



September 23, 2016

File: 44200-70 BHEC
SPECIALTY

DELIVERED BY E-MAIL

Stephanie Nelson
Executive Director
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
180 – 32160 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford BC V2T 1W5

Dear Ms. Nelson:

**APPLICATION OF FARM PREMISES ID, BIOSECURITY, AND FOOD SAFETY
STANDARDS TO THE ASIAN HATCHING EGG SECTOR**

I am writing in follow-up to the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) Order in its March 29, 2016 appeal decision [*In the Matter of the Natural Products Marketing \(BC\) Act and an Appeal From a Decision of the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Commission Concerning the “Regularization of Historically Non-Compliant Silkie and Taiwanese Producers Program Rules”*](#).

In the March decision, the BCFIRB appeal panel ordered that:

133. Within 30 days of this decision, the Commission is to take whatever steps it determines necessary to ensure that its current order regarding biosecurity standards, including the registration of farm premises and food safety standards extends to persons engaged in the production of Silkie or TC [Taiwanese] broiler hatching breeders, eggs or chicks and inform BCFIRB of whatever action it has taken.

The Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (BHEC) reported to BCFIRB within the 30 day time frame that it had notified specialty producers (persons engaged in Silkie and Taiwanese hatching egg production) regarding the regulatory requirements, and that it would be directly engaging with those producers to ensure compliance. BHEC subsequently informed BCFIRB on June 10, 2016 that some specialty producers were not engaging with BHEC to carry out biosecurity standard audits. Following this, BHEC’s prior approval request to BCFIRB on August 19, 2016 regarding the regulation of specialty production, included concerns from BHEC that basic biosecurity standard requirements were still not being met by all specialty producers, as per BCFIRB’s March 2016 order.

BCFIRB appreciates that there is the outstanding question on what level of regulation is appropriate for specialty broiler hatching egg production in light of sound marketing policy. This question is now the subject of a BHEC prior approval request under consideration by a supervisory panel of BCFIRB.

**British Columbia
Farm Industry Review Board**

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However, the current supervisory review does not preclude BHEC from fulfilling its legislated responsibilities as the first instance regulator to manage industry risk to ensure orderly marketing.

This letter affirms both BHEC's authority and responsibility to ensure producer compliance with basic industry biosecurity standards through a SAFETI¹-based process.

As the BCFIRB Executive Director set out in his October 3, 2013 letter² to the BHEC General Manager:

Under the British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Scheme, BHEC has the authority to regulate all broiler breeder flocks, broiler hatching eggs, and chicks in BC. In the past BHEC has not actively regulated Silkie and Asian broiler breeder flocks (specialty production) although there are no exemptions for this production either in the Scheme or the Commission's Consolidated Orders.

The October 2013 BCFIRB letter to BHEC also pointed out the necessity of a minimum level of specialty regulation:

Regulation of specialty production is important for the purposes of biosecurity and food safety. Biosecurity and food safety (as per the Canadian Hatching Egg Quality program established for mainstream hatching egg production) standards are of significant importance not only for specialty producers but also the poultry industry as a whole. Although the Commission could exempt specialty production using the Consolidated Orders, BCFIRB has previously informed the Commission of its expectation that at a minimum, some manner of regulation of specialty production is necessary for the purposes stated above.

Given that the risk of avian influenza increases significantly in the fall, thereby increasing risk to the orderly marketing of all BC poultry industries, BHEC would be well advised to proceed promptly with ensuring specialty producer compliance with basic biosecurity standards through a procedurally fair process, as authorized under its Scheme and as directed by BCFIRB.

Please direct any questions to the BCFIRB office.

Regards,



Kirsten Pedersen
Executive Director

cc: BCFIRB web site

¹ Strategic Accountable Fair Effective Transparent Inclusive

² 2013 October 3. BCFIRB. [Regulation of the Specialty Broiler Breeder Industry in BC.](#)