



BAIADA GROUP OF COMPANIES

National Animal Welfare and Biosecurity Manual



**Livestock
Animal Welfare
and
Biosecurity
Manual**



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1. Scope and Purpose

This manual is designed to be a reference document for general procedures in the case of an animal welfare emergency or in the event of a serious disease. General quarantine and biosecurity measures are also included as a reference

The requirements in this manual must be strictly followed at all times. Permission to deviate from the specified procedures can only be granted by the Technical and Welfare Manager on a case by case basis.

2. Notification Procedures for Suspected Animal Disease

It is very important that all personnel working with livestock are able to recognise abnormal behaviour, identify symptoms of unusual illness or disease, and detect deviations from normal production parameters that may warrant notification or further investigation.

All personnel working with livestock have a responsible for ensuring that this procedure is strictly followed. Under new national biosecurity legislation, **Biosecurity Act 2015**, all personnel who have contact with livestock need to be aware of their personal responsibilities to notify disease. If the notification procedure outlined within this document is not followed or there is any unreasonable delay in notifying a flock health issue, this may result in significant personal legal consequences and major implications for Baiada.

The farm owner or manager is responsible for notifying their serviceperson, husbandry manager or regional Livestock Manager **immediately** if they notice:

- Unusually elevated mortality
- An unusual number of sick birds
- An uncharacteristic drop in performance or production
- Any unusual signs of disease

Signs of a serious poultry disease may be non-specific or vague. There may be no sick or dead birds but rather a reduction in feed intake, body weight reduction, egg drop or increase in pale, thin-shelled or misshapen eggs. It is important to contact one of the above mentioned Baiada company representatives and seek advice immediately if there is any doubt as to whether what is observed is normal, or not.

If there is any cause for concern or further investigation is required, the serviceperson or regional Livestock Manager, following investigation or reasonable suspicion of a serious disease, must immediately contact the regional veterinarian or the Technical and Welfare Manager.

The veterinarian may need to conduct an investigation to determine the cause of the problem. This investigation must happen as a matter of priority if there is any reasonable indication to suspect an emergency animal disease (Priority Level 1).

If a notifiable disease (Priority Level 1 or 2) is suspected or diagnosed, the regional veterinarian or Technical and Welfare Manager will contact the National Livestock Operations Manager. The Technical and Welfare Manager will also contact the relevant state government veterinarian or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline (**1800 675 888**).



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No person other than the Technical and Welfare Manager is to contact the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline or notify any persons outside of the company unless there has been a direct instruction to do so in writing from the National Livestock Operations Manager or the Technical and Welfare Manager. The Technical and Welfare Manager and/or the National Livestock Operations Manager are responsible for notifying the Managing Director in the case of an emergency animal disease.

3. Zoonotic Diseases

Fortunately, the majority of poultry diseases only affect poultry and are not transmissible to humans. However, there are some diseases of poultry which may be transmissible to humans. Such diseases may include, but are not limited to:

- Avian Influenza
- Aspergillosis
- Psittacosis
- Illness due to gastroenteritis

Young children, the elderly and immunosuppressed people are at the highest risk of acquiring an infection or disease from poultry.

It is important not to be alarmed but to exercise caution at all times. People who work closely with poultry must be aware of the risks and implement strategies to protect themselves from illness.

If anyone working closely with poultry is ill or becomes ill, it is important that they see their doctor as soon as possible to ensure that their continued work does not pose any risk to the birds or make their condition worse. The person may need to be prevented from working with poultry until they have recovered. The Technical and Welfare Manager should be contacted if further advice is required. If the doctor suspects that the illness may be a direct result of working with poultry, it is important that the Technical and Welfare Manager is notified immediately.

It is highly recommended that all people working with poultry are vaccinated on an annual basis with the current seasonal Influenza A vaccine. This vaccine can be administered by a local Doctor, General Practitioner (GP), at participating pharmacies or during an organised regional vaccination program.

To minimise the risk of acquiring a disease from poultry:

- Exercise sound personal hygiene, including frequent hand washing. This is particularly important prior to eating or drinking.
- Wear a face mask whilst in sheds or in contact with birds, especially when rotary hoeing or agitating litter material. This is also particularly important when there is a flock health issue. Face masks need to be fitted and worn correctly.
- Wear gloves when handling sick or dead birds, especially when there is a flock health issue.
- Wear impervious clothing or overalls to avoid contact with secretions and fluids.



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Any concerns regarding the potential of a zoonotic disease should be communicated to a serviceperson or regional Livestock Manager. The serviceperson or regional Livestock Manager will then contact the regional veterinarian to provide relevant and specific advice.

In the event that Avian Influenza is diagnosed on a property, and the type of Influenza virus has zoonotic potential, people who have been in close contact with infected poultry will be counselled by a Health Department representative. Viral testing, Influenza vaccination and/or other anti-viral medications may be required.

4. Disease Definitions and Categories

Priority Level 1

Diseases belonging to this classification level require the highest level of biosecurity and intervention.

Priority Level 1 diseases are likely to include but are not limited to diseases listed on the national notifiable diseases list. The full national list of notifiable animal diseases as of November 2015 is available from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources or online via their website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/animal/notifiable>). These diseases require notification to the relevant state government veterinarian and may be subject to AUSVETPLAN emergency response procedures. The AUSVETPLAN Manuals are also available online via the Animal Health Australia website and are the main reference documents in the case of emergency animal disease occurrence in Australia (<https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/our-publications/ausvetplan-manuals-and-documents/>).

Such emergency animal diseases may include but are not limited to:

- Avian Influenza, high or low pathogenicity
- Newcastle Disease
- Virulent Infectious Bursal Disease

Priority Level 2

Diseases belonging to this classification level require a high level of biosecurity. Reasonable suspicion or a positive diagnosis requires notification to the relevant state government veterinarian. Diseases in this category are generally listed on the state government's notifiable disease list. These lists are usually available online via the relevant state government's agriculture department websites.

Such diseases include but are not limited to:

- Infectious Laryngotracheitis (ILT)
- *Salmonella* serovar Enteritidis
- Pullorum Disease (*Salmonella pullorum*)
- Egg Drop Syndrome (EDS 76)
- Psittacosis
- Avian Tuberculosis

Priority Level 3

Diseases belonging to this classification level require the implementation of heightened biosecurity measures to prevent disease dissemination. These diseases must be confirmed by laboratory diagnosis but are not notifiable to the relevant state government veterinarian. Such diseases include but are not limited to:

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- Fowl Cholera
- Mycoplasmosis
- Detection of *Salmonella* serovar Typhimurium
- Avian Leukosis Virus

5. Biosecurity Requirements

Priority Level 1

If there is reasonable suspicion of a Priority Level 1 disease, it is important that a very high level biosecurity plan is **immediately** enacted. Any delay may result in increased risk of transmission and have legal consequences. The initial biosecurity plan will be developed by the Technical and Welfare Manager. The plan will be implemented with the assistance of the regional veterinarians, regional Livestock Manager and National Livestock Operations Manager. Once the diagnosis is confirmed, or if there are grounds for reasonable suspicion, biosecurity controls will be promptly implemented by government officers in accordance with the relevant AUSVETPLAN Manual and official directions.

As a guide, the following biosecurity measures are recommended:

- Ensure that the front gate is locked and no vehicles can gain access to the site.
- Signage at the farm entrance must stipulate that no visitors are permitted on site and provide suitable contact details for the Farm Manager, or an appropriate farm representative.
- All visitors are prohibited. Essential visitors, including any company service personnel, must gain approval from the Technical Manager and National Livestock Operations Manager prior to entering the site.
- The quarantine period required before any in-contact personnel are permitted onto any other site, including office buildings, must be determined. This quarantine period may be up to or exceed 7 days.
- The Visitors' Book will be reviewed. Photocopies of relevant pages may need to be made to facilitate trace back and surveillance.
- If applicable, the showering facilities must be locked and only approved visitors are allowed entry through the showers.
- There may be a requirement for heightened shed to shed biosecurity. The worst affected shed must be visited last in the day if the other sheds are not showing signs of disease. Alternatively, sheds may have designated staff. Individual shed footwear may be required.
- Routine feed deliveries must immediately cease. The Technical and Welfare Manager and National Livestock Operations Manager will determine the procedure for delivering feed, if this is required.
- Dead bird collection and the dead bird disposal method require immediate review. Dead birds must remain on site and the method for disposal must be approved by the Technical and Welfare Manager and National Livestock Operations Manager.
- If applicable, movement of any eggs or egg fillers off farm must immediately cease. Eggs should be packed and stored in the cool room until further direction is received.
- If applicable, there must be no movement of equipment or farm vehicles off site. Prior approval must be sought if any movement is required.



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- The Farm Manager must ensure that the correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is worn at all times. If any visitors are permitted to the site, they must also wear the correct PPE.

Priority Level 2

If there is reasonable suspicion of a Priority Level 2 disease, it is important that a high level biosecurity plan is immediately enacted. Everyone who is aware of the existence, or reasonably suspect, a Priority Level 2 disease, has a duty to follow the notification procedure immediately. Any delay may have serious consequences. Once the diagnosis has been confirmed, or if there are grounds for reasonable suspicion, biosecurity controls will be promptly implemented. Biosecurity controls will be developed by the regional veterinarian. Biosecurity measures will be verified by the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager. If the presence of disease has the potential for serious consequences, the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager must also be immediately involved in the development of the initial biosecurity strategy.

As a guide, the following biosecurity measures are recommended:

- Ensure that the front gate is locked.
- Signage at the farm entrance must stipulate that no visitors are permitted on site and provide suitable contact details for the Farm Manager, or an appropriate farm representative.
- All non-essential visitors are prohibited. Essential visitors must gain approval from the National Livestock Operations Manager or Managing Director.
- Farms should be visited in order of low risk contact with an infected premise to high risk contact with an infected premise. The need for routine servicing of farms during a disease outbreak should be reviewed and determined.
- The visitor's book must be maintained at all times and may be reviewed for the purposes of trace back and surveillance.
- The quarantine period required before any in-contact personnel are permitted onto any other site, including office buildings, must be determined. For ILT, depending on the level of risk, the quarantine period prior to visiting another site with live birds must be a minimum of 48 hours. The quarantine period must be verified by the regional veterinarian or Technical and Welfare Manager.
- If applicable, the showering facilities must be locked and only approved essential visitors are allowed entry through the showers.
- There may be a requirement for heightened shed to shed biosecurity. The worst affected shed must be visited last of the day if the other sheds are not showing signs of disease. Alternatively, sheds may have designated staff. Individual shed footwear may be required.
- Feed deliveries must be scheduled to ensure that farms with diagnosed infectious diseases are visited last in the day. Quarantine periods may also apply for vehicles depending on the situation. Wheel wash facilities should be available on farm.
- Dead bird collection and the dead bird disposal method require immediate review. Dead birds must remain on site and the method for disposal must be approved by either the regional veterinarian and Regional Livestock Manager or the Technical and Welfare Manager and National Livestock Operations Manager depending on the level of risk.
- If applicable, any movement of any eggs or egg fillers off farm requires approval. Eggs should be packed and stored in the cool room until further direction is received.



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- Any equipment or farm vehicle movement off site requires approval from the regional Livestock Manager, National Livestock Operations Manager or Technical and Welfare Manager depending on the circumstance.
- The Farm Manager must ensure that the correct PPE is worn at all times. All visitors to the site must also wear the correct PPE.

Priority Level 3

If there is reasonable suspicion of a Priority Level 3 disease, it is important that a heightened biosecurity plan is enacted. Biosecurity controls will be developed by the regional veterinarian. The plan will be implemented by the regional Livestock Manager. Biosecurity measures may also be verified by the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager. If the presence of disease has the potential for serious consequences, the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager must also be immediately involved in the development of the initial biosecurity strategy.

As a guide, the following biosecurity measures are recommended:

- Ensure that the front gate is locked.
- Signage at the farm entrance must stipulate that no visitors are permitted on site and provide suitable contact details for the Farm Manager, or an appropriate farm representative.
- All non-essential visitors are prohibited. Essential visitors must gain approval from the National Livestock Operations Manager or Managing Director.
- Farms should be visited in order of low risk contact with an infected premise to high risk contact with an infected premise. The need for routine servicing of farms during a disease outbreak should be reviewed and determined.
- The quarantine period required before any in-contact personnel are permitted onto any other site, including office buildings, must be determined. For cases of diagnosed Fowl Cholera or Mycoplasmosis, depending on the level of risk, the quarantine period prior to visiting another site with live birds must be a minimum of 24 hours. The quarantine period must be verified by the regional veterinarian or Technical and Welfare Manager.
- If applicable, the only approved essential visitors are allowed entry through the showers.
- There may be a requirement for heightened shed to shed biosecurity. The worst affected shed must be visited last of the day if the other sheds are not showing signs of disease. Alternatively, sheds may have designated staff. Individual shed footwear may be required.
- Feed deliveries must be scheduled to ensure that farms with diagnosed infectious diseases are visited last of the day. Quarantine periods may also apply for vehicles depending on the situation. It is recommended that wheel wash facilities be available on farm.
- The dead bird collection method and the dead bird disposal method require review. The methods must be approved at least by the regional veterinarian and Regional Livestock Manager. Further approval may be required in some cases.
- Eggs should be packed and stored in the cool room until further direction is received.
- Any equipment or farm vehicle movement off site requires approval from the Regional Livestock Manager, National Livestock Operations Manager or Technical and Welfare Manager depending on the circumstance.
- The Farm Manager must ensure that the correct PPE is worn at all times. All visitors to the site must also wear the correct PPE.



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6. General Quarantine/Biosecurity Procedures

The following is intended as general biosecurity guideline. It only applies in the absence of clinical signs, mortality or laboratory results indicative of a health challenge or disease issue on a particular farm or affecting a specific region.

- Deviations to any mandatory requirements specified below must be approved by the Technical and Welfare Manager and National Livestock Operations Manager.
- All visitors to any sites:
- Must only be permitted entry if approval is granted by the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager, or Managing Director. Entry is solely at their discretion and on a case by case basis. Entry can be denied if there is any doubt as to the necessity of the visit or the ability of the visitor to meet company biosecurity and entry requirements.
- Must meet the site quarantine and entry requirements, or entry will be denied. For general staff and visitor site entry requirements, quarantine declaration and induction protocol,
- Refer to
- Sign Site Visitor book
- LST-F-1021-NAT Personnel Quarantine Declaration
- Must declare any overseas travel, contact with poultry, livestock or pet birds in at least the fortnight prior to the visit so an appropriate quarantine period can be determined in light of the potential biosecurity risk.
- Must follow all site procedures and instructions.
- Mobile phones or cameras, except in the case where they are required by Farm Managers, are not permitted on any sites.
- Must visit a region, farm site or company facilities on a Monday unless there is a valid reason for visiting at another time and approval for the visit has been granted.
- Must park any vehicles in the designated visitor's parking area. Under no circumstances are visitors to bring any vehicles or equipment on site, unless this is considered essential for work.
- Must declare any overseas travel, contact with poultry, livestock or pet birds in at least the fortnight prior to the visit so an appropriate quarantine period can be determined in light of the potential biosecurity risk.
- Must follow all site procedures and instructions.
- Mobile phones or cameras, except in the case where they are required by Farm Managers, are not permitted on any sites.

6.1 Great Grandparent/Grandparent (GGP/GP) Farms or Facilities

GGP, followed by GP, rearing and breeder farms and associated facilities represent the highest biosecurity risk.

- Only essential visitors are permitted access to GGP or GP farm or facilities.
- GGP and GP farms or facilities must always be visited at the beginning of the week, following a minimum of 48 hours quarantine from a Baiada operated parent breeder farm and a minimum of 72 hours quarantine from a Baiada operated broiler farm, all with a normal health status.



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- An extended quarantine period may be applicable if visitors have been to external farms, including commercial layer farms, or any farm with a diagnosed disease or questionable health status. The quarantine period is determined on a case by case basis.
- An extended quarantine period may apply to any essential external visitors. The quarantine period will be determined by the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager depending on contact with other poultry sites and determined level of risk.
- GGP farms or facilities must be visited prior to GP farms or facilities. Then all sites must be visited in age ascending order and in accordance with the quarantine hierarchy.
- No more than one GGP or two GP farms or facilities are to be visited on the same day.
- Hatcheries cannot be visited on the same day as GGP or GP farms or facilities unless the hatchery is contained within the same facility.
- GGP or GP hatcheries also share the same quarantine status as GGP or GP farms. However, a GGP or GP hatchery would have a lower quarantine status than its equivalent farm or shed type.

6.2 Parent Rearing and Breeder Farms or Facilities

Parent rearing followed by breeder farms and facilities are the second highest ranked facilities in the quarantine hierarchy.

- Only essential visitors are permitted access to parent rearing and breeder farms/facilities.
- An extended quarantine period may apply to any essential external visitors. The quarantine period will be determined by the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager depending on the visitors' contact with other poultry sites and determined level of risk.
- GGP and GP farms or facilities are the only sites that may be visited prior to a parent rearing or breeder farm. However, sites must still be visited in age ascending order.
- Parent rearing and breeder farms must be visited on a Monday unless a GGP/GP farm or facility is visited earlier in the week.
- All parent rearing and breeder farms must be visited in age ascending order and in accordance with the farm quarantine hierarchy.
- The number of farms visited on a single day should be limited with consideration given to the age of the flocks, health status and potential risk to other farms.
- Broiler farms are not to be visited on the same day as parent rearing or breeder farms, regardless of age of the birds.
- A minimum of an overnight quarantine period is required after visiting a parent rearing or breeder farm, before visiting a broiler farm. This is due to the fact that parent flocks in rearing and breeder flocks have been administered live vaccines, which have the potential to be transmitted, causing disease in younger, unvaccinated birds.
- Hatcheries are also not permitted to be visited on the same day as parent rearing or breeder farms. A minimum of an overnight quarantine period is required before visiting a hatchery after a parent rearing or breeder farm visit.
- For biosecurity and quarantine requirements relating to specific diseases, refer to Section 5 of this manual.

6.3 Hatcheries

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Hatcheries are ranked the next highest in the quarantine hierarchy, after GGP/GP facilities and parent rearing/breeder farms. Hatcheries are considered high-risk and are biosecure facilities.

- External visitors are required to have a minimum of 72 hours quarantine prior to any visit to a hatchery. This quarantine period may be extended depending on the visitor's contact with poultry in the fortnight prior to the visit. The quarantine period required prior to a hatchery visit is solely at the discretion of the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager, or Managing Director.
- Hatcheries must not be visited on the same day as GGP/GP facilities or parent rearing/breeder farms. A minimum of an overnight quarantine period is required before a hatchery is visited after any one of these farms with a normal health status.
- Hatcheries must be visited on a Monday unless visits to GGP/GP facilities or parent farms are required earlier in the week. Permission to visit on any other day requires direct approval from the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager, or Managing Director.
- Broiler farms may be visited on the same day but only following a hatchery visit.

6.4 Broiler Farms

Broiler farms are biosecure facilities and entry is restricted.

- External visitors to broiler farms are only permitted entry with the permission of the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager, or Managing Director.
- Farms must be visited in age ascending order and in accordance with the farm quarantine hierarchy determined by the region.
- GGP/GP, parent rearing or breeder farms cannot be visited on the same day as a broiler farm. A minimum of an overnight quarantine period is required from a breeder farm visit to a broiler farm.
- A hatchery may be visited prior to a broiler farm, but not afterwards.
- Processing sites or feedmills must not be visited on the same day prior to a broiler farm.
- The number of broiler farm visits completed in a single day should be limited based on the region's health status and the determined level of risk.
- There may be additional decontamination requirements between farms depending on the health status of the farms and the region.
- For biosecurity and quarantine requirements relating to specific diseases, refer to Section 5 of this manual.

6.5 Processing Facilities

Processing facilities have the quarantine status of the lowest broiler farm. Processing facilities are biosecure facilities.

- Processing facilities are not to be visited prior to any farm visits regardless of the quarantine order or age of the birds on the farm.
- Hatcheries must always be visited prior to processing facilities. These facilities may be visited on the same day.
- Visits to processing facilities should be scheduled for the end of the week, wherever possible.



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- A minimum overnight quarantine period is required from a processing plant visit before returning to a broiler farm. An extended quarantine period may apply in the case of a health challenge or disease affecting a particular region.
- Hatcheries or breeder farms must not be revisited in the same week following a processing plant visit.

6.6 Feedmills

- Feedmills must not be visited prior to visiting any farm or processing facility.
- A minimum overnight quarantine period is required following a feedmill visit back to a broiler farm.
- Hatcheries or breeder farms must not be revisited in the same week following a feedmill visit.

7. Animal Welfare Emergencies

There may be circumstances where the welfare of birds is at risk or compromised. It is important that all employees are trained and deemed competent with respect to their knowledge of animal husbandry and welfare. The following information is intended to be used as a guide only.

In the case of an emergency, the immediate priority is to ensure that all people safe and not in any immediate danger. For further information, the site's Emergency Procedures Manual should be referred to, if applicable.

7.1 Reporting Emergencies and Triage

If the emergency only involves animals or the threat to people has been completely absolved, only then must you focus on dealing with the animal emergency.

- Ensure that there is no risk to people. If there is a serious risk to people or anyone is seriously injured, **call 000** immediately (refer to the site's Emergency Procedures Manual).
- The threat to all animals must be immediately assessed and rectified, if possible. Action may be required to ensure that the animals at risk are no longer threatened or in any immediate danger.
- As soon as possible, the serviceperson or regional Livestock Manager should be contacted to report the animal welfare incident and seek further advice. The serviceperson or Regional Livestock Manager may then be required to attend the site and investigate the situation.
- In the case of any animal welfare emergency, the regional Livestock Manager must then contact the Technical and Welfare Manager and the National Livestock Operations Manager to report the incident.
- Affected birds must be triaged. This means birds must be carefully assessed and they must be treated in order of need. Those deemed to be suffering the most, must be the immediate priority.
- Birds that are considered to be suffering or are unlikely to make a full recovery must be euthanased by cervical dislocation immediately, or as soon as possible. Permission to deviate from approved euthanasia methods must be sought and approved by the Technical and Welfare Manager. Approval must only be granted if trained and competent personnel



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are unavailable or suffering may be unnecessarily prolonged whilst waiting for a trained person to arrive on site.

- Affected birds that have minor injuries or are likely to recover, must then be assessed. Measures may be implemented to ensure that these birds have the best possible chance of recovery. Strategies may include: penning up; adjusting environment; or, applying liquid bandage. If recovery efforts fail, euthanasia by an approved means may be required.
- The situation must be regularly assessed and updates must be provided regularly to the relevant personnel, as deemed appropriate.
- A copy of the Bird Loss/Animal Welfare Incident Record form must also be completed and submitted as soon as the incident has been appropriately investigated.

7.2 Specific Emergency Response

Flood, Fire or Natural Disaster

1. Ensure that there is no risk to people. If there is a serious risk to people or anyone is seriously injured, **call 000** immediately (refer to the site's Emergency Procedures Manual).
2. If it is too late to act prior to the threat and there is no time to ensure the welfare of the at-risk birds, follow the procedures outlined in the Emergency Procedures Manual and evacuate. Once the property has been safely evacuated, the regional Livestock Manager must be contacted. The National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager are also to be made aware of the situation. A plan will be devised and any necessary follow up actions communicated.
3. If there is sufficient warning of a possible impending natural disaster, the regional Livestock Manager or National Livestock Operations Manager must be contacted to communicate the risk. It may be possible to implement a plan to ensure the welfare of the birds. Livestock Managers may consider whether the at-risk birds may be able to be processed early or moved to an alternative site.
4. If there is sufficient time to move birds to an alternative site, the type of farm should be considered (RSPCA, Free Range or Barn) and birds should be moved to the same farm type, if possible. Particular attention should also be given to ensuring that birds are supplied with the correct feed ration on the receiving farm (e.g. Free Range feed).
5. It is recommended that regular contact be made with the local State Emergency Services or other emergency personnel. Emergency personnel will be able to provide information and help ascertain the risk of impact.

FIRE:

- If there is a perceived risk, do not delay in terms of developing a plan to minimise the animal welfare risk.
- Tunnel ventilated farms may consider it safer to run the farm using minimum ventilation or utilise side-wall curtains for ventilation if the farm is in immediate danger. For conventional farms, fully opening side curtains, turning on roof sprinklers or utilising fogger's, if available, may help.
- If there is time prior to a fire evacuation, consider removal of any potential fuel sources around the farm and sheds, including loose wood or tree branches.
- If the farm property is in fire prone area, fire breaks around the perimeter of the farm should be well maintained and the area between sheds should be kept clean and tidy. Loose tree branches or material that may serve as fuel for a fire should be regularly collected.



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FLOOD:

- If there is sufficient time prior to potential flooding, the amount of feed available on farm should be ascertained. The regional Livestock Manager must be contacted and prompt feed delivery organised to ensure silos are full, if possible. This will help in the following days if access to the site is restricted or the feedmill is unable to continue operation.
- If there is time prior to a potential flood, the contour of the site and sheds should be considered. There may be time and an opportunity to build levy banks and strategically place sandbags or other material to prevent water access to the sheds in the event of river or water source overflow. It may also be useful to install migration fences and move birds into an area further away from the source of the threat. However, these measures may not help in the event of heavy rain causing flooding.

If re-entering a site following a fire, flood or natural disaster, please see above 'Reporting Emergencies and Triage' section for advice on how to manage surviving birds.

7.3 Insufficient Supply of Feed or Water

All sites should have a procedure for how to manage their water supply.

- If the farm is using surface water, the water levels should be carefully monitored, especially over the summer period to ensure there is always ample potable water available. If the source is reaching a low level, a contingency plan should be developed to ensure that there is sufficient back up supply at all times.
- The level of feed in silos should be checked regularly to ensure there is always plenty of feed on hand. Regular ordering and ordering of sufficient quantities should prevent any birds from running out of feed. Advice on feed ordering can be provided by a serviceperson. Any concerns regarding running out of feed, must be immediately communicated.
- If there are any major feed mill breakdowns that prevent the feed mill from manufacturing feed, the direction and action required will be communicated by the regional Livestock Manager or National Livestock Operations Manager.

7.4 Power Failure or Breakdown Affecting Feed, Water or Ventilation

- Generators and backup generators must be tested weekly to ensure that they are always in good working condition. All generators must be tested under load, inspection of fuel quantity to ensure running time minimum of 24 hours with records of testing maintained. This is critical to prevent bird loss due to ventilation failure.
- Alarms must be tested weekly to ensure they are working at all times. Records of weekly alarm testing must be available on farm.
- Feeder and drinker systems must be well maintained to ensure that the delivery of feed and water to birds is optimal. Any breakdowns must be addressed immediately. If the issue cannot be immediately rectified, the responsible serviceperson must be notified.

7.5 Adverse Weather Conditions

- During periods of very hot weather, it is paramount to ensure any detrimental impact to birds is minimised by ensuring close attention to temperature, air flow and humidity.

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- All farms must ensure that they have plenty of stored water available during the warmer months to ensure optimal operation of evaporative cooling, fogging systems and drinker systems. For conventional sheds in hot weather, strategic use of fogger's is recommended.
- Close attention should be paid to bird behaviour during hot weather. Birds should not be sitting down for extended periods of time on the litter. Alterations to the lighting program and regular movement through the sheds may encourage birds to stand up and move around. Advice for managing birds during hot weather can be provided by service personnel.
- Any bird loss due to adverse weather conditions must be reported immediately to the serviceperson or the regional Livestock Manager. Any high mortality events must also be reported to the National Livestock Operations Manager and Technical and Welfare Manager.
- For free range farms, the risk to the welfare of the birds, if they continue to range during adverse weather conditions, must be evaluated. If the decision is made to restrict access to the range area, this must be well justified on animal welfare grounds. A decision not to range must be communicated to service personnel and be well documented with sound justification.
- Sheds, facilities and roads must be maintained in good condition to prevent damage during heavy rain and storms.
- Farms must be maintained clean and tidy with loose equipment contained within storage areas.

7.6 Predator and Pest Control Programs

- Sheds must be well maintained and sealed to prevent access by wild birds and predators.
- Perimeter fencing around the production area is strongly recommended to ensure biosecurity is maintained and predators are excluded from the site.
- Any methods to control predators must be well justified in relation to the risk of their presence to birds and bird welfare. Control methods must be considered humane.
- A pest control program must be in place on all farms at all times. Rodent bait stations must be evenly spaced and well maintained. Pesticide use and rodent activity must be logged in accordance with SQF requirements. All methods of baiting must be considered humane and access to bait by non-target species must be restricted.

7.7 Emergency Euthanasia and Disposal

- The only approved routine on-farm method of euthanasia is cervical dislocation. This procedure is detailed in Task Instruction BRO-TI-024-NAT.
- Birds must be checked following cervical dislocation to ensure that they are dead.
- Captive bolt guns may be used for turkeys over 8kg the following Task Instructions LST-TI-1000-RVT or TUR-TI-1017-NAT.
- Birds that are considered to be suffering or are unlikely to make a full recovery must be euthanased by cervical dislocation immediately, or as soon as possible.
- In the case of an animal welfare emergency, permission to deviate from approved euthanasia methods must be sought and approved in writing by the Technical and Welfare Manager. Approval must only be granted if trained and competent personnel are unavailable or suffering may be unnecessarily prolonged whilst waiting for a trained person to arrive on site.



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- In the case of an emergency animal disease where it is considered necessary to depopulate the farm, the direction regarding the flock euthanasia and disposal method will be determined and advised by the Technical and Welfare Manager.
- In the case of high mortality, a contingency plan should be developed and documented for each region to ensure prompt disposal of dead birds. Local options should be evaluated prior to such an event occurring. Options may include: landfill sites, rendering facilities, collection services and/or composting facilities.
- Dead birds should only be transported in a covered vehicle and the disposal method must be approved.



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8. Emergency Contact List

Additional emergency contact details for local emergency services are listed in the site's Emergency Procedures Manuals.

Contacts	Position	Contact Phone Numbers
Sheridan Alfirevich	National Technical and Welfare Manager	0423 007 576
Jorge Ruiz	National Livestock Operations Manager	0402 039 043
James Baker	Livestock Manager- Tamworth and SEQ	0428 118 200
Sean Backhaus	Livestock Manager- Riverina	0427 001 231
Jim Barr	Livestock Manager- SA	0409 999 202
Craig Menzie	Livestock Manager- WA	0401 704 573
Mike Govers	Livestock Manager- VIC and Layer Sales	0418 118 028
Richard Blunsdon	Broiler Manager- VIC and Riverina	0428 118 106
Marc Tan	Broiler Manager- SA	0401 704 665
John Tchang	Broiler Manager- SEQ	0401 704 152
Trevor Williams	Breeder Manager- SEQ	0427 487 640
Richard Sherlock	Broiler Manager- FNQ	0427 017 325
John Howard	Broiler Manager- Hunter/Sydney	0401 704 101
Mark Taylor	Turkey Livestock Manager- Hunter/Sydney	0401 704 698
Paul Ryan	Livestock Manger- Rainbow Valley Turkeys	0428 118 865
Leanne Polsen	Veterinarian	0408 118 063
Site Emergency Contact Details and Emergency Services Details		