

Storage and Land Application Guidance for Post-Biological Heat Treatment (BHT) of Avian Influenza Material

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION | November 2023

The following guidance is provided to inform infected premise and receiving site owner/operators involved in storage and land application of post-BHT material. Upon receipt of the information listed within the Avian Influenza Delisting Protocols, the director will issue additional requirements for land application of this material under Section 80 of *Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management* (AEM Code).

Storage Requirement Post-BHT Material Outside of the Barn

After BHT, the material is not mature enough for land application and requires at least 21 days in storage for maturation to occur. This additional storage of the post-BHT material for maturation can happen outdoors on the infected premise or at another location such as a farm and must not be carried out:

- a) in any area in which there is standing water or water-saturated soil,
- b) on any low-lying area of a field prone to annual seasonal flooding, during the flood season or when flooding is imminent;
- c) on coarse-textured soil;
- d) within 30 metres of any watercourse or any source of water used for domestic purposes, and
- e) to allow effluent/leachate from the stored composted poultry pile to enter surface water thru overland flow.

The post-BHT material pile must be covered with an impermeable liner or roof during the period of October 1 to March 31 of the next year in high precipitation areas which include the Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island. Additionally, AEM Code does not allow nutrients to be land applied during winter months in high precipitation areas unless specific requirements including preparing a risk assessment report can be met. Please refer to AEM Code for details.

If this material is mixed with other waste including manure, the entire mixture must be stored and land applied according to these requirements.

Land Application Requirements

The landowner/farm operator must meet all the requirements outlined under the AEM Code, including requirements for storage, foreign matter restriction such as animal flesh, or bones with visible flesh attached, setbacks and nutrient application.

Additional restriction regarding land application activities includes the following:

- a) the post-BHT material does not escape during transportation;
- b) the post-BHT material is not discharged or applied directly into a watercourse or across a property boundary;
- c) the quantity and timing of land application does not exceed annual crop nutrient requirements;
- d) application must not be conducted during strong, divergent windy conditions, during storm events, or periods of short term intense or high rainfall;
- e) application must not occur when fields are snow covered, soil is frozen or is saturated;
- f) water table is not near the soil surface (> 100 cm depth),
- g) application must not occur between October 1 and March 31 the next year;
- h) post-BHT material must be incorporated into the soil within 8 hours after being land applied such that there is no significant amount of material left on the soil surface;
- i) post-BHT material must not applied to land to be used for growing crops for human consumption;
- j) the disposal of this material by landfilling on agricultural land without written approval from the director is prohibited; and
- k) this material cannot be bagged and sold to the general public for non-farm use.

Record Keeping

The receiver site/farm operator must keep a record of dates and quantity (tonnes) of post-BHT material stored and/or land applied at each storage or farm location for five (5) years.

The landowner/farm operator must keep a written record of the land application for five (5) years and make it available to the ministry for inspection upon request. The record must identify the application location, dates, land size, type of crop and rate of land application.

Questions related to storage, siting and land application of post-BHT material should be directed to the Communities, IPM & AgriFood Authorizations team within Regional Operations Branch, Environmental Protection Division at envcia@gov.bc.ca.