Use of the Terrestrial Code for the prevention and control of HPAI: the application of zones and compartments

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All is in the Code (nearly), and much is not in the HPAI chapter itself

1. Prevention and control
   - Biosecurity
   - Import
   - Outbreak management
   - Zoning
   - Compartmentalization
   - Vaccination
   - Status recovery
2. Specific tools of compartments and zones
   - Why / What for?
   - How?
   - Consequences
3. Key points on trade

1. Prevention and control

- Biosecurity:
  - New Chapter 4.X. on biosecurity in general (adoption expected 2025)
  - Chapter 4.13. on disposal and Chapter 4.14. on disinfection (revision scheduled)
  - Chapter 6.5. on Biosecurity procedures in poultry production
- Import:
  - All chapters of Section 5, notably Chapters 5.4. to 5.7., in course of revision (adoption expected in 2026)
  - Articles 10.4.7 to 10.4.22 depending on the commodities and the status of the zone of origin
- Outbreak management:
  - Chapter 4.19. on official control programmes
- Vaccination:
  - Chapter 4.18. on vaccination
  - Articles 10.4.1. (point 6) and 10.4.28. (point 2)
- Status recovery: Articles 10.4.6. and 10.4.28. (especially point 3)

2. Specific tools for prevention and control

• Zoning and compartmentalisation: why?

- Chapter 4.4. on zoning and compartmentalisation fully applies to Chapter 10.4. The ‘free status’ in Article 10.4.3. is in fact rarely for countries, but essential for ZONES, both for disease control and for trade.
- Chapter 4.5. on application of compartmentalisation can be even more relevant for avian influenza, where the application of high biosecurity is the key tool for some types of breeding, such as high value reproduction stock.
- Revision of Chapter 4.4. and new Chapter 4.Z. on zoning in preparation (AHG in 2025).

SECTION 1. ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, SURVEILLANCE AND NOTIFICATION

Disease Situation	**Chapter 1.1.**	Notification of diseases and epidemiological information
Which diseases	**Chapter 1.2.**	Criteria for the inclusion in the WOAH list
	Chapter 1.3.	Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the WOAH
Demonstrate presence or absence	**Chapter 1.4.**	Animal health surveillance
	Chapter 1.5.	Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases
Official recognition by WOAH	**Chapter 1.6.**	Procedures for official recognition of AH status, by the WOAH
	Chapter 1.7.-1.12.	Application for official recognition by the WOAH of free status

SECTION 4. DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Provisions essential for zoning and compartmentalisation	**Chapter 4.2.**	Identification and traceability of live animals
	Chapter 4.4.	**Zoning and compartmentalisation**
	Chapter 4.19.	Official control programmes for listed and emerging diseases
	Chapter 4.X.	**Biosecurity (in development, to be adopted in May 2025)**

WHAT IS zoning?

‘Zoning’ consists in the establishment and maintenance of different animal subpopulations with specific health status within the territory of a country

A ‘zone’ means a part of a country defined by the Veterinary Authority, containing an animal population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status with respect to an infection or infestation for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention or control.

The extent of a zone and its geographical limits should be established by the Veterinary Authority on the basis of natural, artificial or legal boundaries

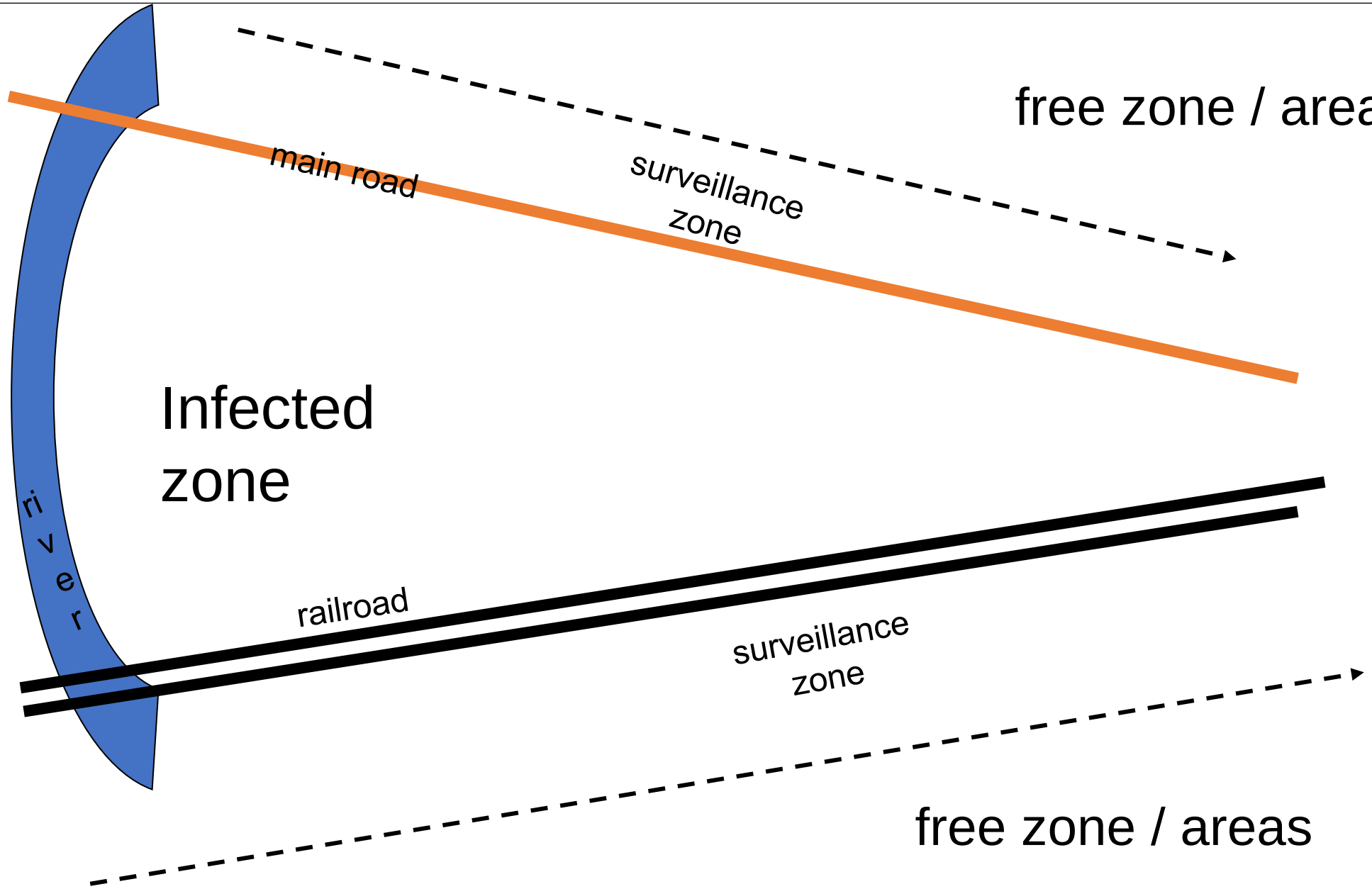
What zones?

In the current Chapter 4.4.

- Free zones
  - Free status, including vaccination or not
  - ‘Protection’ zones
- Depend on disease eradication programmes and status maintenance.
- Infected zones
  - ‘Infected’ status, including vaccination or not
  - ‘Containment’ zone
  - Others
- Depends on outbreak management strategies.

NB: apply to one or more animal host populations, domestic or wild.

The creation of one zone creates at least one other zone



Specific tool of zoning: how?

Chapter 4.4.

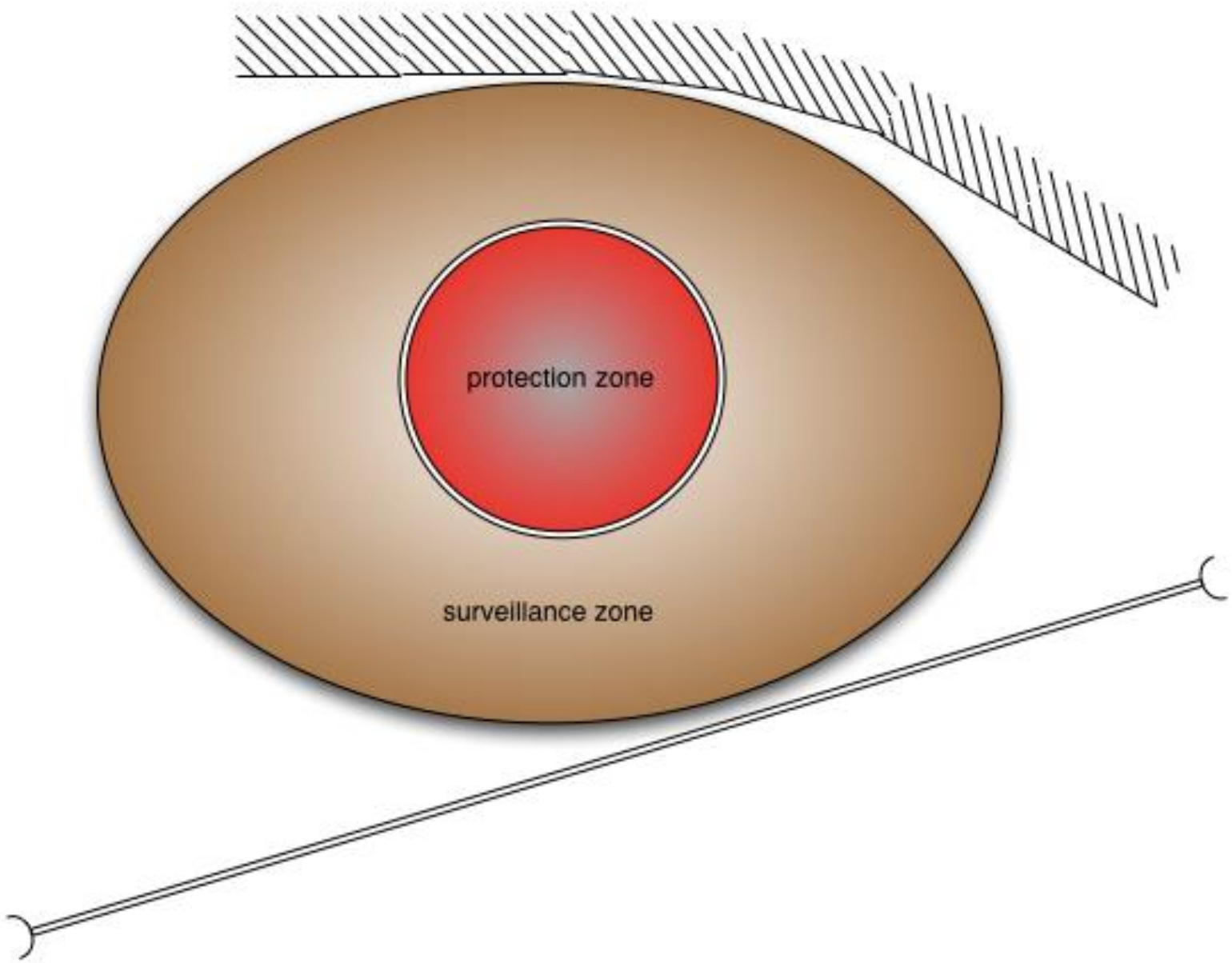
(and upcoming Chapter 4.Z.)

Articles 10.4.3 and 10.4.28

1. Zoning can be used both to demonstrate freedom in a part of a country AND, notably for HPAI, **to manage outbreaks**
2. Zoning for HPAI is mainly a way to prevent spread: HPAI is quasi continuously or seasonally present in migrating wild bird populations and is a permanent threat to free domestic bird populations (& vice-versa)
3. Zoning then means setting up restricted zones (‘infected’ or not), where specific measures can be applied: standstill, stamping-out, vaccination, surveillance, etc.
4. It relies on strict application of movement restrictions and depopulation of infected flocks; derogations for non-affected flocks rely on surveillance and movement controls, including to slaughterhouses

The creation of one zone creates at least one other zone.

There are no fixed design: all is possible and should be adapted to the local situation in terms of geography, administration, production patterns, etc



Specific tool of zoning: how?

Chapter 4.4.

(and upcoming Chapter 4.Z.)

Articles 10.4.3 and 10.4.28

5. If the zoning for HPAI is well implemented, the areas that are not affected are not concerned by the restrictions, and can continue to produce and to trade
6. The surveillance in the restricted zones is adapted: it is meant to track the virus (up and down), as well as to demonstrate the effectiveness of the measures
7. Eventually, specific surveillance demonstrates the absence of virus in part of or in all the zone: the limits of the zone is then adapted to the new situation or lifted if the whole zone is free again
8. IT IS, IT HAS TO BE A ‘LIVING’ SITUATION, adapted to the epidemiological facts
9. It should be prepared: specific measures and specific surveillance ready for use in the regulations. Zoning for HPAI is more about infected zones than free zones!

WHAT IS compartmentalisation?

‘Compartment’

an animal subpopulation

in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system

with a specific animal health status

for which necessary surveillance, biosecurity and control measures have been applied

Implementation of Compartmentalisation: “a bottom-up approach”

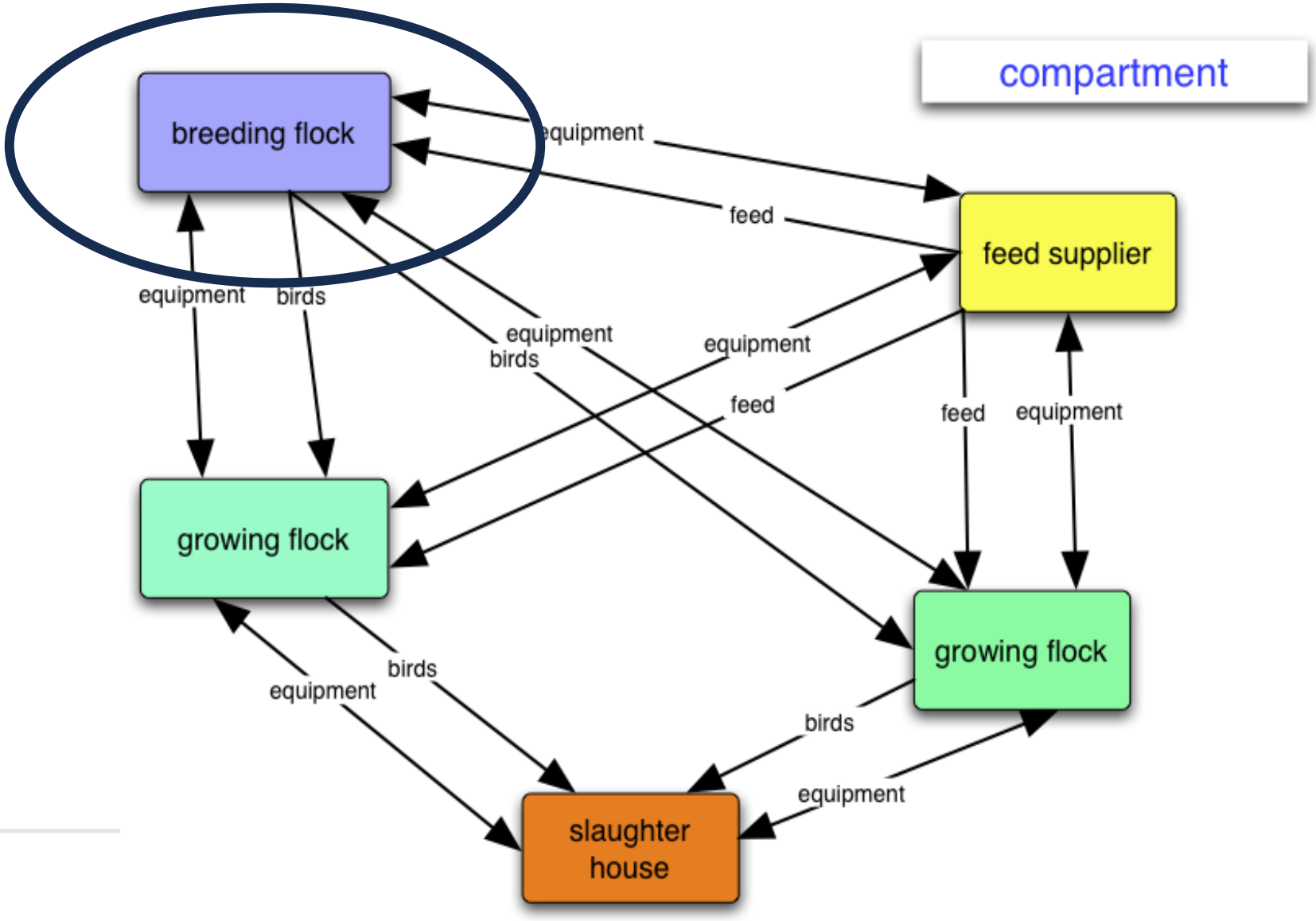
1. The operator is the main responsible
2. defines the components, establishments, other functional units, describe their location and the interrelationships
3. considers epidemiological factors, production systems, infrastructures and biosecurity practices, as well as surveillance
4. **common biosecurity management system** under which these components operate using diagrams to show flowcharts, etc.
5. develop standard operating procedures (SOPs), incorporating these measures into management and husbandry practices

Specific tool of compartments: how?

Chapters 4.4. and 4.5.

Articles 10.4.4 and 10.4.28

Checklist on the practical application of compartmentalisation for avian influenza and Newcastle disease



Implementation of Compartmentalisation: “a matter for true partnership”

1. essential to develop effective partnerships between VS and managers in the animal production sector
2. and related sectors e.g. equipment supply and maintenance, feed production and supply, animal transport and waste management
3. VS need to have a good understanding of the structure and operations of the animal sector
4. formal agreement describing the partnership between the VS and the enterprise, and their responsibilities (“who makes/is responsible of what?”)
5. need a high level of mutual trust

What are the main issues? (not exhaustive…)

1. Knowledge of the relevant animal hosts in the zone (including relevant wild animals or non-producing captive animals), and knowledge of the production systems (establishments, process etc.) and transport patterns.
2. **Animal identification and traceability.**
3. Behaviour of the ‘private sector’, directly involved or not.
4. Legal bases to intervene and restrain private property and movement freedom, including coordination with law enforcement and between different local Veterinary Services.
5. Diagnostic capacities, including clinical, sampling and labs.
6. Capability to define the boundaries: local administrative organisation, mapping of natural or artificial boundaries.

Thank you

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