

29 August 2024

Explanation guide

Biosecurity (Avian Influenza) Emergency Order 2024 (current)

Note: this is a summary only. All activity should be guided by the order, which is [available online](#).

Why is the Emergency Order in place?

An Emergency Order is in place to contain and prevent the spread of avian influenza, also known as bird flu, in NSW. This is due to the significant potential impacts avian influenza may have on poultry and other birds, wildlife, the environment, human health and the economy.

What does the Emergency Order mean?

The Emergency Order puts controls on the movement of avian influenza carriers into, within and out of the Restricted Emergency Zone and the Control Emergency Zone.

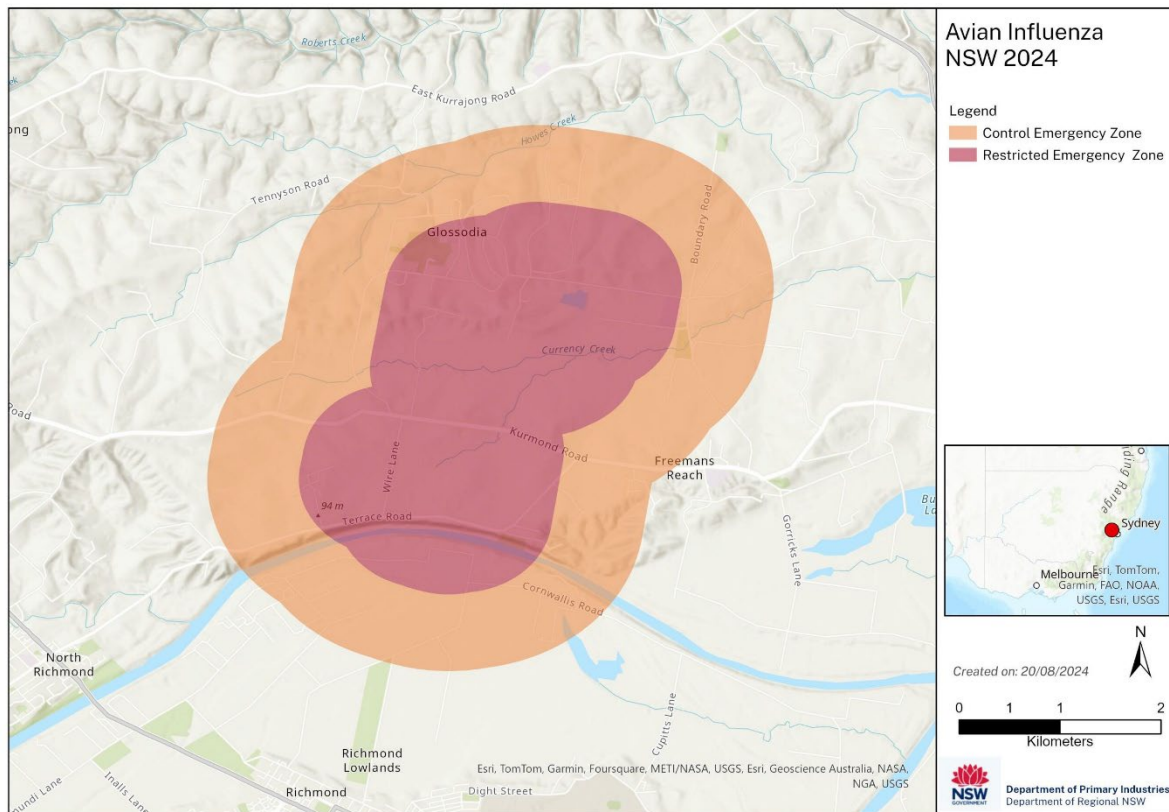
Avian influenza carriers include:

- live birds,
- bird products, including meat, eggs, feathers, tissues, and secretions,
- equipment, vehicles, and other objects that have been in contact with birds,
- bird feed, water and bedding material that have been in contact with birds.

The emergency order also requires:

- **Housing restrictions:** Domestic poultry and birds are to be housed in a way that prevents contact with wild birds. Feed, water and bedding materials should also be controlled to prevent wild bird access. Ideally, this means poultry are kept in a secure house or aviary. If this is not possible, netting, or similar modes of confinement should be used.
 - **Record keeping:** People in charge of domestic poultry or birds within the Restricted Emergency Zone or Control Emergency Zone must maintain records of all movements of domestic poultry and birds. Any vehicles, equipment or people that have been in contact with domestic poultry or birds should also be recorded and be available for inspection if requested.
 - **Shows and sales:** Exhibitions, displays, auctions or other means of selling domestic poultry or birds are not permitted within the Restricted Emergency and Control Emergency Zones.
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Emergency Zones



Restricted Emergency Zone: is the area surrounding the farms infected with avian influenza. This area is considered the highest risk of transmission of avian influenza and so restrictions on movements of avian influenza carriers and surveillance is most intense in this zone.

Control Emergency Zone: is the larger buffer area surrounding the restricted emergency zone. Whilst this area is free of avian influenza, some restrictions on the movement of avian influenza carriers will occur to ensure the rest of NSW is not at risk. Surveillance will be conducted in this area to ensure the spread of the virus is restricted.

Outside Area: is the rest of NSW (and Australia) that is unaffected by avian influenza.

Sale of chicken meat and eggs

- **Sales of road-side eggs:** the sale of eggs direct from farm is prohibited.
- **Can I still purchase poultry meat and eggs at retail?** Yes, it is permissible to purchase poultry meat and eggs from a retailer (e.g., supermarket, grocer) and transport these goods to a residence or business dwelling for consumption.

What is the production area?

The production area is the area on a farm where poultry are bred, raised or kept; eggs are kept, handled or incubated; or poultry are processed. On the farm situation, this area is typically

demarcated by fencing and signage. Areas in and around sheds and amenities are included in the production area.

Movements of feed onto poultry facilities

Feed can be delivered onto poultry farms in the Restricted Emergency Zone and Control Emergency Zone without requiring a permit if the following can be met:

- The truck does not enter the farm production area (i.e. the feed can be delivered outside of the production area perimeter fence via auger lines or similar). If the truck needs to be directly adjacent to sheds for unloading this is considered within the production area.
- The feed has not come from a feedmill that is located on a premises at which poultry are kept
- The truck has not had direct contact (i.e. been within a farm production area) on another premises within a Restricted or Control Emergency Zone within 72-hours of proposed feed delivery
- The truck is disinfected (wheel arches, wheels and undercarriage) on departing the farm after delivery.

For farms in the Restricted or Control Emergency Zones needing to receive feed, if all of the above conditions cannot be met, a permit will be required to receive feed, the granting of which will be subject to risk assessment.

Requirements for essential services e.g. gas, diesel, fresh litter

If vehicles, personnel or equipment are required to enter the production area of a farm in order to provide for essential services for example deliveries of gas or fuel, electricians, plumbers, delivery of other equipment, a permit will be required due to personnel, vehicles and/or equipment needing to contact potential avian influenza carriers before departing the premises.

If these activities occur outside of the production area e.g. gas/fuel tanks located out of the production area, a permit is not required; however, commonsense biosecurity measures should be employed for example decontamination of vehicles prior to depart from the premises.

Diagnostic sampling

Movements of diagnostic samples off poultry farms within the Restricted and Control Emergency Zones (e.g. National *Salmonella* Enteritidis Monitoring and Accreditation Scheme swab samples, routine veterinary diagnostics) will require a permit as these samples fit the definition of an avian influenza carrier.

Wildlife carers

The Emergency Order similarly applies to 'kept' wild birds in the care of wildlife rehabilitators within the Restricted Emergency Zone and Control Emergency Zone.

Movement restrictions and permits

The following table outlines the movement restrictions that apply to each specific avian influenza carrier in both the Restricted Emergency Zone and the Control Emergency Zone.

In cases where a movement is not permitted, exemptions may be provided upon the granting of a movement permit by NSW DPIRD. Each permit application will be subject to a risk assessment by NSW DPIRD and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Permit requests may take several days to assess and many requests are unsuccessful. You are encouraged to have alternate arrangements in place and you should not rely on the outcome of a successful permit request.

Apply for a movement permit here: <https://forms.bfs.dpi.nsw.gov.au/forms/22849>

What is allowed to be moved into, within and out of the Restricted Emergency Zone (REZ) and Control Emergency Zone (CEZ)?

Carrier	Restricted Emergency Zone (REZ)	Control Emergency Zone (CEZ)
Live birds	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ
Dead birds	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ
Hatching eggs	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	<p>Fertile eggs may be moved from CEZ to a hatching facility in the CEZ or outside area if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source flock is not showing signs of avian influenza on the day and day prior to movement • Vehicle and equipment, including fillers, are disinfected prior to pick-up and again at drop off • Eggs are decontaminated at the source (spray, fumigate, or wash) OR only non-contaminated (no evidence of faecal or other contamination) eggs are moved • Any cardboard fillers or packaging are disposed of after movement • Driver does not exit vehicle
Other bird products such as feathers and offal	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ

Used poultry litter	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ
Equipment that has been in contact with birds or other avian influenza carriers	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ
Vehicles that have been in contact with birds or other avian influenza carriers	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ
Products from rendering facilities	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ
By-products from poultry processing facilities	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	No movements permitted into, within or out of the CEZ
Waste from poultry farms, processing or grading facilities	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	Waste products may be moved outside of (except into the REZ) or within the CEZ for disposal if the vehicle used to transport the waste is disinfected before leaving the disposal facility.
Feed from feedmills	Farms in the REZ can receive feed if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feed mill is not co-located with another poultry facility • The truck has not had previous direct contact with poultry 	Farms in the CEZ can receive feed if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The feed mill is not co-located with another poultry facility • The truck has not had previous direct contact with poultry

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The truck does not enter the production area to deliver feed • The truck is decontaminated upon leaving the farm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The truck does not enter the production area to deliver feed • The truck is decontaminated upon leaving the farm
Table eggs from farm to grading	No movements permitted into, within or out of the REZ	Table eggs may be moved outside of (except into the REZ) or within the CEZ if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles and equipment (including plastic fillers) are disinfected prior to leaving farm and at the grading facility • Any cardboard fillers or packaging are disposed of after movement
Table eggs from grading to retail	No movements of table eggs from grading to retail permitted out of or within the REZ. Table eggs may move from a grading facility outside of the REZ to retailer in the REZ if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggs are disinfected at grading facility • Vehicles and equipment, including plastic fillers, are disinfected at the grading facility prior to movement • Driver does not exit the vehicle 	Table eggs may be moved to a retailer in the CEZ from a grading facility outside of or within the CEZ if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eggs are disinfected at grading facility • Vehicles and equipment (including plastic fillers) are disinfected at the grading facility
Table eggs from retail	Table eggs are allowed to move from the point of retail in the REZ	Table eggs are allowed to move from the point of retail in the CEZ
Poultry meat to retail	Poultry meat is allowed to move into and within the REZ for retail Poultry meat is not allowed to move out of the REZ to retail	Poultry meat may move into (except from the REZ) and within the CEZ for retail Poultry meat is not allowed to move out of the CEZ to retail
Poultry meat from retail	Poultry meat is allowed to move from the point of retail in the REZ	Poultry meat is allowed to move from the point of retail in the CEZ

State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2024. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (June 2024). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.

