

BELIZE:

**BELIZE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (POULTRY
HEALTH) REGULATIONS, 2022**

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BELIZE:

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

No. 121 of 2022

REGULATIONS made by the Minister responsible for agriculture, after consultation with the Belize Agricultural Health 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 2020, and all other powers thereunto him enabling.

(Gazetted 25th August, 2022).

PART I

Preliminary

1. These Regulations may be cited as the

Citation.
- BELIZE AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
(POULTRY HEALTH) REGULATIONS, 2022.**
2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires–

Interpretation.
- “accredited veterinarian” means a veterinarian recognised and approved by the Authority to conduct sanitary activities and other functions under these Regulations;
- “Act” means the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Act;

CAP. 211.
- “all-in-all-out single age group principle” means refraining from the introduction or removal of poultry or any animal from the grouping that has been contained for a particular purpose for a given timeframe;

“animal” includes cattle, buffalo, horses, mules, asses, sheep, swine, goats, dogs, cats, birds, poultry, insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, eggs of any kind and all animals of whatever kind, be they genetically engineered or altered or otherwise, whether similar to the foregoing or not;

“animal feed” means a mixture of nutrients that is produced under hygienic conditions that complies with the requirements of each species, age, and type of production, either as the only source of feed or as a supplement;

“biosecurity” means a set of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of animal diseases, infections or infestations to, from and within an animal population;

“Committee” means the Poultry Health Committee established under regulation 26;

“commercial poultry establishment” or “establishment” means–

- (a) a place where poultry are kept or processed, including–
 - (i) poultry farms;
 - (ii) hatcheries;
 - (iii) feed mills;
 - (iv) live bird markets;
 - (v) table egg depots;
 - (vi) spent hens depots;
 - (vii) breeder farms;

- (viii) broiler farms;
 - (ix) processing facilities;
 - (x) rendering plants; and
 - (xi) any other establishment involved in the supplying, harvesting, transporting or otherwise handling of poultry, poultry products, poultry by-products, or poultry litter; and
- (b) a business or enterprise that is duly registered in Belize under the Business Names Act or the Companies Act to carry out any economic activity involving poultry, poultry products, poultry by-products, or poultry litter in a regular and sustained manner;

CAP. 247.
CAP. 250.

“epidemiological unit” means a single bird or a group of birds with the same likelihood of exposure to a pathogenic agent;

“event” means a single outbreak or a group of epidemiologically related outbreaks of a given listed disease or emerging disease that is the subject of notification and is specific to a pathogenic agent and strain, including all related outbreaks reported from the time of the initial notification through to the final report, which shall include susceptible species and the number and geographical distribution of affected birds and epidemiological units;

“flock” means a number of animals of one kind, usually regarded as an epidemiological unit, kept together under human control or a congregation of gregarious wild animals;

“live bird market” means a market where poultry from various sources are slaughtered, resold for slaughter, or sold for further rearing or production;

“notifiable poultry disease” means

Schedule I.

- (a) a poultry disease listed in Part A of Schedule I which shall be reported to the Authority, in accordance with regulation 30, within 24 hours of the suspicion or detection of evidence of the disease; and
- (b) any other poultry disease the Minister may from time to time by Order declare to be an animal disease within the meaning of the Act;

“WOAH” means the World Organisation for Animal Health;

“WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code” means the most recent version of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code as approved and published by the WOAH;

“poultry” means all birds reared or kept in captivity for the production of any commercial animal products or for breeding, including fighting cocks used for any purpose, and all other birds used for restocking supplies of game or for breeding for this purpose, until they are released from captivity, but does not include pet birds or birds that are kept in a single household, the products of which are used within the same household exclusively, or birds that are kept in captivity for other reasons, including those that are kept for shows, racing, exhibitions, zoological collections and competitions, or for breeding or selling for these purposes, provided that they have no direct or indirect contact with poultry or poultry facilities;

“poultry by-product” means manure and litter together with waste from eggs and poultry processing;

“poultry product” means any poultry meat, egg or fibre (feather), or part thereof;

“processing facility” means a plant or premises where animals are slaughtered for human consumption, or where

meat or meat products are processed, but does not include rendering plants;

“rendering plant” means an establishment where dead animals or any part or portion thereof are processed for the purpose of obtaining the feathers, hide, skin, grease, residue, or any other by-product whatsoever;

“reportable poultry disease” means–

- (a) a poultry disease listed in Part B of Schedule I which shall be reported to the Authority, in accordance with regulation 30, within 30 calendar days of being detected or suspected; and
- (b) any other poultry disease the Minister may from time to time by Order declare to be an animal disease within the meaning of the Act;

Schedule I.

“sample” means any bodily fluid, tissue, organ, carcass, waste water, feed and feed ingredients, or other product from poultry or an establishment, which is used to conduct laboratory diagnostic tests.

3. These Regulations shall apply to commercial poultry establishments in Belize.

Application.

4.–(1) The Belize Agricultural Health Authority is the competent authority with responsibility for ensuring the implementation of these Regulations.

Competent Authority and functions.

(2) The Competent Authority shall have such powers and exercise such functions as are conferred upon it by these Regulations and by any other law.

5.–(1) The Authority may, in writing, designate an officer of the Authority to administer and enforce the provisions of these Regulations.

Designation of officers.

(2) A designation under sub-regulation (1) does not prevent the Authority from exercising the power, duty or function in question.

(3) The Authority may, at any time, revoke in writing, a designation given under sub-regulation (1).

Power of inspection of designated officers.

6. For the purposes of these Regulations, an officer designated by the Authority shall have—

(a) the powers of entry, inspection and certification given by section 78 of the Act;

S.I 23 of 2001.

(b) the power to inspect animals before slaughter, in accordance with the provisions of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Animals) (Ante Mortem) (Inspection) Regulations; and

(c) the power to inspect carcasses in accordance with the provisions of the Meat (Post Mortem) Inspection Regulations.

S.I. 20 of 1970.

Designation of accredited veterinarians and accredited laboratories.

7.—(1) The Authority may designate a veterinarian who has been accredited under the National Accreditation Programme to provide the services required under these Regulations.

(2) An accredited veterinarian designated under sub-regulation (1) shall comply with the conditions of his designation in the exercise of his functions.

(3) The Authority may designate a laboratory that has been accredited under the National Laboratory Accreditation Programme to provide the services required under these Regulations.

(4) Laboratories designated under sub-regulation (3) shall comply with the conditions of their designation.

PART II

Registration of Commercial Poultry Establishments

8.-(1) Every owner or keeper of a commercial poultry establishment shall register with the Authority—

Compulsory
Registration.

(a) within six months from the date of commencement of these Regulations, if that commercial poultry establishment existed prior to the entry into force of these Regulations; or

(b) within seven days of the completion of construction of a new commercial poultry establishment;

(2) Every owner or keeper of a commercial poultry establishment shall be required to register under these Regulations, notwithstanding the fact that the owner or keeper of such establishment may have previously registered with the Ministry responsible for agriculture,

Provided that any commercial poultry establishment registered in accordance with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Service Fees) Regulations, 2022, shall be deemed to be registered under these Regulations.

S.I. 34 of 2022.

(3) Every importer and exporter of poultry, poultry products and poultry by-products shall be registered with the Authority.

(4) An application for registration shall be made on or before January 31st of every calendar year.

(5) Any person required by this regulation to apply for registration and fails to do so, commits an offence.

**Application for
Registration.
Schedule II.**

9.—(1) A person required under regulation 8 to register with the Authority shall submit a duly completed application form to the Authority in Form 1 of Schedule II.

Schedule II.

(2) An importer or exporter whose establishment is required to register with the Authority shall submit a duly completed application for registration to the Authority in Form 2 of Schedule II.

(3) The Authority shall carry out an inspection of the premises indicated in the application and shall evaluate the application on the basis of the criteria for registration established in regulation 10.

**Requirements
for
registration.**

10.—(1) The Authority shall register the establishment if it is satisfied that—

- (a) the premises are fit and proper for the purpose specified in the application;
- (b) the operations of the establishment will not create or foster the creation of any unacceptable risk of spreading diseases;
- (c) the premises have been duly inspected by an authorized officer;
- (d) the applicant is a fit and proper person; and
- (e) the applicant has paid the relevant fees specified in Schedule III.

Schedule III.

(2) Where an application made under regulation 9 refers to a new commercial establishment, in addition to the requirements under sub-regulation (1), the Authority shall register the establishment if it is satisfied that the applicant has also met the requirements under regulation 17.

(3) In determining whether an applicant is a fit and proper person, the Authority may consider–

- (a) the applicant's history of compliance with enactments relating to animal health, animal welfare, food safety, agriculture, public health or public safety; and
- (b) any other factors the Authority deems fit to consider.

(4) Where the Authority registers an establishment, it shall assign a registration number to the establishment and issue a Certificate of Registration of Establishment to the applicant in the Form set out in Schedule IV.

Schedule IV.

(5) A Certificate of Registration of Establishment shall specify–

- (a) the address, referenced with geographical coordinates, of the establishment to which the certificate refers;
- (b) the name of the owner;
- (c) the purpose for which the registration is granted;
- (d) the period of its validity;
- (e) any conditions to which the registration is subject to; and
- (f) the registration number assigned to the establishment.

11.–(1) Where the Authority grants a Certificate of Registration of Establishment, it shall be a condition for such registration that the owner or keeper–

Conditions for
Registration.

- (a) keeps a record of the movement of poultry, poultry products and animal feed into and out of the establishment;
- (b) implements good production or good manufacturing practices in the establishment;
- (c) establishes a system which allows the owner or keeper of the establishment to demonstrate that the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b) are being met.

(2) Where the Authority grants a Certificate of Registration of Establishment, that establishment shall—

- (a) keep records of the mortality in each epidemiological unit within the premises for the type of production carried out and the result of any epidemiological surveillance carried out by the owner or keeper; and
- (b) comply with any epidemiological surveillance requirement.

Refusal to register an establishment.

12.-(1) The Authority may refuse to grant a registration certificate if it is satisfied that—

- (a) the applicant does not meet the requirements for registration specified in regulation 10; or
- (b) that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to hold a certificate.

(2) Where the Authority refuses to grant a Certificate of Registration of Establishment, or grants it under specific conditions, it shall notify the applicant, in writing, of the reasons for the refusal or for the imposition of conditions within ten (10) working days.

13.—(1) The Authority may, by notice in writing to the holder of a Certificate of Registration of Establishment, suspend or revoke a registration certificate if it is satisfied that—

Suspension or revocation of registration.

- (a) the holder of the certificate has not complied with or is not complying with the conditions for registration or with the provisions of these Regulations;
 - (b) the establishment is not being operated for the purposes for which the certificate was granted, or has ceased to operate; or
 - (c) it is necessary to suspend or revoke the certificate to prevent or limit the risk of spread of disease.
- (2) A notice issued under this regulation shall specify—
- (a) the reasons for the suspension or revocation;
 - (b) the date on which the revocation or suspension takes effect; and
 - (c) in the case of suspension, the date on which, or the event in relation to which, the suspension ceases to have effect;

(3) A person whose certificate has been suspended or revoked in accordance with this regulation shall immediately surrender his certificate to the Authority, and in any event, not later than seven days from the date of receipt of the notice, whether or not the revocation or suspension is the subject of any reconsideration or revision.

14.—(1) The Authority may, on its own initiative or on the application of the owner or keeper of an establishment, modify a Certificate of Registration of Establishment, and such

Modification of registration certificate.

modification may include the modification of any condition of the certificate.

(2) Where the owner or keeper of an establishment wishes to modify a Certificate of Registration of Establishment, the owner or keeper shall submit an application to the Authority in the Form set out in Schedule V and provide any information the Authority may reasonably require.

Schedule V.

(3) Where the Authority modifies a registration certificate on its own initiative, it shall, by notice in writing to the owner or keeper, specify the modification, the date on which it takes effect, and the reasons for the modification;

(4) Where the Authority denies an application for modification by an owner or keeper, it shall, by notice in writing to the owner or keeper, specify the decision to deny the application and the reasons for the denial.

Aggrieved persons may apply for review of decision of Authority.

15. Any person who is aggrieved by the decision of the Authority to grant, refuse, suspend, revoke or modify a Certificate of Registration of Establishment may, within twenty-one days from the date of receipt of the notification from the Authority, apply to the Minister in writing for a review of the decision of the Authority.

Register of establishments.

16.—(1) The Authority shall establish and maintain a register of the establishments registered in accordance with regulation 9.

(2) The Authority shall make the Register available for inspection by the public free of charge at reasonable hours, and allow members of the public to obtain a copy of any entry in the register, upon payment of reasonable charges.

Location and design of establishments.

17.—(1) Every person wishing to establish a commercial poultry establishment shall consult with the Authority prior to undertaking any construction to ensure that the establishment will be fit for registration.

(2) The Authority shall ensure that–

- (a) new establishments are located in an isolated geographical location, where feasible, and should consider–
 - (i) the location of or proximity to other poultry and animal establishments;
 - (ii) wild bird concentrations in the area;
 - (iii) the distance of the establishment from roads used to transport poultry, poultry litter and poultry products; and
 - (iv) any other considerations the Authority deems necessary;
- (b) new establishments are located and constructed to provide adequate drainage for the site so that run-off or untreated waste water shall not be discharged into waterfowl habitats;
- (c) poultry barns and hatcheries are designed and constructed with preferably smooth and impervious material to facilitate effective cleaning and disinfection;
- (d) areas immediately surrounding poultry barns and hatcheries are, where feasible, paved with concrete or other impervious material to facilitate cleaning and disinfection;
- (e) new establishments are surrounded by a security fence with a secured gate to prevent the entry of unwanted animals and unauthorised persons; and

- (f) a sign indicating restricted entry is posted at the entrance to the establishment.

(2) In addition to the requirements in sub-regulation (1), the Authority shall be satisfied that—

- (a) the establishments are designed to house a single species and a single production type, and where practicable, adopt the “all-in-all-out” single age group principle or if this is not practicable, the establishment shall be designed so that each flock can be managed as a separate epidemiological unit;
- (b) poultry premises and buildings used to store feed, eggs or other material are constructed and maintained in such a way as to prevent the entry of wild birds, rodents and arthropods;
- (c) poultry premises are designed and constructed, where feasible, with concrete or other impervious materials to facilitate the effective cleaning and disinfection;
- (d) where feasible, animal feed is delivered into the farm from outside the security fence;
- (e) the design of a hatchery takes into account work flow and air circulation needs; and
- (f) hatchery buildings have physical separation from the different areas and spaces of the establishment.

(3) The requirements established in sub-regulations (1) and (2) shall apply to any request for registration in accordance with regulation 9,

Provided that existing establishments shall present a plan for the gradual adoption of the measures required under sub-regulations (1) and (2) to the Authority for its approval.

PART III

Duties of Owners

18.-(1) Every owner or keeper of an establishment shall maintain records of movements of live birds, poultry products, animal feed and poultry by-products for the purposes of traceability in the form set out in Schedule VI.

Duty to record movement.

Schedule VI.

(2) The records maintained in accordance with sub-regulation (1) shall be kept for a period of at least one year after flock disposal and shall be made available to the Authority upon request.

(3) Every owner or keeper of an establishment shall report any movement referred to in sub-regulation (1) to the Authority within thirty days from the date of such movement.

(4) For the purposes of this regulation, every owner or keeper or person having control of movement of live birds, poultry products, animal feed or poultry litter shall record the change of a new owner or keeper, regardless of change of establishment, and shall report this change to the Authority within thirty days of such change.

(5) Every person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence.

19.-(1) Every owner or keeper of an establishment shall apply to the Authority for a Movement Permit to move spent hens and poultry litter in the Form specified in Schedule VII.

Duty to apply for Movement Permit.
Schedule VII.

(2) In the event of an outbreak of any of the diseases listed in Schedule I, every owner or keeper of an establishment

Schedule I.

shall apply to the Authority for a Movement Permit to move live poultry, poultry products and poultry by-products in the Form specified in Schedule VII.

Schedule VII.

(3) The Authority may issue a Movement Permit to the owner or keeper of an establishment in the Form set out in the Schedule VIII.

Schedule VIII.

(4) Movement Permits issued by the Authority in relation to spent hens, poultry litter, live poultry, poultry products and poultry by-products shall be valid for the movement of live poultry, poultry products and poultry by-products within any part of Belize.

(5) Every person who contravenes this regulation commits an offence.

Adoption of
biosecurity
measures.

20.—(1) Every owner or keeper of an establishment shall adopt biosecurity measures aimed at reducing the risk of introduction or spread of disease, including but not limited to—

- (a) constant and consistent cleaning and disinfecting of barn areas;
- (b) establishment and maintenance of active footbaths at all barn entrances;
- (c) establishment and maintenance of other facilities, including shower rooms, perimeter fencing, storage facilities, etc;
- (d) properly cleaning and disinfecting equipment and containers;
- (e) limiting and monitoring access of visitors and vehicles to the barn areas;
- (f) removal of dead animals on a daily basis and ensuring their disposal in accordance with regulation 40 (1);

- (g) cleaning and disinfecting all contaminated areas of the establishment whenever a reactor is identified;
- (h) removal of organic matter found in the contaminated area with soap and water before disinfecting; and
- (i) proper disposal of all bedding material and poultry by-products in the contaminated area in accordance with regulation 40 (4).

(2) All disinfecting activities shall be conducted using disinfectants that are registered with, and are approved by, the Authority.

(3) All biosecurity measures referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall be consistent with the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code and shall be approved by the Authority.

(4) Every person that has direct contact with poultry, poultry products and poultry by-products in an establishment shall always wear protective gear, including but not limited to gloves, masks, rubber boots, and shall follow all sanitary directions of the establishment.

(5) For the purposes of this regulation, reference to establishment shall mean all those within the country of Belize, and shall not be limited to only commercial poultry establishments.

21.—(1) Every owner or keeper of an establishment shall keep the following records—

Records.

- (a) data on flock health, production, medications, vaccination, mortality and surveillance;

- (b) for hatcheries, data on fertility, hatchability, vaccination and treatments;
- (c) records of cleaning and disinfecting barns, hatchery buildings and equipment; and
- (d) all other records required under these Regulations.

(2) All records required to be kept in accordance with sub-regulation (1) shall be kept for one year and should be readily available for inspection on site.

PART IV

Disease Control

Reference to an establishment in this Part.

22. For the purposes of this Part, reference to an establishment shall mean all those within the country of Belize and shall not be limited to only commercial poultry establishments.

Epidemiological surveillance and laboratory tests.

23.-(1) The Authority shall undertake epidemiological surveillance of notifiable and reportable poultry diseases and determine the need and frequency of active surveillance of a poultry disease listed in Schedule I by risk analysis.

Schedule I.

(2) For the purposes of prevention, control and eradication of poultry diseases, the official laboratory tests for the diagnosis of poultry diseases shall be those determined by the Authority and those which meet the WOAHP Terrestrial Manual guidelines, including serological and molecular screening and confirmatory tests.

Establishment of the Poultry Disease Programme.

24.-(1) The Authority shall develop, approve and implement a Poultry Disease Programme for notifiable poultry diseases and reportable poultry diseases in Belize and shall identify the poultry population relevant to the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

(2) The Authority shall apply measures to prevent, diagnose, control or eradicate poultry diseases regardless of the breed and purpose of production, and shall–

- (a) establish a system for the registration and access to documentation, including those required for movement control;
- (b) keep an updated list of official and accredited veterinarians and laboratories for the collection of samples and analysis;
- (c) establish and implement an emergency preparedness response and control plan for poultry diseases listed in Part A of Schedule I to address emergency situations for the purposes of preventing, controlling and eradicating a disease;
- (d) develop a strategy for training of stakeholders;
- (e) establish a poultry feed inspection plan for the prevention and control of poultry diseases;
- (f) establish procedures for the collection of samples and their submission to the designated laboratories in Belize or to approved international diagnostic laboratories;
- (g) establish procedures to address confirmatory diagnosis of poultry disease;
- (h) adopt procedures for the provision of technical assistance aimed at strengthening biosecurity;
- (i) develop and implement a strategy for awareness and communication regarding poultry diseases;

Schedule I.

- (j) establish a specific programme for addressing surveillance, monitoring, and prevention and control of diseases in backyard poultry in collaboration with the Ministry with responsibility for agriculture, relevant community leaders and other stakeholders; and
- (k) develop guidelines on biosecurity, Poultry and animal welfare and antimicrobial resistance measures which are consistent with the WOAHP Terrestrial Animal Health Code for implementation in establishments.

(3) The Authority shall designate a National Poultry Health Coordinator to coordinate the activities of the Poultry Disease Programme.

Components
of the Poultry
Disease
Programme.

25. The Poultry Disease Programme shall include–

- (a) the establishment of methods for risk analysis;
- (b) the establishment and implementation of methods, including those for the collection of data and sampling frequency, designed to categorize risk and classify animals as positive cases, suspected cases or cases free of the poultry disease listed in Schedule I;
- (c) the establishment and implementation of surveillance and quarantine procedures designed to detect positive cases or suspected cases of poultry disease and to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of a disease;
- (d) the adoption of procedures for the notification and provision of information to the of WOAHP listed poultry disease;

Schedule I.

- (e) the development of operational procedures for addressing suspected and confirmed cases of poultry diseases listed in Schedule I; Schedule I.
- (f) the development of communication strategies to ensure—
 - (i) public awareness of poultry disease in general, specifically of those listed in Schedule I; Schedule I.
 - (ii) public awareness of the importance of biosecurity; and
 - (iii) that supporting information is available; and
- (g) the coordination of presentations to the WOA of declarations of disease-free status of the country, a zone or a compartment, or the loss or recovery of such status.

26.—(1) The Poultry Health Committee is hereby established to support the Authority with the planning, coordination and implementation of poultry disease programmes.

**Establishment
of the Poultry
Health
Committee.**

(2) The Poultry Health Committee shall include the National Poultry Health Coordinator and a representative from each of the following agencies and entities, namely—

- (a) the Food Safety Department, Belize Agricultural Health Authority;
- (b) the Animal Health Department, Belize Agricultural Health Authority;
- (c) the Ministry with responsibility for health;
- (d) the Ministry with responsibility for agriculture;

- (e) the Department of the Environment;
- (f) the Forest Department; and
- (g) the Belize Poultry Association or from the private sector, given that the representative from the private sector is selected by the Poultry Associations.

(3) The Chairperson of the Committee shall be the National Poultry Health Coordinator.

**Functions of
the Committee.**

27. The functions of the Committee shall be as follows—

- (a) advise the Authority on emergency and emerging issues;
- (b) coordinate the implementation of the poultry disease programmes to prevent, control and eradicate poultry diseases;
- (c) develop, coordinate and monitor the activities of the poultry disease programmes;
- (d) within three months of its establishment, develop an emergency response plan for poultry diseases;
- (e) formulate and coordinate activities to sensitise the public on poultry health and on the importance of preventing, controlling and eradicating poultry diseases;
- (f) develop strategies for addressing training needs of stakeholders;
- (g) collect data and advise the Authority on technical innovations in poultry health and

the prevention, control and eradication of poultry diseases;

- (h) identify and advise the Authority on lawful sources of funding, including contributions, donations and bequests to finance the activities of the poultry disease programmes;
- (i) facilitate inter-agency and multidisciplinary cooperation between governmental and non-governmental agencies;
- (j) make recommendations to the Authority on all aspects of the prevention, control and eradication of poultry disease in Belize; and
- (k) perform any other function as directed by the Authority for the proper implementation of these Regulations.

28.—(1) The Committee shall meet at least three times per year for the transaction of its business at a time and place and on such days as the Committee may determine.

Procedures and meetings.

(2) The Committee may invite any person or entity to attend meetings or deliberations of the Committee for the purpose of advising it on any matter under discussion, but that person shall not be entitled to vote.

(3) The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings but if the Chairperson is unable to attend a meeting, the members present and constituting a quorum shall elect one of their numbers to preside at that meeting.

(4) The quorum of the Committee shall be four members.

(5) The Committee's decision shall be by majority of votes, and in addition to an original vote, the Chairperson

or other person presiding at a meeting shall have a casting vote in any case in which the voting is equal.

(6) Subject to this regulation, the Committee shall regulate its own proceedings and meetings.

Testing.

29. All testing required for the surveillance and monitoring of diseases under these Regulations shall be carried out at the official laboratory of the Authority or at the laboratories designated or approved by the Authority.

**Duty to report
or notify.**

30.—(1) A person who knows or has reasonable grounds to suspect, including by reason of the appearance or behaviour of any poultry or other animal, or has diagnostic evidence to show that any poultry or other animal is affected or may be affected, or was or may have been affected at the time of its death, by—

Schedule I.

- (a) any infection, infestation or any of the diseases listed in Part A of Schedule I, whether the poultry or bird is alive or dead, shall notify the Authority within twenty-four hours of the suspicion or evidence of the disease; and
- (b) any infection, infestation or any of the diseases listed in Part B of Schedule I, whether the poultry or bird is alive or dead, shall notify the Authority within 30 calendar days of the suspicion or evidence of the disease.

(2) Every owner or keeper of an establishment having in his possession or under his charge any diseased poultry or other animal shall keep such poultry or animal separate from any animal not so diseased.

(3) A person who gives notice to the Authority in accordance with sub-regulation (1) of this regulation shall provide all relevant information, including—

- (a) the name of the owner or keeper of the establishment where the affected poultry or other animal is or was kept;
- (b) the geographical location of the establishment where the affected poultry or other animal is or was kept;
- (c) details of the clinical signs presented by the affected poultry or other animal;
- (d) measures taken to separate the affected poultry or other animal from all other animals; and
- (e) measures taken to dispose of the affected poultry or other animal.

(4) Where the person giving notice under sub-regulation (1) is not the owner or keeper of the poultry or other animal, that person shall also notify the owner or person in possession or control of the poultry or other animal of the fact or suspicion that the poultry or other animal is affected or may be affected, or was or may have been affected at the time of its death, by any infection, infestation or any of the diseases listed in Schedule I.

Schedule I.

31.—(1) The Authority shall send, to the WOAHA, notification of all confirmed notifiable poultry diseases and of the following events of poultry diseases within twenty-four hours of their occurrence—

Notification to
the WOAHA.

- (a) first occurrence in the country, zone or compartment;
- (b) reoccurrence of an eradicated poultry disease following the final report that declared the event ended;

- (c) first occurrence of a new strain of a pathogenic agent of a poultry disease;
- (d) reoccurrence of an eradicated strain of a pathogenic agent following the final report that declared the event ended;
- (e) a sudden and unexpected change in the distribution or increase in incidence or virulence of, or morbidity or mortality caused by the pathogenic agent of a poultry disease present within the country; and
- (f) occurrence of a poultry disease in an unusual host species.

(2) The Authority shall send, to the WOA, weekly reports subsequent to a notification under sub-regulation (1) until a final report is submitted.

Confirmed
and suspected
cases.
Schedule I.

32. For the purposes of these Regulations—

- (a) a confirmed case of a poultry disease listed in Schedule I is established when the poultry or other animal is confirmed as being positive by a reference laboratory designated or approved by the Authority pursuant to these Regulations; and
- (b) a suspected case of a poultry disease listed in Schedule I is established when the poultry or other animal exhibits changes in its neurological, respiratory or digestive nature, including changes in behaviour, motor ability, sensitivity, or a progressive deterioration of its general state of health, including a failure to respond to any type of specific treatment or in which it has not been possible to make a tentative diagnosis after a clinical examination.

Schedule I.

33.—(1) Immediately upon receipt of a report of the infection, or reasonable suspicion of infection, of poultry or other birds by any of the diseases listed in Schedule I, the Authority shall cause an epidemiological investigation to be conducted at the establishment where the affected animals are kept,

The Authority
to investigate
and give
directions.
Schedule I.

Provided that every case identified through serological diagnosis as positive or suspected shall be confirmed by pathogen isolation, culture and typing, PCR, or any other technique approved by the Authority for that purpose.

(2) The authorized officer may give directions in relation to the steps which should be taken in dealing with any poultry affected with disease and with any other poultry, poultry products, fomite, fodder, poultry by-products, vehicles, utensils, implements or any other thing, whether similar to the foregoing or not, within the infected place and the occupier of every such infected place shall comply with such directions.

34.—(1) Where a report has been made in accordance with regulation 30, unless a movement permit is granted in writing to the owner or keeper of an establishment by an authorized officer stating the contrary, the owner or keeper of an establishment shall not, for a period of seven days—

Restriction on
movement.

- (a) move, or cause or permit another person to move poultry, poultry products, poultry litter or any other thing that has been used in, with or for poultry products or poultry by-products, from or unto the establishment where the diseased animal or animal product is located;
- (b) spread or cause or permit another person to spread slurry or poultry by-products on any land or establishment; and

- (c) otherwise dispose of, or cause another person to dispose of, poultry, poultry products, fomite, fodder, poultry by-products or any other thing used which is or is suspected to be infected or diseased.

(2) An authorized officer may issue a movement permit, subject to such conditions as such officer deems necessary, if such officer is satisfied that the movement will not, or is not likely to result in the spread of any of the diseases listed in Schedule I.

Schedule I.

(3) An authorized officer may suspend or cancel a movement permit issued in accordance with sub-regulation (2) if he reasonably believes that—

- (a) any condition under which the permit was issued or is contained in the permit, has not been complied with;
- (b) the applicant knowingly or recklessly provided false information to obtain the permit; or
- (c) it is necessary to avoid the spread of any disease listed in Schedule I.

Schedule I.

(4) Any person moving poultry or poultry products under a movement permit issued in accordance with sub-regulation (2) shall carry the permit, or a copy thereof, at all times and present it, on request, to an authorized officer for inspection.

(5) A person who acts in contravention of this regulation commits an offence.

35.—(1) Where an authorized officer has reasonable cause to suspect that poultry, poultry products, poultry litter or any other thing that has been used in, with or for poultry or poultry products is or has been affected or exposed by contact or otherwise, to a risk of being so infected by any disease listed in Schedule I, he may serve a Restriction Notice in respect of such poultry, poultry products, poultry litter or any other thing that has been used in, with or for poultry or poultry products or are of the establishment where they are located.

Restriction Notice.

Schedule I.

(2) A Restriction Notice shall be in the form set out in Schedule IX and shall prohibit the movement of poultry, poultry products, poultry litter or any other thing that has been used in, with, or for poultry or poultry products from the establishment where they are located.

Schedule IX.

(3) A Restriction Notice shall remain in force until a Withdrawal Notice, in the form set out in Schedule X, is issued by an authorized officer.

Schedule X.

(4) A person who acts in contravention of this regulation commits an offence.

36. The owner or keeper of an establishment within a place declared an infected place under the Act, shall cause his poultry and other animals to be separately confined in a coop, pen or other enclosure unless an inspector or authorized officer, in writing, directs otherwise.

Confinement of poultry in an infected place.

37.—(1) Owners and keepers of establishments shall establish and implement biosecurity measures, and the Authority shall review and approve such measures and ensure enforcement and compliance with such measures.

Duty of owners to establish biosecurity measures.

38.—(1) The Authority may impose a precautionary quarantine where an official or accredited veterinarian detects positive cases or suspected cases of any poultry disease listed in Schedule I.

Power of the Authority to impose quarantine measures.
Schedule I.

(2) The Authority may impose a definitive quarantine–

- (a) where poultry or any other animal infected with any of the diseases listed in Part A of Schedule I are confirmed positive by culture and typing or any other applicable test approved by the Authority; or
- (b) when the Authority determines that the presence of pathogens or infectious agents is indicated through epidemiological studies.

(3) The Authority shall inform an owner or keeper of an establishment, in writing, of its intention to quarantine a flock, the reason for the quarantine and the procedure for the removal of the animals into and from quarantine.

(4) The owner or keeper of exposed animals under definitive quarantine shall keep the exposed animals quarantined until depopulation or until the completion of the tests for the lifting of the quarantine.

(5) The Authority shall lift the precautionary quarantine when all the animals in the epidemiological unit test negative, and those that test positive are killed or slaughtered in accordance with approved procedures.

(6) The Authority may lift a definitive quarantine where two consecutive tests with negative results have been obtained from all the exposed animals and the owner or keeper has complied with all other quarantine measures.

(7) A person intending to move animals that have been under definitive quarantine shall notify the Authority of the movement of such animals out of the establishment and the Authority shall record such movement.

39.—(1) An authorized officer may cause any diseased or suspected poultry or other animal which has been on the same land, or in the same flock as, or in contact with, any diseased or suspected animal, whether or not any such land has been declared to be an infected place or is within an infected area, to be killed or slaughtered in order to prevent the spread of the disease, and for such purpose the officer may give all such directions as he may consider necessary.

Depopulation.

(2) The owner or keeper of an establishment shall conduct the killing or slaughter in the manner and under the conditions approved by the Authority, and which shall be consistent with the standards approved in the WOAHTerrestrial Animal Health Code.

(3) An authorized officer may take possession of or retain any animal that is to be killed or slaughtered in accordance with sub-regulation (1) for the purposes of observation and treatment.

40.—(1) For the purposes of avoiding contamination or spread of diseases, subject to section 57 of the Act, every person involved in the disposal of poultry carcass, poultry products, poultry litter or fomites shall follow the process approved by the Authority, after consultations with the Ministry with responsibility for the environment, and adopt any of the following measures or any other measure for disposal approved by the Authority, including—

Disposal of
dead animals
and farm
waste.

- (a) burial;
- (b) incineration;
- (c) chemical treatment;
- (d) composting; or
- (e) rendering, except in cases of diseased poultry and poultry products,

provided that the measure adopted does not contaminate or otherwise adversely impact the environment or human or animal health.

(2) Poultry establishments shall follow the guidelines established by the Authority for the treatment of waste water to ensure its sanitary disposal.

(3) The disposal of poultry litter requires–

- (a) a movement certificate issued by an inspector or authorized officer where such litter is sought to be moved outside of the establishment where it was produced;
- (b) the adoption of procedures approved by the Authority to ensure that its transportation does not create spills; and
- (c) the authorization of the Authority if it is to be processed in a treatment plant, to ensure that the necessary sanitary conditions to protect the health of animals, employees and other persons are met;

Schedule I

(4) In the event that a poultry disease listed in Part A of Schedule I is identified in an establishment, or a declaration of an infected area is made in accordance with the Act, poultry litter and bedding in the contaminated area shall be disposed of in accordance with the guidelines established by the Authority, after consultations with the Ministry with responsibility for the environment.

Compensation.

41. Where poultry is killed or slaughtered in accordance with section 56 of the Act, the compensation for the slaughter caused by a risk of the spread of poultry disease shall be in accordance with section 58 of the Act.

PART V

Importation and Exportation Requirements

42.—(1) A person desiring to import poultry, poultry products or biologicals into Belize shall, prior to applying for an import licence under the Act, apply to the Authority and pay the applicable fees for the conduct of an import risk analysis, which may also require an in situ visit.

Importation.

(2) All fees and charges shall be borne by the importer.

(3) The results of the import risk analysis shall determine approval of the importation and the conditions on which it will be granted.

43. A person who engages in the exportation of live poultry, poultry products, poultry litter or biologicals shall ensure the conditions of importation of the importing country are satisfied.

Exportation.

PART V

Miscellaneous

44. In accordance with section 6 of the Act and for the purpose of implementation of these Regulations, the Authority may enter into bilateral or multilateral arrangements, cooperation programs and activities, and any other relevant measure to promote, obtain or carry out the following, including but not limited to—

Cooperation
with other
agencies.

- (a) mechanisms that promote exchange of information, knowledge or expertise;
- (b) technical support and training opportunities;
and

- (c) funding mechanisms that provide financial support for the activities of the Authority under these Regulations.

Administrative
measures.

45. Where a person fails to comply with the Poultry Disease Programme implemented in accordance with these Regulations, the Authority may—

- (a) send a letter of notification requiring compliance within a specified period;
- (b) suspend or revoke a certificate or permit issued in accordance with these Regulations;
- (c) restrict the movement of animals owned by the person to slaughterhouses only;
- (d) restrict the movement of animals into the establishment owned or kept by the person; and
- (e) seek enforcement through the court.

Fees.

S.I. 34 of
2022.

Schedule I.

46.—(1) The Authority shall charge the owner or keeper of an establishment the fees prescribed in the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Service Fees) Regulations, 2022 for testing and services relating to testing for any of the diseases listed in Schedule I.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-regulation (1), any fees chargeable under these Regulations which are not specified in the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Service Fees) Regulations, 2022 shall be determined by the Authority.

Penalties.

47.—(1) A person who contravenes these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three years or to both fine and imprisonment.

(2) A person who obstructs the Authority, or any authorized officer or accredited veterinarian or laboratory in the performance of their duties under these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for three years or to both fine and imprisonment.

48. The Poultry Disease Regulations is hereby repealed.

Repeal.
Sub. Leg. 1991
Edn. CAP. 167
p.34.

49. These Regulations shall come into force on the 30th day of November, 2022.

Commencement.

SCHEDULE I
[regulation 2]

POULTRY DISEASES

PART A

List of Notifiable Poultry Diseases

1. Avian infectious laryngotracheitis;
2. Infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus;
3. Infection of birds other than poultry including wild birds, with influenza viruses of high pathogenicity;
4. Infection of domestic and captive wild birds with low pathogenicity avian influenza viruses having proven natural transmission to humans associated with severe consequences; and
5. Infection with Newcastle Disease virus.

PART B

List of Reportable Poultry Diseases

6. Avian chlamydiosis;
7. Avian infectious bronchitis;
8. Avian mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma gallisepticum*);
9. Avian mycoplasmosis (*Mycoplasma synoviae*);
10. Duck virus hepatitis;
11. Fowl typhoid;
12. Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease);
13. Pullorum disease;
14. Turkey rhinotracheitis; and
15. Marek's disease.

SCHEDULE II
[regulation 9(1)]

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF ESTABLISHMENT

FORM 1

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

DATE:

TO: The Belize Agricultural Health Authority

TYPE OF ESTABLISHMENT

- ☐ poultry farm
- ☐ hatchery
- ☐ feed mill
- ☐ live bird market
- ☐ table eggs depot
- ☐ spent hens depot
- ☐ breeder farm;
- ☐ broiler farm;
- ☐ processing facility;
- ☐ rendering plant;
- ☐ other establishment: _____

Name of Establishment: _____

Location: _____
(Geographic coordinates, street address, etc)

Mailing Address: _____

Company Representative (Person responsible for all matters related with registration)

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Facilities:

Size of building(s) (sq ft):

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

Number of Employees:

Birds

Type of Bird	Number of Birds	Number of Barns

Density:

Production Data (per week)

Number of birds hatched:

Table Eggs:

Hatching Eggs:

Number of Birds Slaughtered:

Number of live birds (per production cycle):

Feed Mills:

Bags per production cycle (measured in mass)

Processing Facility

Type of product:

Source of raw materials:

Water Source:

Supplier Verification Program (Yes) (No)

Feed Safety Management Program (Yes) (No)

Facility’s Traceability and Recall Programme (describe):

I declare, on penalty, that all the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant’s Name:

Applicant’s Signature:

Date:

For Official Use:

Application received by: _____ -

Post:

Signature:

Date:

Documents provided in support (attach copies to the application):

FORM 2*[regulation 9(2)]***APPLICATION FORM FOR REGISTRATION OF
IMPORTER/EXPORTER**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

DATE:

TO: The Belize Agricultural Health Authority

TYPE OF ESTABLISHMENT

☐ import☐ export☐ other: _____

Name of Establishment: _____

Location: _____
(Geographic coordinates, street address, etc)

Mailing Address: _____

Company Representative (Person responsible for all matters related with
registration)

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

Product imported/exported:

☐ hatching eggs/day old chicks☐ live birds☐ poultry meat fresh, chilled or frozen☐ processed poultry meat☐ laboratory biologicals and reagents

- ☐ poultry veterinary products including biologicals
- ☐ animal feed
- ☐ other product: _____

Frequency of importation/exportation:

Country of importation/exportation:

Quantity imported/exported per year:

I declare, on penalty, that all the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant’s Name:

Applicant’s Signature:

Date:

For Official Use:

Application received by: _____ -

Post: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Documents provided in support (attach copies to the application):

SCHEDULE III
[regulation 10(1)]

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration fees for commercial establishments:

Type of Establishment	Size or Production	Registration Fee
breeder flocks	Less than 3000	\$50.00
	More than 3000	\$100.00
commercial layers	Less than 200	\$25.00
	More than 200	\$50.00
broilers	Less than 200	\$25.00
	More than 200	\$50.00
turkeys	Less than 25	\$25.00
	More than 25	\$50.00
hatcheries	Less than 100 per incubator	\$50
	More than 100 per incubator	\$100
feed mills	Small	\$250
	Medium	\$500
	Large	\$750
Vet drug facilities	Small	\$50
	Medium	\$100
	Large	\$250
other establishment:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Table Egg Depots	100 crates or less per day	\$50.00
	More than 100 crates per day *crates consists of 30 eggs	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Spent Hen Depots	100 birds or less per week	\$50.00
	More than 100 birds per week	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Processing facilities (poultry)	Less than 40,000 per week	\$500
	More than 40,000 per week	\$750
<input type="checkbox"/> Live Bird Markets	Less than 100 per week	\$50
	More than 100 per week	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Rendering Plants	Small	\$250
	Medium	\$500
	Large	\$750

SCHEDULE IV
[regulation 10(4)]

CERTIFICATE NO. _____

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF ESTABLISHMENT

This certifies that

_____ owned by _____

_____ (address, including geographical coordinates)

has been registered with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority in accordance with the provisions of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Poultry Health) Regulations, S.I. _____ of 2022 of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority Act, Chapter 211 of the Laws of Belize, R.E. 2020, for the purpose of _____

_____, and under the conditions set hereunder.

This registration is valid for the period _____ to _____.

Establishment Registration No: _____

Managing Director

Director of Animal Health

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Conditions:

SCHEDULE V
[regulation 14(2)]

APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION
OF A
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF AN ESTABLISHMENT

1. The Director of Animal Health, 2. Date _____

Belize Agricultural Health Authority

Belmopan

Belize

3. Name of Applicant _____

4. Address of Applicant _____

5. Telephone Number/Email Address of Applicant _____

6. Poultry establishment: Name and registration number

7. Modification
Required: _____

8. Reason for Modification:

I declare, on penalty, that all the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant’s Name:

Applicant’s Signature:

Date:

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1. Application received by _____

2. Date application received (DD/MM/YYYY)

3.Modification approved

by_____

Date
(DD/MM/YYYY)_____

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORISED OFFICER

SCHEDULE VI
[regulation 18(1)]

MOVEMENT RECORDS

MOVEMENT RECORD OF LIVE BIRDS, POULTRY PRODUCTS,
ANIMAL FEED AND POULTRY LITTER (DURING DISEASE
OUTBREAKS)

Name:	Poultry Establishment No.			
Entry to Poultry Establishment	Date	Product	Origin	Quantity
Exit Poultry Establishment	Date	Product	Destination	Quantity
			Mortality	
Signature of owner				
Name of owner (print)				

SCHEDULE VII
[regulation 19(1)(2)]

APPLICATION FOR MOVEMENT PERMIT

APPLICATION FOR MOVEMENT

1. The Director of Animal Health,

2. Date _____

Belize Agricultural Health Authority

Belmopan

Belize

3. Name of Applicant _____

4. Address of Applicant _____

5. Telephone Number/Email Address of Applicant _____

6. Poultry establishment of origin: Name and registration number

7. Destination of product:

8. Type of product: spent hens, poultry litter? (choose one)–

8.1. Live Poultry

Spent hens

8.2 Poultry By-Products (specify)

9. Quantity

9.1 Product: spent hens, poultry litter (choose one)

Total quantity of product:

Number of product/container:

Number of containers:

Type of containers:

I declare, on penalty, that all the information provided above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Applicant's Name:

Applicant's Signature:

Date:

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

1. Application received by _____

2. Movement certificate granted

by _____

Date _____

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORISED OFFICER

SCHEDULE VIII
[regulation 19(3)]

MOVEMENT PERMIT

Permit No:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that poultry establishment _____
belonging to _____, has as of the
_____ day of _____,20 ____, been granted this Movement
Permit pursuant to the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Poultry Health)
Regulations, 2022.

THIS PERMIT:

- is valid for two month from the date of issuance hereof.

WITNESS my hand and the Public Seal of the Belize Agriculture Health
Authority
this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

Authorised Officer

SCHEDULE IX
[regulation 35(2)]

RESTRICTION NOTICE

Restriction on movement of poultry, poultry products and poultry litter specified below onto or off premises where poultry disease, infection or infestation is suspected–

To:

In Accordance with regulation 7 of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Poultry Health) Regulations, 2022, I, being a Veterinary Officer of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, reasonably believe that **Poultry, Poultry Products and Poultry Litter** kept on your premises is/are or may be infected with poultry disease, infection, infestation or emerging disease and I hereby give you notice as the occupier of the following premises:

that you must not move any **Poultry, Poultry Products and Poultry Litter** specified below onto or off the premises unless:

- You are issued with a licence authorising you to move them, or
- An official veterinary officer serves a notice to revoke this Notice.

The prohibition on movement contained in this notice does not apply to animals which are moved in an emergency to a place of slaughter or veterinary treatment so as to prevent the unnecessary suffering of that animal. In such cases full details must be given to an Inspector at the earliest opportunity.

I also give you notice that the following additional restrictions or requirements must be complied with in order to prevent the spread of disease:

This notice shall remain in force until such time as the **Poultry, Poultry Products and Poultry Litter** listed above die, are moved directly to a slaughterhouse under licence or it is withdrawn by a further notice in writing issued by an official veterinary officer. Failure to comply with the provisions

of this notice is an offence under the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Health) Regulations, 2022.

Signature

Veterinary Officer
Name in BLOCK LETTERS

Date:

SCHEDULE X
[regulation 35(3)]

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

Withdrawal of Restriction Notice issued for **Movement of poultry, poultry products and poultry litter specified below onto or off premises where poultry disease, infection or infestation is suspected–**

To:

In accordance with regulation 7 of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (Poultry Health) Regulations, 2022 I, being a Veterinary Officer of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, reasonably believe that **Poultry, Poultry Products and Poultry Litter** kept on your premises is/are free of poultry disease, infection, infestation or emerging disease and I hereby withdraw give you notice as the occupier of the following premises–

that Restriction Notice issued to _____, dated the _____ is hereby withdrawn.

Signature

Veterinary Officer
(Name in BLOCK LETTERS)

Date: “

MADE by the Minister responsible for the Agriculture after consultation with the Authority this 18th day of August, 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Mai', enclosed within a large, loopy oval stroke.

(HON. JOSE ABELARDO MAI)

Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise
(Minister responsible for Belize Agricultural Health Authority)