

POULTRY PRODUCTION REGULATION

August 2009
Belize

BELIZE:

**STATUTORY INSTRUMENT
NO. OF 2009**

REGULATIONS made by the Minister responsible for Agriculture, after consultation with the Authority, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section 86 of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Act, Chapter 211 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000-2003, and all other powers thereunto him enabling.

(Gazetted, 2009).

Short title.

1. These Regulations may be cited as the
**BELIZE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (POULTRY PRODUCTION)
REGULATIONS, 2009.**

Interpretation.

2. In these Regulations

- 2.1 Accredited Laboratory:** means a veterinary diagnostic laboratory authorized by the Belize Agricultural Health Authority to conduct avian disease diagnostics in accordance with OIE guidelines.
- 2.2 Accredited:** means any person or legal entity to whom BAHA delegates activities related to the prevention, control and eradication of poultry diseases.
- 2.3 Backyard Poultry:** All domestic poultry that are used for the production of meat and eggs destined for consumption, the production of other commercial products, the production of game birds or the reproduction of all these categories of birds.
- 2.4 BAHA :** means the Belize Agricultural Health Authority.
- 2.5 Biosecurity:** means any sanitary measure designed to reduce the risk of introduction and/or transmission of poultry diseases into poultry establishments.
- 2.6 Commercial Poultry:** means poultry which are raised for trade purpose.
- 2.7 Compartment:** means an animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishment under a common biosecurity management system with an distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.
- 2.8 Compost:** means a mixture which generally contains poultry organic material which may be used as fertilizer.
- 2.9 Control:** means sanitary measures whose objective are to reduce the incidence and prevalence of a poultry disease in a specific geographic area.
- 2.10 Day old birds:** means birds aged not more than 72 hours after hatching.
- 2.11 Eradication:** means the elimination of a pathogenic agent from a country or zone.

- 2.12 Hazardous Waste:** means the containers and materials used in the activities for prevention, treatment and control of poultry diseases which constitute a risk to human health and the environment either alone or when combined with other waste materials.
- 2.13 Official Veterinarian:** means a veterinarian authorized by BAHA to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health.
- 2.14 OIE:** means World Organization for Animal Health.
- 2.15 Poultry Disease :** means Avian Influenza, Avian Infectious Laringotracheitis, Newcastle Disease, Pullorum or Fowl Typhoid.
- 2.16 Poultry Establishment:** means farms, slaughtering plants, hatcheries, feed mills, processing plants and poultry litter outlets.
- 2.17 Poultry Farm:** means establishment, where birds are raised for commercial purposes and includes layers, breeders, broilers, pet birds, and fighting cocks.
- 2.18 Poultry Litter:** means the excrement of birds, pure or mixed with feed and other by-products accumulated during production.
- 2.19 Poultry :** means all domesticated birds including backyard poultry, used for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, for the production of other commercial products, for restocking supply of game, for breeding these categories of birds, as well as fighting cocks, caged birds, song birds used for any purpose.
- 2.20 Prevention:** means sanitary measures based on epidemiological studies with the objective of preventing the introduction, establishment and/or spread of poultry disease.
- 2.21 Programme:** means Programme for the prevention, control and eradication of poultry diseases established with the appropriate legal, financial and human resources.
- 2.22 Proprietor:** means the person or group of persons who owns and is responsible for the poultry establishment.
- 2.23 Region/Zone:** means a clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.
- 2.24 Rest period:** means the period of 2 to 3 weeks when the barns are emptied and cleaning and disinfection are done.
- 2.25 Solid waste:** means disposed of objects and materials resulting from human activities during the process of consumption, transformation and production of poultry that represents no human health risk.

3. OBJECTIVE AND APPLICATION

3.1 Objective

The present Regulation has as its objective the compliance with the Technical Directive To Regulate Regional Poultry Activity and the guidelines and directives of the OIE.

3.2 Scope of Application

Compliance with this Regulation corresponds to every person, group of persons or legal entity who is dedicated to production, industrialization, commerce and services in poultry industry.

3.3 Competent Authority

BAHA, through the Department of Animal Health, is the Competent Authority for the application of the present Regulation.

4 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 4.1** The Programme for Poultry Health is designed to establish the technical bases for the prevention, control and eradication of poultry diseases.
- 4.2** The planning and coordination of the programme for Poultry Health, shall be a shared responsibility among BAHA, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Belize Poultry Association.
- 4.3** The programme for Poultry Health shall be active and permanent.
- 4.4** BAHA may accredit private veterinarians and laboratories to carry out the official activities of the programme of poultry health.

5 TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Registration, location and basic biosecurity measures of poultry farms.

- 5.1.1** The poultry farms are to be registered, geo-referenced, and be under the control of the poultry health programme.
- 5.1.2** New poultry farms are to be located in areas that do not put human health and the environment at risk.
- 5.1.3** BAHA will determine the distance between new poultry farms to be established and existing poultry establishment, as well as the sanitary protection zones and the distance with respect to the population centres.
- 5.1.4** The buildings and other infrastructure of the poultry farms should comply with the following basic biosecurity requirements:
 - a) perimeter fence;

- b) foot dips at the entrance and exit of the farm ; there should also be a spraying system to adequately disinfect vehicles.
- c) sanitary module for employees and visitors ;
- d) The barns shall be suitably enclosed from the floor to the roof at a minimum distance of ten meters between barns and with a foot dip at each entrance ;
- e) The floor of the barns are to be made of material that is easy to clean and disinfect;
- f) The roof is to be made of impervious material and be conducive to good ventilation ;
- g) The poultry farm is to be dedicated to one species and one production type ;
- h) The barns and feed or egg storage areas should be free of pests and not accessible to wild birds. The immediate surroundings of the barns should be free of vegetation and garbage and, if possible, covered with gravel or other suitable material ;
- i) The Poultry industry shall have in place a programme for bacteriologic testing to verify the efficiency of the disinfection techniques ;

5.1.4 A complete register will be in place documenting visits and productive parameters (mortality, disease diagnosis, treatments and vaccination of each production batch). Said registers shall be readily available at all times.

5.1.5 Poultry farms are to be repopulated with healthy birds from poultry establishments with a similar health status and that are under regular surveillance for poultry disease.

5.1.6 The poultry feed mills shall have a sampling programme for poultry feed for the detection of *Salmonella gallinarum* and *Salmonella pullorum*.

5.1.7 Every poultry farm shall have proper drainage.

5.1.8 Every poultry farm shall have potable water. When a cistern or tank is used to store potable water they shall be properly maintained.

5.1.9 The handling of solid and hazardous waste.

5.1.10 The poultry barns shall dispose, in an opportune and sanitary manner, the dead animals and their remains.

5.1.10.1 The methods employed for such purpose may be any of the following:

- a) Burial : a pit must be dug considering the water table of the zone. The minimum distance between the bottom of the pit and the water table should be six meters.

b) Composting or other form of treatment that does not produce contamination of the water table and does not impact the environment and by extension human and animal health.

c) Incineration or industrial processes provided that during transportation there is no contamination.

d) Any other method to be used must be shall be approved by BAHA.

5.1.11 Sanitary disposal of hazardous and solid waste guaranteeing that its handling and treatment does not contaminate the environment.

5.1.12 Those poultry farms that do not have access to a sewer system should have a primary treatment for residual waters.

5.1.13 The farms shall maintain a permanent programme for the control of insects and rodents.

5.2 Handling, transportation and final disposal of poultry litter.

5.2.1 During the rest period the poultry litter shall be physically or chemically treated or composted. During its transportation it should be ensured that there are no spills.

5.2.2 In the event the poultry litter is processed in a treatment plant within or outside the farm, this plant should be authorized by the official authorities, to ensure that they have the necessary sanitary conditions so as not to put at risk the health of the birds, employees or the population in the immediate vicinity.

5.3 Requirements for hygiene and transportation of hatching eggs

5.3.1 The nesting material should be dry, clean and in sufficient quantity.

5.3.2 The eggs are collected at frequent intervals; at least four times a day and they are to be deposited in clean and disinfected containers.

5.3.3 Eggs laid outside the nest, that are dirty, broken or cracked will be collected in separate containers and will not be used for hatching.

5.3.4 Clean eggs will be disinfected immediately after being collected.

5.3.5 The disinfected eggs will be stored in a clean area, without dust and reserved exclusively for this purpose. When there is the need to store for more than 24 hours it will be at a temperature of 18°C and at a relative humidity of 70-80%.

5.3.6 The eggs are to be transported to the hatchery in authorized vehicles and in packaging previously cleaned and disinfected.

5.4 Requirements for hatcheries

5.4.1 There should be an operational procedural manual.

5.4.2 BAHA will determine the distance between the new hatcheries to be established and the existing poultry establishment, likewise the sanitary protection zones and the distance with respect to the population centres.

5.4.3 The design of the hatchery should facilitate proper ventilation and process flow. The movement of eggs, day old chicks and air flow is to be in one and the same direction.

5.4.4 The hatchery will be divided in working zones, separated physically and equipped with, as much as possible, individual ventilation, maintaining adequate air pressures particularly in the rooms set for the following operations:

- a) reception and storage of eggs;
- b) placing of eggs in trays;
- c) disinfection;
- d) pre heating and incubation;
- e) setters and hatchers;
- f) classification, sexing, vaccination and packing of day old chicks in boxes;
- g) storage of the material: boxes for eggs and day old chicks, egg trays, fillings for boxes, chemical products etc.
- h) wash/cleaning room ;
- i) cafeteria;
- j) office.

5.4.5 Screens or other suitable materials will be placed at the windows, vents and other openings to prevent insects or rodents from entering.

5.5 Requirements for hatchery hygiene

5.5.1 The hatchery shall have cleaning and disinfection procedural manuals with quality assurance.

5.5.2 The hatchery should have a perimeter fence with a gate to control exits and entries

5.5.3 All animals should be prevented access to the immediate surroundings of the hatchery.

5.5.4 There shall be programme for the control of pests and rodents.

5.5.5 The hatchery shall be free of all type of hatchery residues, garbage and other waste products.

5.5.6 The hatchery shall implement periodic environmental testing and microbiologic testing of surfaces, equipments and products.

5.5.7 Solid and liquid waste should be treated and disposed of adequately.

5.6 Requirements for the entrance of personnel and visitors

5.6.1 Personnel and visitors should comply with the hatchery's Standard Operating Procedures.

6 LOCATION OF POULTRY PROCESSING PLANTS AND FEED MILLS

6.1 BAHA will determine the distance between feed mills to be constructed and existing poultry establishments, likewise the sanitary protection zones and the distances with relation to the population centres.

6.2 BAHA will establish the distance between the poultry processing plants to be constructed and the existing poultry establishment, likewise the sanitary protection zones and the distances with relation to the population centres.

6.3 The solid and liquid waste should be treated and disposed of adequately.

7 SAFETY OF TECHNICIANS AND WORKERS OF THE POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS

7.1 Both official and private technicians, workers of the poultry establishments, proprietors or managers and anyone else involved in poultry production should have and use adequate protection.

7.2 The workers of the establishments should be initially trained and provided with continuous training.

7.3 The workers of the poultry establishments should use the personal protection equipment. The establishment should provide the necessary equipment and replace those that are damaged.

7.5 The responsible authority will issue the necessary health certificates.

7.6 All poultry establishments shall have separate toilet facilities for males and females. They should be hygienic and working properly.

8 OFFENSES AND SANCTIONS

Non-compliance with the provisions contained in this regulation shall be sanctioned according to the National Animal Health Act and its auxiliary regulations.

9 These Regulations shall come into force on the day of 2009.

MADE by the Minister of Agriculture this day of August, 2009.

(RENE MONTERO)
Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries