

HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI)

CHRONOLOGY OF MAIN EVENTS AND LIST OF DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Response to HPAI outbreaks in Italy

Situation as of 23 September 2013 (17:00hrs)

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG Health and Consumers
Unit G2: Animal Health**

This document summarises very basic information on the outbreaks of avian influenza (AI) in Italy and related EU action. It focuses on the animal health aspects. More information can be found on the [SANCO AI web pages](#).

For additional information, please refer to the Decisions in the Official Journal, to the Commission's [avian influenza webpage](#) and associated press releases that can be found on http://ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/press_rel/press_rel_ff_en.cfm. EU legal texts – Commission Decisions (CD) and Regulations (RG) can be accessed via the [EUR-Lex](#) webpages.

For more general animal health information, please refer to the Commission's webpage: http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/index_en.htm

For public health information, please refer to the Commission's webpage: http://ec.europa.eu/health/communicable_diseases/diseases/influenza/avian_influenza/index_en.htm and of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/healthtopics/avian_influenza/Pages/index.aspx

As regards international organisations please refer to the AI web [pages](#) of the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE) and the AI web [pages](#) of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Faxes on avian influenza occurrences in Member States (MS) and third countries and Information on the Commission's legislative work are sent to MS and several third countries trading with MS. The numbering of the faxes starts each year with 001. Information on the Italian HPAI H7N7 outbreak starts with Fax 025.

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Italian authorities and stakeholders
SAT 10/08	IT	Italy Suspicion of avian influenza in poultry	Increased mortality is observed in one out of five sheds (stables) a laying hen holding in Ostellato, Ferrara province, Emilia-Romagna Region raising the suspicion of avian influenza infection.
TUE 13/08	IT	Italy Presence of Influenza A confirmed	Official restrictions on the holding are enforced. Samples taken during official investigation test positive by PCR for avian influenza A in the official laboratory of Forlì (IZSLER), Bologna province, Emilia Romagna Region in Forlì.
WED 14/08	IT	Italy HPAI H7 confirmed in poultry	The National Reference Laboratory for avian influenza in Padova (IZSVE-NRL), Veneto Region, confirms late evening the presence of HPAI of the H7 subtype in the laying hen holding in Ostellato, Ferrara province, Emilia Romagna Region.
THU 15/08	IT	Italy Informs the Commission on the HPAI H7 outbreak in poultry	Italy informs the Commission about the confirmation of HPAI H7 in the laying hen holding in Ostellato.
THU 15/08	IT	Italy Notification of HPAI H7 in poultry	The Italian authorities notify to the Commission and Member States via the Animal Disease Notification System an HPAI outbreak of the subtype H7 in a laying hen holding in the commune of Ostellato, province of Ferrara, Emilia Romagna Region.
FRI 16/08	IT	Italy HPAI H7N7 in poultry	Fax 025 to MS CVO's: information on the HPAI outbreak of the subtype H7N7 on a laying hen holding situated in the commune of Ostellato, province of Ferrara, Emilia Romagna Region. The Italian authorities are taking the EU measures foreseen in Council Directive 2005/94/EC to control avian influenza. Killing of all poultry (128,000 heads) present on the holding is on-going. 3km protection and 10 km surveillance zones were established around the infected holding. The Commission intends to rapidly adopt a Decision on protective measures in relation to this outbreak. Member States will be consulted by 'written procedure'.
MON 19/08	IT	Adoption of CD on protective measures for HPAI H7N7	Fax 026 to MS CVO's: information on the formal adoption at 17:00 hours of a Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in Italy (Document SANCO/7077/2013-Rev.2). The publication of the Decision in the Official Journal of the European Union of is scheduled for Wednesday 21 August 2013.
TUE 20/08	IT	Information update	Fax 027 to MS CVO's: updated information from the Italian authorities on the HPAI H7N7 situation. Completion of stamping out of the poultry on the infected holding in Ostellato is scheduled for 21 August 2013 and will be followed by cleaning and disinfection. Sampling and testing for avian influenza of poultry on holdings located in the zones under restrictions established around the outbreak is on-going. Italy informs that no eggs originating from the zones under restrictions were marketed outside Italy. Preliminary information would suggest that a low pathogenicity avian influenza virus entered the farm (possibly via wild birds) where it mutated to a highly pathogenic avian influenza virus strain.

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Italian authorities and stakeholders
WED 21/08	IT	CD 2013/439/EU published in OJ	Fax 028 to MS CVO's: information on the publication in the Official Journal of the European Union of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/439/EU of 19 August 2013 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in Italy with respect to the confirmation of the disease in a poultry holding situated in Ferrara province, Emilia Romagna region.
		Italy 2 nd outbreak HPAI H7 confirmed in poultry	Fax 029 to MS CVO's: information from the Italian authorities on the confirmation of a second outbreak of HPAI H7 in a laying hen holding in the municipality of Mordano, province of Bologna in the Region of Emilia Romagna. The affected holding keeps 585.000 laying hens and belongs to the same supply chain as the holding in Ostellato where the first outbreak occurred. An epidemiological link between the two outbreaks through the movements of eggs was identified. The Italian authorities are applying the measures foreseen by Council Directive 2005/94/EC notably the killing of the birds in the second outbreak and the setting up of protection and surveillance zones and an adjacent larger zone covering the eastern part of the Region Emilia-Romagna and a very small part of the Region Veneto where commercial holdings of laying hens, breeders and fattening turkeys are subject to veterinary restrictions and laboratory testing. A meeting of SCoFCAH will be convened on 26 August at 11:00 to review the disease situation and update Decision 2013/439/EU.
FRI 23/08	IT	Italy 3 rd outbreak HPAI H7 confirmed in poultry	Fax 030 to MS CVO's: information from the Italian authorities on the confirmation of a third outbreak of HPAI H7 in a fattening turkey holding located in the municipality of Portomaggiore, which is situated in the surveillance zone established around the first outbreak confirmed in Ostellato, Ferrara province, Emilia Romagna region. All measures according to the Directive on the control of the disease are applied, including the culling of the 19,850 turkeys present on the holding and the establishment of protection and surveillance zones around the infected holding. The epidemiological investigation and monitoring activities are ongoing.
MON 26/08	IT	Meeting of the SCoFCAH ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy presents the HPAI H7N7 disease situation. Draft Commission Implementing Decision (Doc. SANCO/7078/2013 - Rev.2) concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in Italy including the establishment of further restricted zones and repealing Decision 2013/439/EU was put for a vote and endorsed by the SCoFCAH.
			Fax 031 to MS CVO's: information on the unanimous endorsement by Member States at SCoFCAH of the draft text of the Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in Italy including the establishment of further restricted zones and repealing Decision 2013/439/EU (document SANCO/7078/2013-Rev. 2).
TUE 27/08	IT	Adoption of protective measures by Commission	The Commission adopts Commission Implementing Decision concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in Italy including the establishment of further restricted zones and repealing Decision 2013/439/EU and issues a press release .

¹ Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health - a Regulatory Committee, chaired by the Commission, including veterinary experts from all MS's governments (http://ec.europa.eu/food/committees/regulatory/index_en.htm)

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Italian authorities and stakeholders
WED 28/08	IT	Italy 4 th outbreak HPAI H7 confirmed in poultry	Fax 032 to MS CVO's: information from the Italian authorities on a fourth outbreak of HPAI H7 in a laying hen holding in the commune of Mordano, province of Bologna, Emilia Romagna Region confirmed on 27 August 2013. The infected holding keeping 121,705 birds has most likely become infected due to proximity to the second outbreak in the large laying hen holding also located in Mordano (fax 029/2013 of 21/08/2013). The newly affected holding is situated in the protection zone that was already established around the second reported outbreak. The Italian authorities are killing all birds present on the holding and adapting the borders and measures to be applied in the protection and surveillance zones in relation to this fourth outbreak.
THU 29/8	IT	CD 2013/443/EU Published in OJ	Fax 033 to MS CVO's: Information on the publication of Commission Implementing Decision 2013/443/EU of 27 August 2013 concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of subtype H7N7 in Italy including the establishment of further restricted zones and repealing Implementing Decision 2013/439/EU
MON 02/09	IT		Fax 034 to MS CVO's: Information from the Italian authorities on the epidemiological situation and the progress of the culling and disinfection operations to control the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H7N7. In total four outbreaks were detected in the Region of Emilia Romagna. For the two outbreaks in the province of Ferrara, the culling and the preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations are completed. For the two outbreaks in the province of Bologna the culling operations are still ongoing. Following a risk assessment, the Italian authorities have decided to perform preventive culling in five poultry holdings considered at higher risk.
TUE 03/09	IT	Case of conjunctivitis in poultry worker	Fax 035 to MS CVO's: Information from the Italian on a notification of a case of conjunctivitis in a worker in a poultry farm on 02/09 through the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS) to inform the Commission and Member States. The Commission was informed that the Italian public health authorities are following the situation closely, ensuring that all appropriate precautionary measures are taken by workers in contact with infected poultry and that their health is constantly monitored.
THU 05/09	IT	Suspicion of two further outbreaks of HPAI H7 in poultry Second notification of conjunctivitis in a poultry worker	Fax 036 to MS CVO's: Information from the Italian authorities about the suspicion of two new outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza H7N7 in the Region of Emilia Romagna, one located in Mordano municipality (province of Bologna) in the protection zone of the already notified second outbreak, while the other suspicion is in a backyard flock in Bondeno (province of Ferrara) not located in either of the surveillance zones already established. For both suspicions the national reference laboratory has confirmed HPAI of H7 subtype, but the confirmation of the neuraminidase is pending. Protection and surveillance zones were established around the new outbreaks. The Italian authorities have also issued a second notification on 03/09 on another case of conjunctivitis in a worker in a poultry farm related to influenza virus A/H7, through the Early Warning and Response System (EWRS).
FRI 06/09	IT	Confirmation of 5 th and 6 th HPAI H7N7 outbreak in poultry	Fax 037 to MS CVO's: Information from the Italian authorities updating on the epidemiological situation related to the fifth and sixth outbreak of HPAI H7N7 in poultry notified on 05/09/2013 (fax 036). The SCoFCAH of 10-11/09 will analyse the situation and consider an update of Decision 2013/443/EU in line with the new findings.

Date	Member State	Main event	Action by the European Commission, Italian authorities and stakeholders
TUE/WED 10-11/09		Meeting of the SCoFCAH ³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italy presents the HPAI H7N7 disease situation. Draft Commission Implementing Decision (Doc. SANCO/7111/2013) amending Decision 2013/443/EU concerning certain protective measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza of the subtype H7N7 in Italy was put for a vote and endorsed by the SCoFCAH.
TUE 11/09	IT	Adoption of CD on protective measures by Commission	Fax 038 to MS CVO's: information on the adoption of the Commission Implementing Decision amending the Annex of the previous Implementing Decision 2013/443/EU, concerning an update of the restriction zones. No new outbreaks have been detected since 05/09/2013 (referred to in fax 036/2013 of 05/09/2013).
FRI 13/09	IT	CD 2013/453/EU Published in OJ	
FRI 20/09	IT		Fax 039 to MS CVO's: Information from the Italian authorities summarising the epidemiological situation and the measures taken in relation to the six outbreaks of HPAI H7N7 detected between 14/08 and 5/09 in the provinces of Ferrara and Bologna in the Emilia Romagna Region. The lifting of the restrictions for the further restricted zone is foreseen for 24/09. Restrictions for the protection and surveillance zones will progressively be lifted provided the disease situation stays favourable. National measures in relation to movements of poultry and biosecurity on poultry holdings will be further implemented in the region of Emilia Romagna.
MON 07/10		Meeting of the SCoFCAH ³	