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Self-declaration for the recovery of country freedom from infection with High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza viruses (HPAI) in poultry by Poland

Declaration sent to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 2 August by Krzysztof

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I. Introduction

The objective of the self-declaration is the recovery of Poland's freedom from infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (HPAI) in poultry, in accordance with Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*.

The Self-declaration covers the whole country and describes 93 outbreaks of HPAI subtype H5N1 in poultry between 7 December 2022 and 1 July 2023.

The starting date of the self-declaration is 2 August 2023. A statement of responsibility for this self-declaration is contained in [Annex I](#).

II. Information about Poland's status regarding avian influenza

On 2 November 2022, Poland regained its status as a country free from notifiable HPAI in poultry according to the *Terrestrial Code* after an epidemic of HPAI.

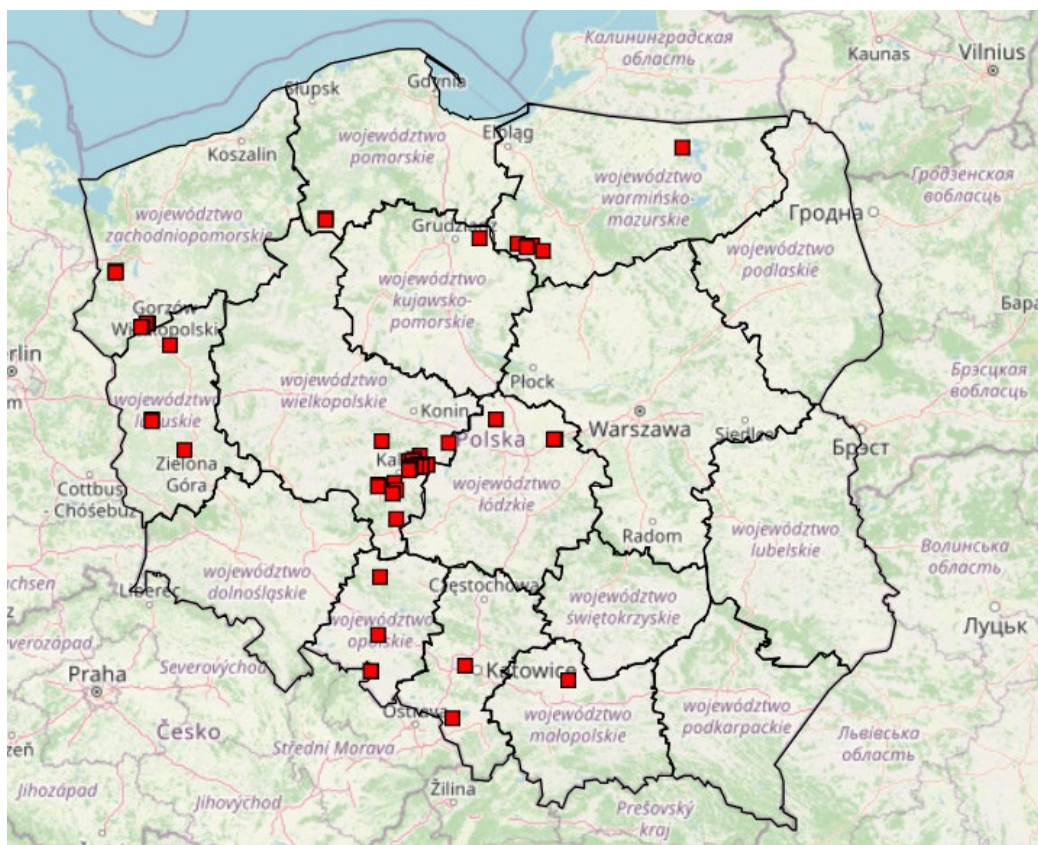
The animal health status was maintained until 7 December 2022, when an outbreak of HPAI subtype H5N1 was confirmed in a commercial farm where in total of 219,372 laying hens were kept, located in Opolskie region in Namysłowski district. This outbreak was recognized as primary and confirmed

by PCR followed by sequencing at National Veterinary Research Institute in Puławy (National Reference Laboratory). The epidemiological investigation concluded that the most likely cause of disease introduction into the holding was the transmission of the virus from wild bird habitats circulating in Europe. All contact holdings were traced and investigated.

The last outbreak of HPAI subtype H5N1 was confirmed on 1 July 2023, in a backyard farm of 100 chickens, 30 ducks, 11 geese (141 birds in total) located in Kocmyrzów-Luborzyca region in Krakowski district, małopolskie Voivodship. The epidemiological investigation concluded that the most likely cause of disease introduction into the holding was indirect contact with wild birds. The genetic material of the influenza virus was sequenced (WGS) and compared to the virus collected from a white stork from the małopolskie, Tarnów powiat, Radłów commune (outbreak 119/2023 confirmed on June 7, 2023). The viruses detected in the outbreak in stork and in poultry in the outbreak, according to the nomenclature used by the EU Reference Laboratory, belong to the CH genotype. Both viruses are very closely related to each other. All contact holdings were traced and investigated as described in section III. Control and eradication measures HPAI. Stamping out was complemented on 4 July 2023.

All outbreaks were reported to WOAHP via World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) and are presented in the map here below and in Table 1.

The map below shows the Polish administrative division in regions and the location of the HPAI outbreaks confirmed in poultry between December 2022 – August 2023.



The map is available at the link <https://bip.wetgiw.gov.pl/ai/mapa/>

Table 1: Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry in Poland between December 2022 and August 2023

Outbreak no.	Event ID	Locality	AIV subtype	Type of farm	Number of animals	Sampling cause	Date Confirmation NRL	Date of cleaning and disinfection
36/2022	4770	Falkowice	H5N1	Commercial	219 372	Surveillance passive	07.12.2022	10.12.2022
37/2022	4770	Lubnów	H5N1	Backyard	25	Surveillance passive	14.12.2022	15.12.2022
38/2022	4770	Zbica	H5N1	Backyard	39	Surveillance passive	14.12.2022	15.12.2022
39/2022	4792	Nowopole	H5N1	Commercial	13 000	Surveillance passive	15.12.2022	16.12.2022
40/2022	4792	Borki	H5N1	Commercial	20 071	Surveillance passive	16.12.2022	17.12.2022
41/2022	4793	Kaniwola	H5N1	Commercial	39 644	Surveillance passive	16.12.2022	18.12.2022
42/2022	4793	Skrzany	H5N1	Commercial	61 821	Surveillance passive	16.12.2022	18.12.2022
43/2022	4793	Kociołki	H5N1	Commercial	13 394	Surveillance passive	17.12.2022	18.12.2022
44/2022	4792	Międzychód	H5N1	Commercial	24 998	Surveillance passive	18.12.2022	19.12.2022
45/2022	4793	Romanów	H5N1	Commercial	6 714	Surveillance passive	20.12.2022	20.12.2023
46/2022	4794	Kotłów	H5N1	Commercial	2 383	Surveillance passive	20.12.2022	21.12.2022
47/2022	4793	Michałów	H5N1	Commercial	37 352	Surveillance passive	20.12.2022	22.12.2022
48/2022	4793	Nowosielec	H5N1	Commercial	55 867	Surveillance passive	21.12.2022	22.12.2022
49/2022	4794	Palaty	H5N1	Commercial	24 260	Surveillance passive	22.12.2022	24.12.2023
50/2022	4794	Grabów Pustkowie	H5N1	Commercial	5 799	Surveillance passive	23.12.2022	23.12.2022
51/2022	4793	Bilew	H5N1	Commercial	2 309	Surveillance passive	23.12.2022	23.12.2022
52/2022	4793	Zduńska Wola	H5N1	Commercial	2 232	Surveillance passive	23.12.2022	24.12.2022
53/2022	4794	Grabów Pustkowie	H5N1	Commercial	33 502	Contact holding	23.12.2022	24.12.2022
54/2022	4792	Buchowo	H5N1	Commercial	9 000	Surveillance passive	24.12.2022	27.12.2022
55/2022	4792	Buchowo	H5N1	Commercial	27 956	Surveillance passive	24.12.2022	27.12.2022
56/2022	4793	Człopy	H5N1	Commercial	7 439	Surveillance passive	25.12.2022	26.12.2022
57/2022	4793	Będzielin	H5N1	Commercial	11 481	Surveillance passive	27.12.2022	27.12.2022
58/2022	4794	Cieśle	H5N1	Commercial	46 741	Surveillance passive	27.12.2022	30.12.2022
59/2022	4793	Wojślawice	H5N1	Commercial	8 178	Contact holding	28.12.2022	28.12.2022
60/2022	4793	Grabina	H5N1	Commercial	1 129	Contact holding	28.12.2022	28.12.2022
61/2022	4794	Podzborów	H5N1	Commercial	14 710	Surveillance passive	28.12.2022	29.12.2022

62/2022	4770	Wysoka	H5N1	Backyard	55	Surveillance passive	29.12.2022	30.12.2022
63/2022	4794	Kaczki Plastikowe	H5N1	Commercial	12 203	Surveillance passive	29.12.2022	30.12.2022
64/2022	4794	Giżyce	H5N1	Commercial	24 015	Surveillance passive	30.12.2022	31.12.2022
65/2022	4794	Wilczyna	H5N1	Commercial	10 158	Surveillance passive	30.12.2022	31.12.2022
66/2022	4793	Karczówek	H5N1	Commercial	10 320	Surveillance passive	30.12.2022	30.12.2022
67/2022	4794	Białawy Wielkie	H5N1	Commercial	14 548	Surveillance passive	30.12.2022	31.12.2022
68/2022	4793	Marzenin	H5N1	Commercial	24 193	Surveillance passive	31.12.2022	01.01.2023
1/2023	4794	Grodzisko	H5N1	Commercial	29 143	Surveillance passive	03.01.2023	05.01.2023
2/2023	4792	Buchowo	H5N1	Backyard	59	Surveillance passive	03.01.2023	05.01.2023
3/2023	4792	Buchowo	H5N1	Backyard	25	Contact holding	03.01.2023	05.01.2023
4/2023	4794	Dębe	H5N1	Commercial	10 323	Surveillance passive	05.01.2023	06.01.2023
5/2023	4794	Trojanów	H5N1	Commercial	6 648	Surveillance passive	06.01.2023	07.01.2023
6/2023	4794	Namysłaki	H5N1	Commercial	21 608	Surveillance passive	08.01.2023	10.01.2023
7/2023	4794	Biskupice Zabaryczne	H5N1	Commercial	14 828	Surveillance passive	08.01.2023	10.01.2023
8/2023	4792	Linowo	H5N1	Commercial	27 984	Surveillance passive	06.01.2023	07.01.2023
9/2023	4794	Zielona Góra	H5N1	Commercial	113 804	Surveillance passive	09.01.2023	17.01.2023
10/2023	4793	Prądzew	H5N1	Commercial	13 320	Surveillance passive	10.01.2023	10.01.2023
11/2023	4794	Borów	H5N1	Commercial	6 180	Surveillance passive	10.01.2023	10.01.2023
12/2023	4794	Opatówek	H5N1	Commercial	11 438	Surveillance passive	11.01.2023	12.01.2023
13/2023	4770	Pokój	H5N1	Backyard	51	Surveillance passive	12.01.2023	12.01.2023
14/2023	4794	Oszczeklin	H5N1	Commercial	56 735	Surveillance passive	12.01.2023	14.01.2023
15/2023	4794	Domanin	H5N1	Commercial	3 766	Surveillance passive	13.01.2023	15.01.2023
16/2023	4794	Sierzchów	H5N1	Commercial	84 460	Surveillance passive	13.01.2023	14.01.2023
17/2023	4770	Ścigów	H5N1	Commercial	11 574	Surveillance passive	15.01.2023	16.01.2023
18/2023	4794	Szulec	H5N1	Commercial	5 432	Surveillance passive	15.01.2023	16.01.2023
19/2023	4794	Borów	H5N1	Commercial	5 006	Preventive killing	16.01.2023	12.01.2023
20/2023	4794	Borów	H5N1	Commercial	7 404	Preventive killing	16.01.2023	12.01.2023
21/2023	4794	Rososzycza	H5N1	Commercial	109 649	Surveillance passive	17.01.2023	19.01.2023
22/2023	4794	Sierzchów	H5N1	Commercial	5 945	Surveillance passive	17.01.2023	19.01.2023

23/2023	4794	Warszew	H5N1	Commercial	10 192	Surveillance passive	17.01.2023	19.01.2023
24/2023	4794	Koźlątków	H5N1	Commercial	10 798	Surveillance passive	17.01.2023	19.01.2023
25/2023	4794	Borów	H5N1	Commercial	7 387	Preventive killing	17.01.2023	17.01.2023
26/2023	4794	Szulec	H5N1	Commercial	10 345	Preventive killing	17.01.2023	18.01.2023
27/2023	4770	Dębowiec	H5N1	Commercial	1 850	Surveillance passive	18.01.2023	18.01.2023
28/2023	4794	Ksawerów	H5N1	Commercial	11 817	Surveillance passive	18.01.2023	19.01.2023
29/2023	4794	Ksawerów	H5N1	Commercial	8 091	Surveillance passive	18.01.2023	19.01.2023
30/2023	4794	Gać Kaliska	H5N1	Commercial	76 872	Surveillance passive	19.01.2023	20.01.2023
31/2023	4794	Sierzchów	H5N1	Commercial	3 983	Preventive killing	20.01.2023	20.01.2023
32/2023	4794	Sierzchów	H5N1	Commercial	5 171	Preventive killing	20.01.2023	20.01.2023
33/2023	4794	Szymany	H5N1	Commercial	11 918	Surveillance passive	22.01.2023	24.01.2023
34/2023	4794	Józefina	H5N1	Commercial	62 524	Surveillance passive	22.01.2023	24.01.2023
35/2023	4770	Równe	H5N1	Backyard	72	Surveillance passive	25.01.2023	26.01.2023
36/2023	4794	Gać Kaliska	H5N1	Commercial	8 926	Preventive killing	25.01.2023	20.01.2023
37/2023	4770	Równe	H5N1	Backyard	160	Surveillance passive	25.01.2023	26.01.2023
38/2023	4794	Janików	H5N1	Commercial	9 210	Preventive killing	27.01.2023	25.01.2023
39/2023	4794	Dęba Kolonia	H5N1	Commercial	15 849	Preventive killing	27.01.2023	27.01.2023
40/2023	4792	Gwiździny	H5N1	Commercial	18 823	Surveillance passive	04.02.2023	05.02.2023
41/2023	4794	Lubiszyn	H5N1	Commercial	27 384	Surveillance passive	05.02.2023	08.02.2023
42/2023	4792	Kielpiny	H5N1	Commercial	9 066	Surveillance passive	07.02.2023	08.02.2023
43/2023	4792	Mroczenko	H5N1	Commercial	16 140	Surveillance passive	09.02.2023	10.02.2023
44/2023	4794	Glinki	H5N1	Commercial	17 467	Surveillance passive	10.02.2023	14.02.2023
45/2023	4793	Pszczonów	H5N1	Commercial	8 140	Surveillance passive	11.02.2023	11.02.2023
46/2023	4792	Tereszewo	H5N1	Commercial	15 842	Surveillance passive	11.02.2023	12.02.2023
47/2023	4794	Lubiszyn	H5N1	Commercial	14 107	Surveillance passive	11.02.2023	15.02.2023
48/2023	4794	Ściechów	H5N1	Commercial	18 600	Surveillance passive	11.02.2023	16.02.2023
49/2023	4794	Czetowice	H5N1	Backyard	158	Surveillance passive	12.02.2023	13.02.2023
50/2023	4794	Borzym	H5N1	Backyard	64	Surveillance passive	12.02.2023	17.02.2023
51/2023	4794	Ściechów	H5N1	Commercial	11 700	Surveillance passive	13.02.2023	17.02.2023
52/2023	4792	Krzemieniewo	H5N1	Commercial	4 775	Surveillance passive	13.02.2023	14.02.2023

53/2023	4794	Borzym	H5N1	Backyard	97	Surveillance passive	17.02.2023	24.02.2023
54/2023	4794	Czetowice	H5N1	Backyard	49	Surveillance passive	19.02.2023	20.02.2023
55/2023	4770	Ruda Śląska	H5N1	Backyard	184	Surveillance passive	22.02.2023	22.02.2023
56/2023	4793	Pszczonów	H5N1	Backyard	27	Surveillance passive	27.02.2023	27.02.2023
57/2023	4794	Ostrów Wielkopolski	H5N1	Commercial	4 987	Surveillance passive	22.03.2023	24.03.2023
58/2023	4794	Wysocko Małe	H5N1	Commercial	4 657	Surveillance passive	22.03.2023	24.03.2023
59/2023	4792	Parcz	H5N1	Commercial	59 386	Surveillance passive	25.05.2023	26.05.2023
60/2023	5107	Kocmyrzów-Luborzycza	H5N1	Backyard	141	Surveillance passive	29.06.2023	04.07.2023

III. Control and eradication measures HPAI

In Poland avian influenza is notifiable and subject to disease eradication according to national legislation: [Act of 11 March 2004 on protection of animal health and eradication of infectious diseases of animals](#). The rules of control of HPAI are in force pursuant to [the Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019](#) supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases.

According to national law, farmers shall notify the Veterinary Inspection Authority or the nearest entity providing veterinary medicine services of the following clinical symptoms in poultry:

- increased mortality;
- a significant decrease in feed and water intake;
- nervous symptoms such as convulsions, neck twists, paralysis of the legs and wings, incoherence of movements;
- dyspnoea;
- cyanosis and ecchymosis;
- diarrhea;
- sudden drop in egg laying.

Stamping out policy:

Poland has handled the HPAI outbreaks according to the [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019](#) supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European

Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases and culled all the poultry in the infected holdings.

Measures at the infected holdings:

- Prohibition of movement of animals.
- Culling of poultry and disposal of carcasses at the rendering plants according to [Regulation \(EC\) 2009/1069 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#).
- Cleaning and disinfection of buildings, equipment, vehicles etc. immediately after the culling.
- An epidemiological enquiry was conducted.
- All contact holdings were traced and investigated.

Implementation of the restricted zones:

- On the basis of local regulation the following restricted zones were established:
 - Protection zone – area within a circle of a 3 km radius around the infected holding;
 - Surveillance zone – area within a circle of a 10 km radius around the infected holdings.
- Within protection and surveillance zones all measures in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 were implemented. Measures within the protection zone were lifted not earlier than 21 days after the conclusion of cleaning and disinfection of the infected holdings. At the end of this period, the protection zone was included in the surveillance zone for at least the next 9 days.

Within these restriction zones, the following measures were implemented:

- Inventory of all poultry holdings.
- Visits of holdings by official veterinarians and clinical examination of the poultry and laboratory tests, if necessary.
- Movement restrictions and prohibitions:
 - no poultry or other birds as well as eggs, for incubation or consumption, might enter or leave a holding without authorization issued by local competent veterinary authority (District Veterinary Officer);
 - fairs, markets, shows or other gatherings of poultry or other birds were prohibited;
 - release of poultry for game birds restocking was prohibited.
- Reinforced biosecurity measures:
 - preventing contacts with wild birds;
 - entrance of staff and visitors only when strictly necessary;
 - records of each visit must be kept by holdings;
 - disinfection procedures for staff and visitors entering or leaving poultry holdings;
 - cleaning and disinfection of vehicles entering or leaving poultry holdings; - disposal of dead birds in accordance with [Regulation \(EC\) 1069/2009](#).

Results of surveillance in the restricted zones

All farms in the protection zone and 6 farms in the surveillance zone were visited, none of the birds showed clinical signs or suspicion of contagious poultry disease. The designation of the zones and actions were carried out in accordance with COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2020/687.

IV. Surveillance and early warning system

Passive surveillance

Avian influenza is notifiable and subject for eradication in Poland according to national legislation - [Act of 11 March 2004 on protection of animal health and eradication of infectious diseases of animals](#). Veterinarians and farmers in territory of the whole country are obligated to notify the

District Veterinary Officers immediately upon observation of any clinical signs of avian influenza.

Active surveillance

Apart from passive surveillance, Poland has a comprehensive active surveillance programme for avian influenza in accordance with Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30. and Chapter 1.4. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

Serological surveillance in poultry is carried out as a part of "Programme aimed at detecting the occurrence of infections with avian influenza viruses" that is implemented. The competent authority for implementing this programme are the Veterinary Inspection bodies, i.e. the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO), regional veterinary officers, district veterinary officers. Direct supervision of implementing the programme at the district level is exercised by the district veterinary officer, who is also responsible for carrying out all official activities under the programme. The surveillance programme is applied on the whole territory of Poland so that samples are considered as representative for the whole country. The programme is implemented in all 16 regions in Poland.

Due to the fact that in the territory of Poland, the density of farms keeping poultry of various species and production categories is significant, the program is implemented throughout the territory of Poland. The only exceptions are farms keeping breeding ducks and breeding turkeys, the number of which varies depending on the voivodeship¹ and is relatively small compared to other poultry species.

Testing of samples is carried out at the regional laboratories and National Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza at the National Veterinary Research Institute in Puławy, where positive results from regional laboratories are also confirmed. Laboratory testing shall be carried out in accordance with Chapter 3.3.4. of the *Manual of Diagnostic tests and vaccines for terrestrial animals*. Detailed guidelines for exercising surveillance have been laid down in [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2020/689 of 17 December 2019](#) supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for surveillance, eradication programmes, and disease-free status for certain listed and emerging diseases.

The surveillance programme is based on serological tests. Blood samples for serological tests are taken from all production categories of poultry and poultry species, at least from 5-10 birds (with the exception of ducks, geese and mallards from which 20 samples are taken) from each poultry holding. PCR testing is used in case of a positive serological result to confirm whether the relevant flock is infected by a virus. Summary of the results of the surveillance program in 2022 is in [Annex II](#).

¹ The highest-level administrative division of Poland

Poland has a new comprehensive active risk based surveillance programme for avian influenza since 2023. Furthermore some laboratory tests of samples taken under active surveillance from poultry has been carried out in official laboratories designated by the CVO, according to art. 25 sec. 3 of the Act of January 29, 2004 on the Inspection Veterinary.

Active surveillance in poultry is carried out as a part of “Programme aimed at detecting the occurrence of infections with avian influenza viruses”. The competent authority for implementing this programme are the Veterinary Inspection bodies, i.e. the CVO, regional veterinary officers, district veterinary officers. Direct supervision of implementing the programme at the level of the district is exercised by the district veterinary officer who is also responsible for carrying out all official activities under the programme. The surveillance programme is applied on the voivodeships where high risk areas are designated. The programme is implemented in 11 out of 16 voivodeships in Poland. The areas classified as endangered were defined in the National Veterinary Research Institut in Puławy on the basis of the density of poultry, population density, proximity to water reservoirs and rivers, and proximity to main roads.

Voivodeships with high risk areas:

- dolnośląskie
- lubelskie
- lubuskie
- łódzkie
- małopolskie
- mazowieckie
- opolskie
- pomorskie
- śląskie
- warmińsko-mazurskie
- wielkopolskie

Active surveillance according to European legislation (Commission delegated regulation (EU) 2020/689, and (EU) 2020/690) is aimed at detection of circulating low pathogenic avian influenza viruses (LPAIV), which can easily spread between poultry flocks in particular in areas with a high concentration of poultry establishments due to their potential to mutate into highly pathogenic avian influenza. Samples taken for serological testing are tested using an inhibition test hemagglutination (HI) using the H5 and H7 antigens of the avian influenza virus, according to with procedures recommended by EURL. In the case of a positive result, when a serological test is carried out, for epidemiological investigation, swabs from the oropharynx and cloaca are collected for RT-PCR studies from 20 randomly selected birds from the flock where the positive sample was obtained.

Poland also conducted a risk-based complementary surveillance for HPAI in poultry species which generally do not show significant clinical signs. Laboratory tests of samples taken under active surveillance from poultry are carried out in official laboratories designated by the CVO according to art. 25 sec. 3 of the Act of January 29, 2004 on the Inspection Veterinary. Swabs are taken from the oropharynx to RT-PCR studies from 40 randomly selected birds. If the result of the test is a positive or questionable, confirmatory testing of the samples is carried out in the national reference laboratory. Samples are tested by RT-PCR for the presence of genetic material from influenza A viruses in accordance with the procedures recommended by the EURL. In case of a positive result for this test

the national reference laboratory further tests with molecular methods (RT-PCR) for H5 and H7 subtypes. If an avian influenza virus of subtype H5 or H7 is detected, sequencing of the HA gene cleavage site to determine virulence is carried out. All avian influenza virus isolates are sent to EURL. Summary of the results of the surveillance programme in 2023 is in [Annex III](#).

Wild birds

The programme is implemented by carrying out sampling and testing in dying and dead wild birds, as a passive surveillance system in the territory of the whole country. In particular, this surveillance covers wild birds, especially migratory wild waterfowl, which is subject to a higher risk of infection and transmission of the avian influenza virus subtype H5N1. An indication of passive surveillance is the detection of cases of abnormal (increased) mortality and/or clinical cases of disease in wild birds. Samples are taken from the cloaca and trachea or from the oropharyngeal cavity or from tissues of dead wild birds for testing using the PCR method or virus isolation.

In Poland, in 2022 264 dead birds were tested, 59 of them were positive for H5N1 and in 2023, 814 dead birds were tested, 648 of them were positive for H5N1.

V. Measures implemented to maintain freedom

The Veterinary Inspection followed a pre-determined strategy for the implementation of measures in case of an HPAI epidemic. Following a rapid risk assessment based on presence of HPAI in Europe in summer 2021, the risk level for HPAI introduction from wild birds was raised to high.

Awareness campaigns have been carried by local competent authorities and Veterinary Inspection in cooperation with poultry associations continued to encourage to improve general biosecurity and farm management, especially in regions with higher risk of HPAI.

Poultry keepers and breeders have to comply with biosecurity measures established in Polish provisions ([Regulation of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of 31 March 2022 on preventive measures against avian influenza](#) is in force since May 2022). The General Veterinary Inspectorate (GVI) continuously informs the public and stakeholders about the HPAI situation in wild birds using press releases, news and facts updates on the GVI homepage. A model biosecurity plan was elaborated by GVI and was forwarded to District Veterinary Inspectorate (DVI), Regional Veterinary Inspectorate (RVI) and industry associations.

Import of poultry and poultry products is done in accordance with the relevant EU regulation which includes the requirements in [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#) and in accordance with the requirements of Articles 10.4.7. to 10.4.22. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

VI. Awareness programs

Brochures reminding the public about the immediate reporting of disturbing symptoms, unexpected increased mortality or reduced production parameters have been published on the GVI website in places containing information about the protection of poultry and the symptoms of the disease. Biosecurity rules are also presented in the graphics.

Link to the GVI website: <https://www.wetgiw.gov.pl/nadzor-weterynaryjny/grypa-ptakow>

Additionally, the CVO issued recommendations for poultry keepers in which it emphasizes the importance of observing poultry and reporting suspicions of HPAI and compliance with biosecurity rules. These recommendations and graphics from the GVI website can be found on leaflets at all levels of veterinary inspection and posted on websites and social media.

Awareness campaigns are carried out by all levels of Veterinary Inspection in Poland.

VII. Conclusion

Considering that:

- 93 outbreaks of HPAI in poultry were detected between 7 December 2022 - 1 July 2023. The outbreak has been handled according to Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/687 of 17 December 2019, supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards rules for the prevention and control of certain listed diseases;
- prior to the occurrence of the above-mentioned outbreak, Poland had a self-declared free status for HPAI published in accordance with Article 10.4.3. of the *Terrestrial Code*;
- stamping out measures were adopted including culling of poultry, disposal of carcasses, cleaning and disinfection of the infected holdings. The last cleaning and disinfection were approved by the Polish Veterinary Inspection on 4 July 2023;
- more than 28 days have elapsed since the end of the cleaning and disinfection approval of the last HPAI outbreak in accordance with Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code*;
- HPAI is a notifiable disease in the entire country.
- Poland has a regular ongoing awareness program in place to encourage prompt reporting of HPAI and use of specific biosecurity measures;
- commodities are imported in accordance with Articles 10.4.7 to 10.4.22
- surveillance has been carried out in accordance with Articles 10.4.26. to 10.4.30. of the *Terrestrial Code*.

The WOAH Delegate of Poland declares that the country complies with the requirements for a country free from infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza viruses (HPAI) in poultry as of 2 August 2023, in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1.6. and Article 10.4.6. of the *Terrestrial Code* (2023) and consistent with the information provided in WAHIS.

Statement to be included in the self-declaration document.

I, the undersigned, Dr Krzysztof Jażdżewski, the Delegate of Republic of Poland to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), takes responsibility for the self-declaration of freedom from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry in Poland in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.4. Infection with Avian influenza viruses of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Statement to be included in the self-declaration document.

I, the undersigned, Dr Krzysztof Jażdżewski, the Delegate of Republic of Poland to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), takes responsibility for the self-declaration of freedom from high pathogenicity avian influenza in poultry in Poland in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 10.4. Infection with Avian influenza viruses of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

DISCLAIMER

WOAH, after performing an administrative and technical screening of a self-declaration concerning the animal health status of a country, a zone or compartment ("self-declaration"), as described in the standard operating procedures for self-declarations, reserves the right to publish or not the self-declaration on its website. There shall be no right of appeal from this decision or any recourse of any kind.

The publication by WOAH of self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of WOAH. Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the WOAH Delegate of the Member concerned.

Neither WOAH nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for:

- (i) Any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the content of a self-declaration,
- (ii) The use which may be made of the information contained in a self-declaration;
- (iii) Any direct or indirect consequences of any nature arising from or relating to the use of the information contained in a self-declaration.

Drawn up on 3 August 2023.

Signature of the Delegate:
Krzysztof Jażdżewski
/e-signed/

Results of the Polish avian influenza in poultry in 2022

Table 1: The results of the Polish avian influenza surveillance in poultry in 2022.

Poultry type	Number of holdings on the territory of Poland	Number of holdings tested	Number of samples per holding	Method	Number of H5/H7 tests
Chicken breeding	685	60	10	HI H5/H7	1 200
Laying hens	915	64	10	HI H5/H7	1 280
Free range laying hens	620	59	10	HI H5/H7	1 180
Turkey breeding	22	19	10	HI H5/H7	380
Fattening turkeys	1 283	61	10	HI H5/H7	1 220
Ratites	26	16	5	HI H5/H7	160
Farmed game birds	48	29	10	HI H5/H7	580
Fattening ducks	830	86	20	HI H5/H7	3 400
Duck breeding	54	28	20	HI H5/H7	1 120
Fattening geese	894	86	20	HI H5/H7	3 440
Goose breeding	196	73	20	HI H5/H7	2 920
Summary	5 573	581	-	HI H5/H7	16 880

In Poland, in 2022, 581 poultry farms were tested by conducting 8 440 hemagglutination inhibition tests for H5 and 8 440 for H7 (in total 16 880 tests). Five positive results of serological tests were obtained, however no presence of virus has been detected in the PCR tests.

Results of the Polish avian influenza in poultry for January – July 2023

Table 2: The results of the risk-based avian influenza surveillance in poultry in Poland from January to July 2023.

Poultry type	Number of holdings on the territory of Poland	Number of holdings tested	Number of samples per holding	Method	Number of tests
Goose breeding	214	61			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	440
			60	PCR HPAI	1083
Fattening geese	1145	103			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	740
			60	PCR HPAI	2145
Turkey breeding	43	9			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	100
			60	PCR HPAI	
Fattening turkeys	1419	73			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	905
			60	PCR HPAI	
Duck breeding	74	22			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	250
			60	PCR HPAI	300
Fattening ducks	1433	59			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	440
			60	PCR HPAI	984
Chicken breeding	782	60			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	710
			60	PCR HPAI	
Laying hens	5040	70			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	830
			60	PCR HPAI	
Quail	49	12			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	100
			60	PCR HPAI	234
Anseriformes for supplies of game to be released into the wild	0	0			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	0
			60	PCR HPAI	0

Galliformes for supplies of game to be released into the wild	34	0			
			10	H5/H7 HI test	0
			60	PCR HPAI	0
In total	10233	469			
				H5 HI test	4515
				H7 HI test	4515
				PCR	4746

In Poland, in 2023, 469 poultry farms were tested by conducting 4 515 hemagglutination inhibition tests for H5 and 4 515 for H7 (in total 9 030 serological tests) and 4 746 PCR tests. No positive test results have been obtained.
