to consult with the National Shell Egg Office may include:

- No response from State Veterinarian's Office in sufficient time to alter work details.
- Hesitancy from the State Veterinarian's Office to provide clear guidance whether QAD activities can be conducted in a particular area.
- Guidance to delay or cancel activities across a whole state, unless there are numerous confirmations throughout the state.
- Guidance to delay or cancel activities well outside of a control area (e.g., more than 10 km or 6.2 miles beyond the control area) unless disease spread seems to be moving in the direction of the proposed QAD activity.
- Guidance to delay or cancel activities for an extended time based on a single confirmation (e.g., no visits more than 3 months following confirmation of HPAI, vND, or other avian disease identified by APHIS at a commercial premises).



If the decision is made to delay the activity, efforts should be made to complete the activity later within the established time frame. For SES inspections, this may include conducting the inspection as a “make-up” inspection within the first month of the following quarter. If control areas have not been released or new disease confirmations have occurred which make it impossible to complete required tasks within established time frames, the visits or inspections should be canceled for the quarter. Reports should be completed and submitted with comments stating that the inspection or supervisory visit was canceled at the guidance of either the State or Livestock and Poultry Program veterinarian due to ongoing avian disease in the area. For SES inspections, the LP-156 inspection report will reflect the inspection type as “Other”. Poultry or cage-free audit activities that require on-farm presence or contact with birds may be conducted virtually, when appropriate.

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Mark Perigen, Director  
Quality Assessment Division  
Livestock and Poultry Program

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