



WOAH Standards Facilitating Safe International Trade Commodity: Poultry Meat

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Egypt's Experience in Compartmentalization & Commodity-Based Measures for Poultry Meat

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The Poultry Sector in Egypt

- **One of the largest** poultry industries in Africa and the Middle East.
- **Food security:** Major contributor to national food security and protein supply.
- **Economic role:** Significant contributor to employment and economic development.
- **Export ambition:** Growing strategic focus on international market access
- **Veterinary systems:** Continuous strengthening of governance surveillance and biosecurity.
- **Public private:** Strong collaboration between GOVS and the private sector.



Egypt Public Sector Perspective

The General Organization for Veterinary Services (GOVS) is the Competent Veterinary Authority of Egypt under the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation.

Our strategy:

- Strengthen Veterinary Services
- Enhance disease surveillance and early warning systems
- Improve biosecurity throughout the poultry value chain
- Promote compartmentalization and zoning
- Facilitate safe international trade through science-based standards
- Strengthen electronic certification and traceability systems
- Conducting risk assessments to inform import/export decisions and surveillance strategies, in alignment with WOAHA guidelines.



Role of the Veterinary Authority (GOVS)

- **Veterinary Services Protect animal health while facilitating safe international trade through:**
 - 1- **Disease surveillance, early detection and reporting** (Ch. 1.1)
 - 2- **Veterinary certification for international trade** Based on WOAHA Terrestrial Code
 - 3- **Laboratory diagnosis through** National Reference Laboratories
 - 4- **Emergency preparedness and response** Rapid containment of outbreaks
 - 5- **Implementation of WOAHA standards** (incl. Ch. 4.4 & 4.5) on compartmentalization
 - 6- **Official oversight and verification of compartments, in alignment with WOAHA standards.**



Why Compartmentalization?

- **The challenge:**

HPAI remains a major concern for international trade. National or zone disease status may restrict market access even for disease-free establishments. Zoning, which is based on geographical boundaries, may not be feasible or sufficient in all production systems. Compartmentalization offers a complementary, management-based approach to ensure business continuity and safe trade, even when the national status is affected

WOAH approach – Terrestrial Code Chapters 4.4 & 4.5

- 1- Documented Biosecurity plan & functional separation** Management-based risk boundary
- 2- Traceability & movement control**
- 3- Robust disease surveillance programme** Early detection & verification
- 4- Veterinary Authority oversight & verification**



Egypt's HPAI-Free Compartment Experience

- Establishment of a national compartmentalization programme for poultry production in accordance with WOAHA standards
- Inclusion of **59** establishments are operating under approved compartmentalization requirements.
- The latest update of Egypt's WOAHA Self-Declaration was completed in January 2026.
- HPAI-free status is supported by continuous surveillance and verification.
- The programme is implemented in accordance with WOAHA Chapters 4.4 and 4.5.
- Strong collaboration between GOVS, National Reference Laboratories and the private sector.
- All compartments are subject to regular audits and verification visits by GOVS, in addition to mandatory internal audits by the private sector, to ensure continuous compliance with WOAHA standards."

Egypt's Achievement: Rising Poultry Exports

Export Destinations

More than 17 countries across the Arab world and Africa now import Egyptian poultry products.

Arab countries:

- Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Syria, Palestine, Somalia, Mauritania.

African countries:

- Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Nigeria, Cameroon, Zambia, Djibouti, Kenya.

Exported Products

- Day-old chicks.
- Fertilized (hatching) eggs.
- Table eggs.
- Frozen poultry meat (whole with bone).
- Poultry cuts and processed poultry products.

Growing market access — a direct result of Egypt's robust compartmentalisation and biosecurity systems.



Key Elements for Success

► **"Critical Success Factors Aligned with WOAHA Chapters 3.2, 4.4, and 4.5:"**

1. Legal Framework & Authority	Clear national legislation empowering GOVS as the sole Competent Authority for approval, oversight, and suspension of compartments.
2. Risk-Based Biosecurity	A documented and implemented biosecurity plan identifying all hazard pathways, critical control points, and corrective actions (SOPs).
3. Vigilant Surveillance	A scientifically robust surveillance program (active and passive) for early detection of diseases, with clear reporting lines to GOVS and WOAHA.
4. Verification & Auditing	Regular internal and external audits to verify the effectiveness of the biosecurity and surveillance systems.
5. Traceability	Full traceability of all birds, feed, water, personnel, and equipment entering and leaving the compartment.
6. Public-Private Partnership	Formalized cooperation agreements defining the roles and responsibilities of both GOVS and the industry operators.



Commodity-Based Measures for Poultry Meat: A Complementary Tool

- ▶ Complementary to compartmentalization: certain processing methods and product characteristics can reduce or eliminate disease risk, enabling safe trade even from non-free areas

Compartmentalization

- Applied to breeding and layer farms to maintain a healthy, disease-free subpopulation for export of live birds and hatching eggs.
- Focuses on a free subpopulation.
- Based on management, biosecurity and functional separation.
- Requires Veterinary Authority oversight.
- Supports trade continuity during disease events.

Commodity-Based Measures

- Applied to meat processing plants that source birds from areas with different disease statuses, ensuring product safety through validated heat treatments (e.g., core temperature of 70°C for poultry meat)."
- Focuses on the product itself.
- Uses processing methods that reduce disease risk.
- May include heat treatment and specific protocols.
- Complements compartmentalization for safe market access.



Benefits, Lessons & Trade Partnerships

Benefits

- Business continuity and export market access.
- Improved disease control capacity.
- Greater confidence of trading partners.
- Foundation for mutual recognition.
- Enhanced system resilience, allowing Egypt to respond more effectively to disease threats while minimizing trade disruption.

Lessons & partnerships

- Public-private partnership is essential.
- Transparency builds trust.
- Continuous compliance monitoring is required.
- Egypt has supported partner-country study visits to compartment establishments.



The Way Forward

- Expand the compartmentalization programme to additional establishments and regions.
- Strengthen electronic certification and traceability systems.
- Work towards the mutual recognition of Egypt's compartments with trading partners and neighboring countries, in line with WOA's regional initiatives.
- Promote mutual recognition of Egypt's compartments among trading partners.
- Continue alignment with evolving WOA's Terrestrial Code standards.



Conclusion

- Egypt's experience demonstrates that science-based, transparent, and well-governed systems; such as compartmentalization and commodity-based measures are essential tools for safeguarding animal health while facilitating safe and sustainable international trade.
- We remain committed to continuous improvement and alignment with WOAHI international standards.

Thank You

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