

### **Schedule 3 – Enhanced biosecurity measures for game bird premises**

- 1) Any game bird farmers, game bird keepers or managers of shoots must ensure that anyone involved in the rearing or releasing of game birds, in addition to the measures set out in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 (where applicable), apply the measures in this Schedule.
- 2) All individuals entering a rearing or release pen must ensure that their clothing is clean when entering the pen.
- 3) To minimise the spread of avian influenza between release pens and release areas, all individuals must do one or other of the following when entering and exiting each release pen:
  - (a) use a foot dip containing government approved poultry disinfectant at the correct dilution rate. The disinfectant should be at least ankle deep and under cover to avoid dilution by rain or exposure to UV light. Disinfectant should be regularly replenished. Prior to using the foot dip, use a brush to remove any soil or organic matter from their footwear and pay particular attention to the soles and tread. The foot dip should be placed as close to the entrance as possible.
  - (b) use dedicated footwear when inside the release pen – leave general footwear outside the release pen and do not walk on ground outside the release pen in the dedicated footwear.
- 4) Prior to entry to a premises where birds are kept, the exterior of any vehicles must be cleansed and disinfected. The exterior of vehicles that are in regular use on the site (which may include several premises) must be cleansed and disinfected each time they re-enter the site after leaving.
- 5) The following measures apply to feeding and watering stations:
  - (a) there must be at least one feeding station per 60 released gamebirds to reduce gamebird density per station. For pheasants, feeders should be placed in areas they like to feed but where less attractive to wild birds;
  - (b) feeding and watering stations must be inspected daily and cleaned as appropriate to remove soiling with faecal matter and feathers;
  - (c) feeding stations must be under cover to avoid contamination from wild bird droppings. Where possible drinkers should also be covered;
  - (d) consider moving feeding and watering stations regularly (and at least once a week) to avoid accumulation of faecal matter and feathers;
  - (e) any spilled feed that could attract wild birds must be removed daily;
  - (f) pheasants kept in release pens should not be fed within 50 metres of a water body regularly frequented by ducks and other waterfowl;
  - (g) gamebirds kept in release pens should not be fed within 500 metres of any other poultry or kept birds; and
  - (h) effective vermin control is carried out in release pens.

- 6) Game birds kept in release pens must be checked daily for signs of avian influenza. Any sick birds must receive immediate and appropriate attention, including the involvement of a veterinary surgeon where necessary. Any suspicion of avian influenza must be reported to the Animal and Plant Health Agency immediately. Further information on game bird welfare is available in the: [Code of practice for the welfare of gamebirds reared for sporting purposes - GOV.UK](#)
- 7) Keepers of game birds must conduct a daily search of the area within and up to a 50 metre radius surrounding the perimeter of release pen(s) (whilst in use) or where birds are being fed and watered, for carcasses of dead game birds and/or dead wild birds.
- 8) Any keeper of game birds, irrespective of how they are kept, must keep records of the number of birds put in release pens, visitors and details of bird morbidity and mortalities, and movements on and off the premises, and make them available to an inspector or veterinary inspector on demand. Records should include:
  - (a) date(s) and number of birds put in release pens or release areas;
  - (b) date and number of bird mortalities, including those euthanized through human dispatch;
  - (c) date of onset of any clinical signs suggestive of avian influenza;
  - (d) date and name of visitors to and purpose of visit (including staff) to the premises; and
  - (e) date and details of deliveries, collections and live bird movements to or from the premises (and contact details including name and phone number).
- 9) Any dead wild game birds (where cause of death is unknown), gulls, waterfowl or birds of prey should be reported to Defra using [the online reporting service for dead wild birds](#). Alternatively, dead wild birds can be reported by phone: 03459 33 55 77 ([find out about call charges](#)). Individuals should record the unique reference number as evidence that the incident has been reported. The report will be triaged and the carcasses may be collected for testing. If it is not collected within 96 hours it can be assumed it is not required for Avian Influenza testing, and the carcasses must be disposed of appropriately. For information on disposal of carcasses, please see: [Removing and disposing of dead wild birds](#).