

Avian Influenza Protocol for Vehicles operating within Disease restricted Zones.

1. Scope & Purpose

The following SOP defines the methodology for on farm bio-security and the disinfecting of vehicles entering farm premises under AI disease restriction or premises located within disease restricted zones and should be applied along with the businesses own operating procedures. This protocol applies to a range of activities such as egg collections, hatchery collections, bird collections, bird deliveries, bedding deliveries, litter collections, feed deliveries, fallen stock/ABP collections, milk collections and a range of general activities such as fuel deliveries.

It is essential that strict levels of vehicle hygiene and full compliance with current bio-security measures are adhered to on farm premises to ensure that the significant risk posed by animal disease outbreaks and the potential for the spread of disease by vehicles is minimised.

2. General Key Points

- **Route planning for calls at non-poultry premises only:**
Schedule the collections and deliveries to ensure minimal entry in & out of the restricted zone(s) with the aim to complete visits outside the zones first, next visits inside the 10K zone (TCZ B/SZ) and last visits within the 3K zone (TCZ A/PZ)
- **Route planning for calls to poultry farms or combined farms with a poultry business:**
Calls should be made in following order:
 1. Non-poultry farms outside the restricted zones
 2. Poultry farms and combined farms outside the restricted zones
 3. Non-poultry farms within the restricted zones
 4. Poultry and combined farms within the restricted 10k zone
 5. Poultry and combined farms within the 3k zone
- **Vehicles:**
All vehicles require c&d before leaving the restricted zones and when leaving from and returning to base.
On farm premises vehicles should, wherever possible, be parked on hard standing away from farm animals in areas free of animal excreta, slurry, etc. Parking/driving/turning of vehicles should be avoided in areas where farm animals have access.
Annex A (attached) provides details for the completion of full cleansing and disinfection of vehicles on return to base.
- **Farm biosecurity:**
Appropriate PPE is worn AT ALL TIMES while on premises in a restricted zone.
Driver & any co- workers need to avoid entering any poultry houses if at all possible – arrange with the flock keeper to leave any paperwork in a secure alternative location other than a poultry house.
- **Disinfectant:**
The disinfectant used must be one approved by DAERA for disease prevention and General Orders with dilution rates applied as per 'POULTRY DISEASES'
Check attached website link list of approved disinfectants and applicable dilution rates.
[Approved Disinfectants | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/Approved-Disinfectants)

3. Procedure for drivers prior to leaving base

Drivers must check that they have enough appropriate PPE in their vehicles. This includes nitrile gloves, safety goggles and disposable boiler suits, disposable overshoes or footwear that is suitable to be cleansed & disinfected, disinfectant spray and appropriate hand sanitiser. If footwear requires c&d then bucket, hand brushes/hoof picks capable of dislodging debris from the soles of boots are also required.

All vehicles must be cleaned and treated with disinfectant prior to leaving base. Wheels, tyre tread, wheel arches and for hatchery vehicles tailgates must be sprayed with disinfectant.

Where required wheels should be power washed prior to applying the disinfectant.

4. Procedure for drivers and co-workers when visiting non-poultry farms

Normal PPE with footwear that is able to be cleansed and disinfected or disposable overshoes must be put on before stepping out of the cab.

Before getting back in the cab wellingtons must be properly cleaned with an approved disinfectant ensuring that all manure and muck has been removed from the tread pattern of the boots.

Prior to leaving the site spray the foot wells and pedals with an approved disinfectant
Hands should be sanitised thoroughly using a covid level sanitiser.

5. Procedure for drivers when visiting combined farms

Normal PPE with footwear that is able to be cleansed and disinfected or disposable overshoes must be put on before stepping out of the cab.

Before getting back in the cab wellingtons must be properly cleaned with an approved disinfectant ensuring that all manure and muck has been removed from the tread pattern of the boots.

Prior to leaving the site spray the foot wells and pedals with an approved disinfectant
All visible contamination with manure, slurry or similar material on wheels and wheel arches should be removed and areas must be sprayed with approved disinfectant.
Hands should be sanitised thoroughly using a covid level sanitiser.

6. Procedures for drivers and co-workers when visiting poultry farms.

Disposable overshoes (or spray boots/shoes with disinfectant) and disposable boiler suits must be put on BEFORE the driver steps out of the cab and taken off just before they get BACK IN again.

Boiler suits and disposable overshoes MUST be disposed off on the farms within the affected zone to prevent any further spread of disease. Farmers must provide a bag/bin to collect these items.

If wellingtons are worn then these must be properly cleaned with an approved disinfectant and sprayed again just before getting back in the cab.

All vehicles must be treated with disinfectant prior to leaving the site. Wheels, tyre tread, wheel arches and for hatchery vehicles tailgates must be sprayed with disinfectant. Spray the foot wells and pedals with an approved disinfectant

On farms with power hoses, the drivers will be required to power wash and then spray disinfectant onto their vehicle wheels before LEAVING the site.

Sanitise hands with a covid standard sanitiser

7. Health and Safety Risk Assessment

PPE Required for this Task:

- Gloves
- Protective Eyewear
- Disposable Over-suits
- Disposable overshoes or footwear able to be cleansed & disinfected
- Wellingtons

• Hazard	Risk	Control
Traffic	Serious Injury/Death	Always ensure that the engine is turned off before approaching the vehicle and ensure if you are not the driver that they are aware that you are carrying out this task.
Slips/trips/falls	Injuries to body including broken limbs, cuts and abrasions	Ensure that the area is tidy and free from tripping/slipping hazards before commencing sanitising the wheels. It is recommended that non-slip safety footwear should be worn.
Contact with disinfectant	Skin Irritation	Gloves & eye protection are to be worn when applying the disinfectant.

ANNEX A

Vehicle cleansing and disinfection procedure when returning from restricted zones or restricted premises.

1. Park the vehicle on a concrete wash area away from other vehicles or equipment so as not to contaminate them.
2. Starting on the exterior top of the vehicle and working your way down, scrape and brush the side walls, partitions, floor, tail lift.
3. Remove dirt from the wheels, wheel arches, mudguards and exposed chassis and any associated equipment such as attached forklift or pipework (ensuring any pipe end covers are securely in place to prevent interior contamination).
4. When all extraneous matter has been removed, use detergent to clean all surfaces using a low pressure hose. Pay particular attention to the wheel arches, wheels, mud flaps.
5. Leave detergent on as recommended by the manufacturer.
6. Rinse all surfaces with clean water using a high pressure hose.
7. Apply approved disinfectant at the required dilution rate to all exterior surfaces of the vehicle starting at the top and ensuring the wheels, wheel arches, mud flaps and underside of the vehicle are thoroughly covered.
8. Clean and disinfect the cab interior by cleaning any visible extraneous matter from mats and steps. Wipe the floor mats, steps and pedals with appropriately diluted approved disinfectant.
9. Clean and disinfect steering wheel/gear stick/handbrake.
10. Move the vehicle from the wash area wearing clean clothes and footwear.
Clean and disinfect the concrete wash area wearing waterproof PPE.

