

General instructions for biosecurity protocols

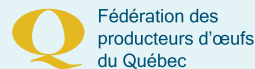


IN ROUTINE, VIGILANCE AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE QUEBEC POULTRY INDUSTRY

EQCMA implements biosecurity protocols to raise awareness among all stakeholders in the Quebec poultry sector of their application in routine, vigilance or disease emergency situations. These protocols are included in an emergency response plan developed in collaboration with EQCMA's various partners, with the aim of collaborating with government authorities in the surveillance, prevention and intervention against targeted poultry diseases. The measures included in these protocols are EQCMA's recommendations aimed at preparing a poultry production site for the prevention and effective management of diseases of importance¹ under its management or reportable² under the responsibility of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Protocols are available at www.eqcma.ca

EQCMA PARTNERS



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¹ The diseases of importance under the EQCMA management are infectious laryngotracheitis and *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*.

² Poultry diseases reportable to the CFIA are low pathogenic avian influenza of H5 or H7 strains, highly pathogenic avian influenza, virulent form of Newcastle disease, fowl typhoid and pullorum disease.

THREE LEVELS OF BIOSECURITY

Routine biosecurity (Green level)

These measures are intended to be applied **at all times** to prevent the introduction or spread of any disease on poultry production sites. These protocols are the basis of all EQCMA interventions, both for diseases of importance under its management and for reportable diseases. Intervention protocols for the management of diseases of importance specifically describe their use and any other complementary measures for the specific control of a targeted disease.

Biosecurity in a situation of vigilance (Yellow level)

These measures target periods when the **risk of contagion of diseases** of importance or reportable diseases **is increased** due to their presence in domestic or wild birds. Their application is requested by EQCMA to prevent the introduction of these diseases on poultry production sites.

Biosecurity in emergencies (Orange level)

These measures **limit the spread of diseases** reportable to CFIA. EQCMA may request the application of the protocols as soon as a reportable disease is suspected at a poultry production site, pending or under investigation by the CFIA, or at any time when one of these diseases is identified as a risk to poultry production sites located in a given zone.

BIOSECURITY ZONES ON A PRODUCTION SITE

Biosecurity protocols are designed to control the distinct biosecurity zones of a poultry production site, in order to limit access and circulation of personnel, visitors, vehicles and equipment.

Each producer is responsible for defining these biosecurity zones for its production site in advance. Preparing a diagram of the production site helps to identify key elements of the farm, traffic flows, areas that create difficulties in managing the site, and changes that can be made to improve biosecurity practices. **The layout of each production site must be drawn up by designating three biosecurity zones.**

Controlled access zone (CAZ) or yard

The purpose of the CAZ (yard) is to manage the entry, movement and exit of vehicles and people on the production site. It includes all buildings used directly for poultry production, such as barns, feed, litter and manure storage facilities, and bird carcass deposits. Visitor and employee parking, the family home, and structures not used to store production materials and equipment, such as the mechanical workshop or shed (farm machinery, storage, etc.), constitute separate entities outside the CAZ (yard). The office is located inside or outside the CAZ (yard) according to its designated function; it is subject to the biosecurity measures of the place where it is located.

Restricted access zone (RAZ) or barn

The RAZ (barn) is contained within the CAZ (yard) and is designed to manage the risks associated with animal contact. It includes all areas where there may be direct contact with and between birds. It is an enclosed area that isolates poultry from the outside environment and from possible exposure to pathogens from outside. It is usually used in a barn, in communicating barns or in a fenced outdoor area (runs, outdoor pens, etc.) used for raising birds.

Controlled access point (CAP) or entrance

The CAP (entrance) visually delimits the point of entry where people, equipment or vehicles circulate and enter the CAZ (yard) or RAZ (barn). Appropriate biosecurity measures are applied to prevent the introduction of pathogens and minimize the spread of disease. These measures may include posting, locking access, cleaning and disinfecting, or changing clothes.

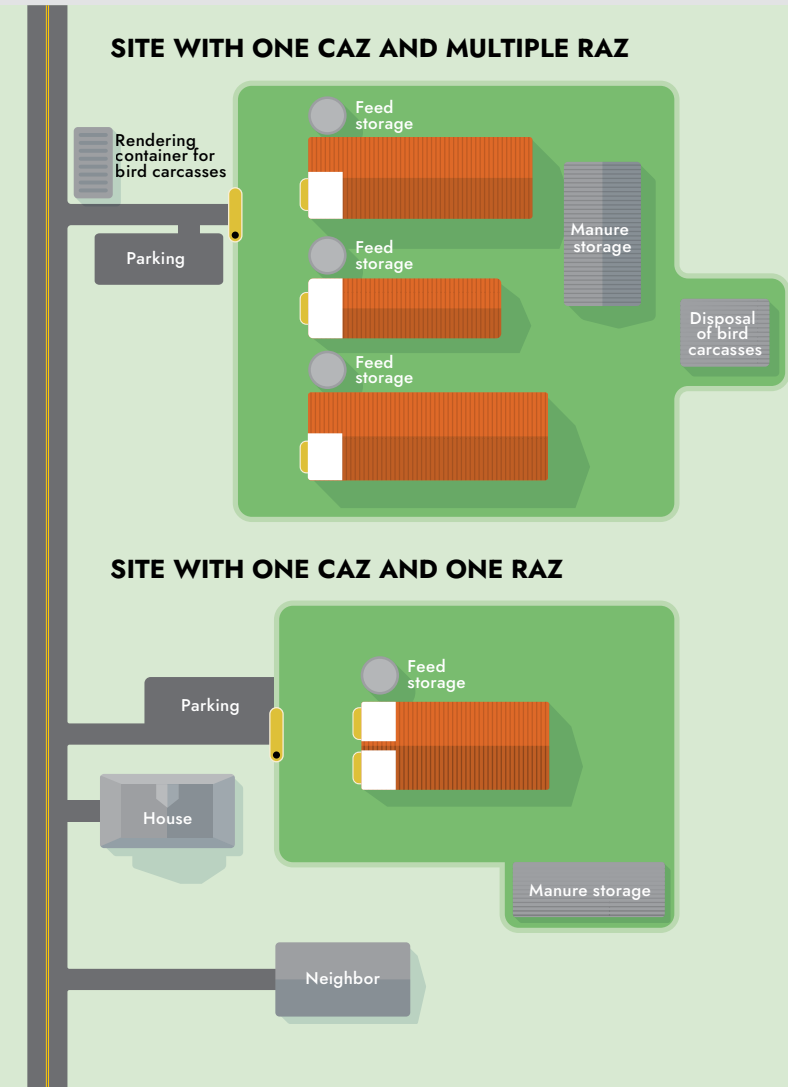
The **CAPs (entrances) to the CAZ (yard)** are usually laid out from the road, the house and the parking area. Feed, litter or manure storage facilities and bird carcass depots located in the CAZ (yard) may have their own CAP (entrance).

The **CAPs (entrances) to the RAZ (barn)** are usually located at the entry and exit points for people, materials, equipment, live birds, eggs and bird carcasses. The **CAP (entrance) dedicated to people** includes a transition zone defined by two or three areas. The part accessible from the CAZ (yard) is called the exterior area, and is considered contaminated, and the part accessible from the RAZ (barn) is called the interior area and is considered clean. A third area may be included between the first two, to facilitate the application of biosecurity measures, and is known as the intermediate area. The CAP includes one or more physical delimitations; these are preferably complete, such as a bench with a solid partition touching the floor, or a wall division. Diagrams describe the elements to be included within these areas. The use of the two-area transition zone is prioritized in biosecurity protocols, given its predominance in the entrances (CAP) of today's barns.

Legend

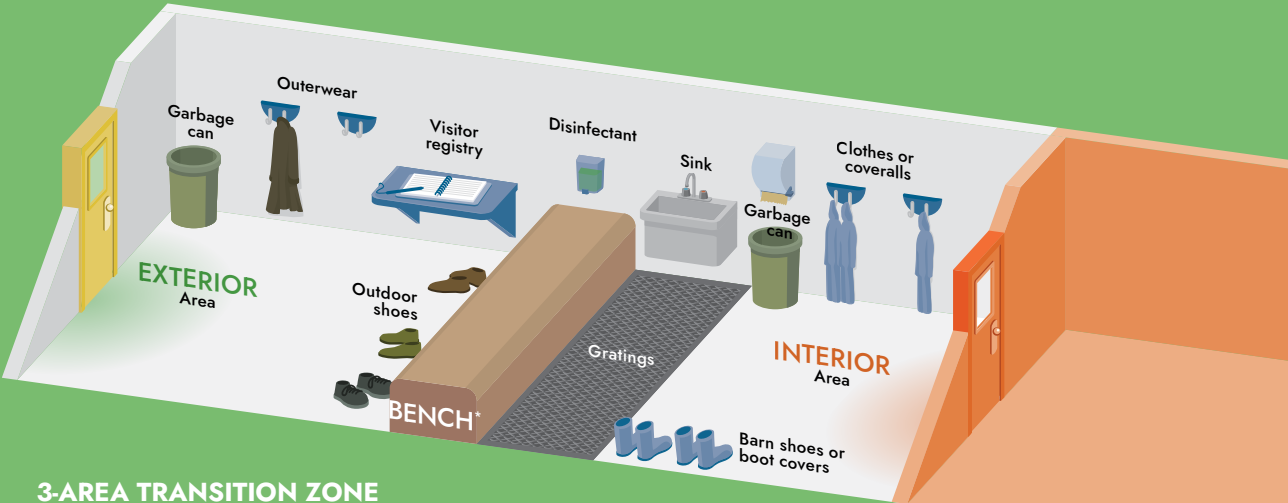
- CAZ
or yard
- RAZ
or barn
- Transition
zone
- CAP
or entrance

Examples of biosecurity zones on a poultry production site

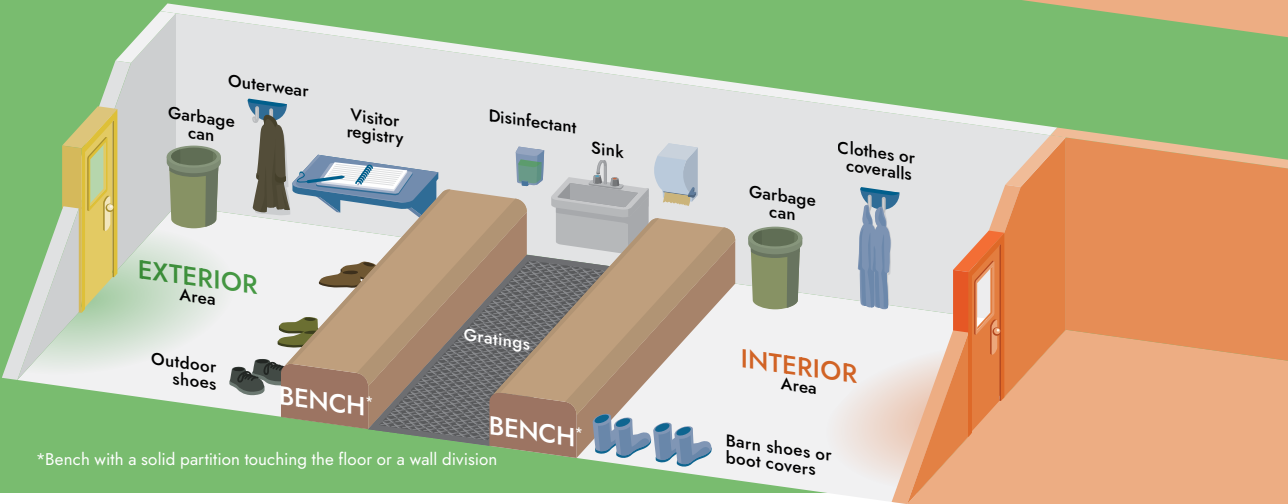


Diagrams of transition zones with 2 or 3 areas included in a CAP (entrance) dedicated to people

2-AREA TRANSITION ZONE



3-AREA TRANSITION ZONE



CLIENTS



Producers and employees at the production site

For production site personnel and vehicles accessing the yard (CAZ) and barn (RAZ) at all times. Includes producer and production site employees.



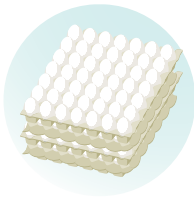
Visitors

For visitors and their vehicles accessing the yard (CAZ) and visitors entering the barn (RAZ) during production. Includes veterinarians, technical advisors, auditors, exterminators, maintenance personnel and personnel involved in transfer, vaccination, insemination, partial capture of poultry, etc.



Service vehicles

For the driver and his or her vehicle accessing the yard (CAZ) and not entering the barn (RAZ) during production. Includes transporters of feed, transferred poultry, manure, litter, propane, grain, etc.



Egg transporters

For the egg transporter and egg transport vehicle accessing the yard (ZAC) and the driver entering the egg storage but not the barn (RAZ) during production.



Chick and turkey poult deliverers

For the delivery person and vehicle delivering chicks and turkey poults that access the yard (CAZ) and do not enter the barn (RAZ) during production.



Transporters of poultry for slaughter

For the transporter and the poultry transport vehicle accessing the poultry yard (CAZ) and the driver entering the barn (RAZ) during production.

ACRONYMS

CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
PPE	Personal protective equipment
EQCMA	Équipe québécoise de contrôle des maladies avicoles
MAPAQ	ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec
CD	Cleaning and disinfection
CWDD	Cleaning, washing, disinfecting and drying
CAP	Controlled access point
CAZ	Controlled access zone
RAZ	Restricted access zone
PCZ	Primary control zone
PRZ	Preliminary risk zone

CONTROL MEASURES FOR REPORTABLE DISEASES

Step 1.

Declaration by a producer of a CFIA reportable disease in birds from a poultry production site:

- The producer or his/her employee must **immediately contact a veterinary practitioner (or CFIA)** in the event of a sudden increase in the number of dead or sick birds or an unexplained drop in food or water consumption or egg laying;
- The producer or veterinary practitioner must **immediately notify CFIA** and the provincial marketing board or **EQCMA** (1-888-VOLAILLE) when a reportable disease is suspected;
- The veterinary practitioner and the laboratory are required to report any reportable disease to the CFIA and the **ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec** 1-844-ANIMAUX (264-6289).

Step 2.

EQCMA implements or requests the implementation of the steps in its response plan:

- **Establishment** of a **preliminary risk zone** (PRZ) within a radius of at least 3 km around the suspected site;
- **Recommendation** of the application of **biosecurity protocols** at the appropriate level for each situation;
- **Removal** of the **PRZ** as soon as the **CFIA** designates a **primary control zone** (PCZ) or when a negative result is obtained for the suspected disease;
- Sharing with CFIA information and location of poultry production sites located in a PCZ.

Step 3.

CFIA implements or requests the implementation of the steps in its intervention plan:

- **Conducting** an **investigation** at the production site, involving the completion of a questionnaire on the current situation, taking samples and movements tracking and tracing;
- **Restriction** of **movement** in epidemiologically linked areas and sites following high-risk designation or confirmation of a reportable disease;
- **Depopulation, disposal of bird carcasses**, validation of cleaning and disinfection and compensation for the infected site;
- **Establishment** of a **PCZ** around the site confirmed to be infected with a reportable disease;
- **Surveillance of the reportable disease** in birds from poultry farms located in the PCZ or epidemiologically linked to the infected site;
- The **issuance** of general or specific **permits** outlining biosecurity requirements for the movement of poultry, poultry products and related objects within a PCZ.

CFIA – Animal health offices in Quebec

During business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), contact the district office closest to the production site. Outside business hours, call the emergency line at 1-866-806-4115 and leave a message on the answering machine.

Chicoutimi	Quebec City
418-698-5506	418-648-7373
Saint-Hyacinthe	Lacolle
450-768-1500	450-246-4125
Rimouski	Sherbrooke
418-722-3032	819-564-5509
Mirabel	Rouyn-Noranda
450-420-3774	819-762-5211
Victoriaville	Montreal
819-752-5354	514-283-8888, ext. 4367

DEFINITIONS OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, VISITS AND PRODUCTION SITES

Personal protective equipment

This includes coveralls, boot covers, gloves, caps, masks, protective glasses, as well as clothing and shoes dedicated to the barn (RAZ) or yard (CAZ).

Visit

The act of visiting a production site for exchange, delivery, collection, service, examination, consultation, inspection, repair, etc.

Essential visit

Visit during which the actions or service enable poultry production to be maintained (veterinarian, technical advisor, auditor, exterminator, maintenance personnel, poultry transfer, vaccination and insemination personnel, transporters of feed, eggs, transferred poultry, bird carcasses, manure, litter, propane, grain, chick and turkey deliverers, transporters and personnel capturing poultry for slaughter, etc.).

Non-essential visit

Visit whose actions do not contribute to maintaining poultry production (friend, guest, sales advisor, etc.).

Emergency visit

Visit to manage an animal welfare or health and safety issue for personnel (veterinarian, electrician, plumber, firefighter, ambulance and paramedical personnel, etc.).

Production site

An area of land forming part of the property where poultry are raised, kept, gathered or slaughtered; the location is defined by land titles or, in the absence of such, by geo-referenced coordinates.

Linked production site

A production site that shares birds, people, vehicles, equipment or materials with a suspect production site on a regular basis.

Suspected production site

Poultry production site having reported a suspected disease of importance¹ or reportable² to the authorities responsible for their management by the producer, his employee or a veterinarian.

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