

Interim Proposal #4

Program Standards of the National Poultry Improvement Plan

2019 Program Standards – Standards F Compartmentalization – Page 11 and Page 51

Page 11 Compartment Auditing Process

The auditing process ensures a successful compartment. For the companies involved, the process includes submission of an application, both office and field audits conducted by a certified auditor, NPIP reviews, recognition and approval of each component within the compartment, and re-qualification. Use of certified auditors ensures a successful process. A certified auditor is one who has met the requirements listed below:

- Must attend and successfully complete an official USDA-NPIP Auditor Compartment Training Course prior to conducting any audits, and become recertified at least once every 4 years thereafter.
- Must operate and conduct oneself with the highest code of ethics and must not have a conflict of interest with any of the companies which are compartmentalized or seeking compartment certification.
- Must be a U.S. licensed and accredited veterinarian who is board certified by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV) and meets contract requirements set forth by APHIS, or must be a Federal Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO), preferably one with poultry experience; or have been a previous Federal Compartment Auditor, with the approval of the Service.

Page 51 Appendix G: Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease Compartmentalization Auditor Information and Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Am I qualified to be an auditor?

Certified auditors must meet the following qualifications to be considered for the program:

- Auditors must attend and successfully complete an official USDA-NPIP Auditor Compartment Training Course prior to conducting any audits, and become recertified at least once every 4 years thereafter.
- Auditors must operate and conduct themselves with the highest code of ethics and must not have a conflict of interest with any of the companies which are compartmentalized or seeking compartment certification.
- Auditors must be U.S. licensed and accredited veterinarians who are board certified by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV) and meet contract requirements and code of conduct confidentiality standards set forth by APHIS; or auditors must be Federal Veterinary Medical Officers (VMOs), preferably with poultry experience, who meet the same code of conduct confidentiality standards; or have been a previous Federal Compartment Auditor, with the approval of the Service.

Reason: Currently in order to be eligible to be a Compartment auditor, you must either be a Federal VMO, preferably with poultry experience, or a licensed and accredited veterinarian who is board certified by the American College of Poultry Veterinarians (ACPV). This language has become problematic with the retiring of some of our Federal VMO auditors, who wish to either continue on as a Private Compartment auditor or become an auditor after leaving federal service. By incorporating the above language, this would solve the issue, by allowing previous Compartment auditors and federal VMOs to potentially be eligible to become a private compartment auditor, if approved by the Service. Private auditors are a crucial piece for the Compartment program, especially when there is a disease outbreak and most, if not all, Federal VMO auditors are deployed. Additionally, travel approval has become extremely difficult and travel budgets have been cut in half going into FY 27, so the likelihood of being able to hold a training in the near future is slim to none.

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