

Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act
Mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza Insurance Review

Notice to Producers
February 2016



Mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza Insurance Review

In response to industry requests to provide legal clarity around the authority of boards and commissions established under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)* regarding mandatory disease requirements and given the impact and effects of the 2014/15 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak, the BC Ministry of Agriculture amended the *NPMA* during the Spring 2015 Legislative Session. The poultry boards and commission are now enabled to consider establishing disease insurance requirements as part of the scheme by way of amendment to their General/Consolidated Orders.

BC FIRB has stated that the boards and commission must “determine in the first instance, through a demonstrated SAFETI based approach – the information they require to make decisions that are in compliance with their scheme and in accord with sound marketing policy”. BC FIRB indicated that prior approval would be required if a board or commission were to want to establish mandatory disease insurance requirements.

The Ministry of Agriculture considers that Notifiable Avian Influenza (NAI) discovery has shifted from being an “if” to a “when” occurrence and should be looked at from the perspective of “how to build the response into industry practice”. There is an expectation that the boards and commission would actively consider establishing mandatory disease insurance requirements. The Ministry also indicated that the ability to access Agri-Recovery for a subsequent NAI outbreak was not guaranteed, given its objective to cover exceptional events not previously covered by the program.

During the fall of 2015, each of the four feather boards independently determined the need to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with pursuing the implementation of mandatory disease insurance. In November 2015, the four boards met to discuss the matter and determined there to be value in working collectively and collaboratively to address the question of mandatory disease insurance. A Work Plan has been developed (available on the website) outlining the information to be gathered as well as the key questions to be answered as part of the review.

The boards and commission have established a Steering Committee to oversee the work. The committee members include:

- Broiler Hatching Egg Commission – Allan Cross and Stephanie Nelson
- Chicken – Greg Gauthier and Bill Vanderspek
- Eggs – Aryn Alibhai and Dwight Yochim
- Turkey – Michel Benoit
- BC Poultry Association – Ravi Bathe and Garnet Etsell

Greg Gauthier will Chair the Steering Committee; Christine Rickson, BC Chicken Marketing Board is the Committee Secretary; and Michel Benoit, BC Turkey Marketing Board will engage consultants to conduct the work and coordinate with the BC Poultry Association on behalf of the boards and commission.

The boards and commission have agreed to engage Harvey Sasaki, Agri-Saki Consulting Inc. to manage the implementation of the work plan and complete the work in key phases under the direction of the Steering Committee, including the preparation of the submission to BC FIRB.

Information and reports on each phase of the work plan activities will be posted to each of the board's and commission's website as they are completed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the work plan, please direct them to Harvey Sasaki @ harveysasaki@gmail.com.

February 1, 2016