

The OIE Member Countries have the possibility to self-declare their country or a zone within their territory free from certain OIE-listed diseases other than those diseases for which the OIE has put in place a specific procedure for official recognition of disease status such as African horse sickness (AHS), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), classical swine fever*, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants*.

*Resolution N° 29 adopted in May 2013 at the 81st OIE General Session

Self-declaration of the recovery of freedom from avian influenza in poultry by the Czech Republic

Declaration sent to the OIE on 23 June 2017 by Dr Semerád Zbyněk, OIE Delegate for the Czech Republic
Ministry of Agriculture

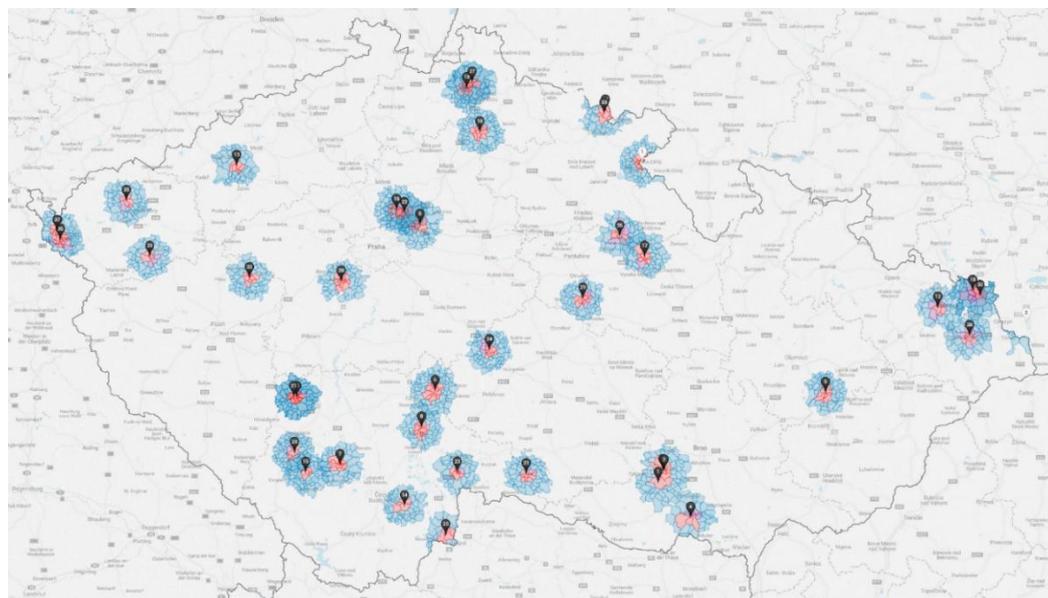
Information about Czech Republic status regarding avian influenza

The State Veterinary Administration of the Czech Republic is pleased to report that there have not been any newly detected outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry since the last confirmed outbreak of HPAI H5N8 on 22 March 2017. Within the territory of the Czech Republic, there are currently no active outbreaks or established restricted zones.

On 4 January 2017, a sample tested positive for avian influenza H5 and on 5 January 2017, the Czech Republic's National Reference Laboratory for avian influenza confirmed the first HPAI H5N8 outbreak in the Czech Republic after 10 years without detection of virus circulation (the last HPAI outbreak was detected in poultry in 2007). The samples were taken on the mixed back-yard poultry flock in the village Moravský Krumlov, in the Southern Moravian Region. Ten birds out of 88 died in three days in one farm, without showing clinical signs. The samples, composed by ten dead birds, were sent to the laboratory for virological testing.

From 5 January to 22 March 2017 a total of 39 HPAI outbreaks were detected in the territory of the Czech Republic in 11 out of 14 regions, please see Figure 1. In total 33 HPAI H5N8 outbreaks were detected in back-yard flocks, five HPAI H5N8 outbreaks were detected in commercial farms and one HPAI H5N5 outbreak was detected in captive birds in the Zoological garden in Liberec (Table 1). These events were reported to the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS). The final report was sent to the WAHIS on 23 June 2017 to declare resolution of all outbreaks by 31 March 2017.

Figure 1 – Localisation of HPAI outbreaks and restriction zones in the Czech Republic



Control measures and intensified surveillance in response to the outbreaks

Compulsory notification is requested in Article 11 of Veterinary act N°166/1999¹ and all measures taken by the State Veterinary Administration were in accordance with EU legislation².

All outbreaks were detected by farmers who reported high mortality rates to the Competent Authorities. Each notification was followed by immediate on-site controls and sampling. In order to prevent spread of the virus and to eradicate disease, the Regional Veterinary Administration ordered emergency veterinary measures and established a protection zone (diameter of 3 km) and a surveillance zone (diameter of 10 km) surrounding all the outbreaks in poultry flocks.

For the first three outbreaks (Moravský Krumlov, Němčice u Ivančic, Letkovice) in the Southern Moravian region, one common restriction zone was established. Due to the presence of HPAI H5N8 positive wild birds found near these outbreaks, the proximity to water reservoirs, and notification of disease suspicion within the established protection zone, a stamping out of all poultry in this protection zone, except captive birds (from outdoor aviaries/breeders households), was carried out.

Table 1 – total number of HPAI outbreaks in the Czech Republic by Region

	The number of HPAI outbreaks in backyard flocks	The number of HPAI outbreaks in commercial farms	The number of HPAI outbreaks in captive birds	The number of HPAI positive wild birds
Prague	0	0	0	7
Central Bohemian Region	5	0	0	1
Southern Bohemian Region	8	3	0	13
Region of Plzeň	1	0	0	0
Region of Karlovy Vary	2	2	0	5
Region of Ústí nad Labem	1	0	0	2
Region of Liberec (Zoo)	2	0	1	1
Region of Hradec Králové	3	0	0	4
Region of Pardubice	2	0	0	2
Region of Vysočina	0	0	0	2
Southern Moravian Region	4	0	0	2
Region of Olomouc	1	0	0	5
Region of Zlín	0	0	0	2
Moravia - Silesian Region	4	0	0	5
Total	33	5	1	51
		39		

All poultry within the holdings were killed using injectable T61 or CO2. All killed animals were immediately transported to rendering plants and destroyed. All people working within the outbreaks were equipped with protective clothes and tools and instructed of health risks. The list of these persons was forwarded to the Regional Public Health Authority. The last HPAI H5N8 poultry outbreak was confirmed on 22 March 2017. On 23 March 2017 a stamping out policy was applied. After the completion of mechanical cleansing final disinfection was carried out on 4th July 2017. After performing all ordered measures the emergency veterinary measures were lifted. The restriction zone was lifted on 21 April 2017.

The Czech Surveillance programme and strategy in order to demonstrate freedom is in accordance with Articles 10.4.27. to 10.4.33. of the *Terrestrial Code*

¹ Veterinary Act No 166/1999. http://eagri.cz/public/web/mze/legislativa/pravni-predpisy-mze/tematicky-prehled/Legislativa-MZe_uplna-zneni_zakon-1999-166-viceoblasti.html

² European Council Directive 2005/94/EC: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02005L0094-20080903&qid=1501660239773&from=CS>

Conclusions

considering that:

- prior to the occurrence of new outbreaks in January 2017, the Czech Republic was free from avian influenza viruses in poultry;
- After detection of infection in poultry with HPAI, stamping out measures followed by cleaning-up and disinfecting of all the affected farms were conducted;
- three months have elapsed as stipulated in Article 10.4.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* since the end of the clean-up and disinfection operations;
- surveillance has been performed in accordance with Articles 10.4.27. to 10.4.33. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* during that three-month period

The OIE Delegate of Czech Republic declares that the country complies with the requirements for a country free from infection with avian influenza in poultry as of 23 June 2017, in compliance with Article 10.4.3. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* and in accordance with the information provided in WAHIS.

Czech Republic has summarised the information compiled to demonstrate compliance with the OIE *Terrestrial Code* requirements. Member Countries seeking additional information or clarification are invited to contact directly the Delegate of Czech Republic.