



# AVIAGEN US COMPARTMENTALIZATION

*Securing the World's Poultry Supply*

 Aviagen®

## THE AVIAGEN US COMPARTMENT

Aviagen is committed to make a safe and secure supply of high-quality poultry breeding stock readily available to our customers around the world, so they can feed their growing communities with a healthy, affordable source of protein. To consistently achieve this goal, it is imperative to keep global trade open in times of a notifiable Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak. Compartmentalization is one mechanism to help secure international poultry commerce. Aviagen, Inc. was the first poultry breeding company to achieve compartment status recognized by a government organization in the US and to become certified as an official US “AI Clean Compartment,” which is designed specifically for higher-generation poultry breeding stock.

Aviagen has worked for decades to implement the highest standards of biosecurity. Achieving this status recognizes what we do every day, and shows that we lead the way in bird health and biosecurity.



## WHAT IS COMPARTMENTALIZATION?

Compartmentalization defines a specific group (subpopulation) of animals that are maintained under strict biosecurity and health standards, and therefore have a distinct health status. Proposed by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the initiative is designed to facilitate the export of chicks and eggs from approved farms in the event of an outbreak of notifiable AI. It was adopted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) — a disease surveillance and control program for the US poultry industry — to protect against AI in primary poultry breeding companies in the US. The USDA certification, known as a US AI Clean Compartment, requires a rigorous annual government audit for approval.

The certification is intended to allow the primary egg-type chicken, primary turkey breeders, and primary meat-type

chicken breeding/hatchery industry to demonstrate the existence and implementation of a program approved by the Official State Agency (OSA) and APHIS to establish a compartment consisting of a primary breeding-hatchery company free of notifiable AI. The rigorous structural and operational biosecurity required to maintain the compartment aims to protect the defined subpopulation of poultry from the introduction and spread of AI.

Compartmentalization provides a mechanism for governments around the world to accept stock from an exporting country with an AI outbreak by supplying the importing country’s officials with evidence that the stock is free from disease. The officials will have a high degree of confidence of the health status of the imported stock, as the biosecurity program of Aviagen is sanctioned and audited by government veterinarians, and flocks are regularly monitored for AI.

## THE PROCESS

For Compartmentalization (and/or the concept of Zoning) to come into effect, an importing country must follow two important steps:

### STEP 1: OIE STANDARD PARAGRAPH

Importing country officials must add the OIE standard paragraph (or similar) to their US Export Health Certificate (EHC) for both Zoning and Compartmentalization.

#### OIE Standard Paragraph:

*The flocks of origin and the hatchery are located in the US, a region of the US, a poultry compartment within the US that is officially free from highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza according to the criteria of the OIE.*

Many countries have already taken this first step, and we continue to work with these countries to get formal agreements for the export of poultry breeding stock during times when the US loses its country freedom status.

Although very important, the inclusion of the OIE standard paragraph (or similar) in the EHC is only the first step in the process.

### STEP 2: GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATIONS AND COUNTRY ACCEPTANCE

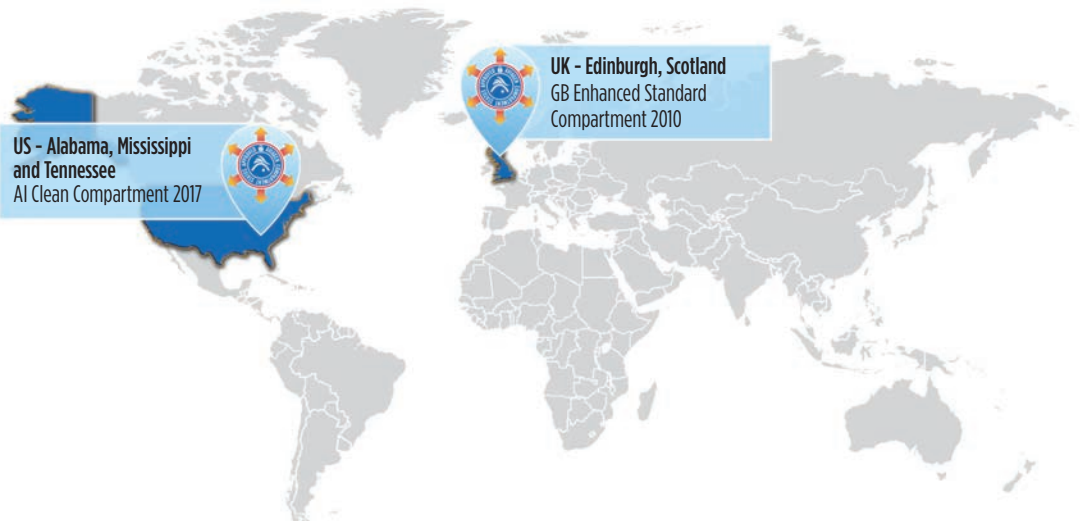
Importing country officials must start an open dialogue with the APHIS to agree and accept how Compartmentalization (and/or Zoning) could be used during a notifiable disease outbreak in the US. The official negotiations and agreements need to take place between APHIS in the US and the importing country officials.

The contact at APHIS for importing countries is:

[Jacek.Taniewski@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Jacek.Taniewski@aphis.usda.gov) and [Elena.Behnke@usda.gov](mailto:Elena.Behnke@usda.gov)

## PROOF OF CONCEPT: UK COMPARTMENT

Countries that have progressed to the step of accepting the UK's Great Britain (GB) Enhanced Standard include South Africa and Japan. Aviagen in the UK has achieved Compartmentalization under the GB Enhanced Standard. By accepting the GB Enhanced Standard, these countries have successfully imported from Compartments during times when the UK has been affected by a notifiable disease outbreak.



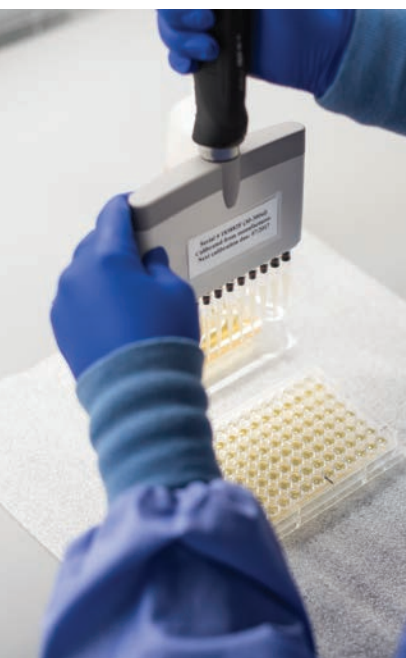


## COMPARTMENTALIZATION AND ZONING

In addition to Compartmentalization, the US routinely uses Zoning (also known in some areas of the world as Regionalization) for continued trade during outbreaks of reportable diseases, which is often the preferred method. Both Compartmentalization and Zoning are important tools that give assurances on freedom from disease for international trade purposes. According to the OIE, Compartmentalization defines a “*sub-population of animals that is not based on their location but rather on a common standard of biosecurity and management practices, combined with a distinct health status.*” This status is monitored and controlled under a single management program.

On the other hand, Zoning is “*the recognition of geographical zones/regions of a country that can be identified and characterized by its absence of a specific disease(s). The zone must be clearly and effectively delineated by natural, artificial or legal boundaries, and must have a common control policy for the specific disease.*”

Therefore, while Zoning is a geographical separation, Compartmentalization is separation by common management and biosecurity measures. When Zoning is not accepted by an importing country or is still too restrictive, Compartmentalization provides a great alternative to enable a continued supply of poultry breeding stock in times of a notifiable disease outbreak.



# COMPARTMENTALIZATION A BRIEF HISTORY

## 2004

The Compartment concept is proposed by the OIE.

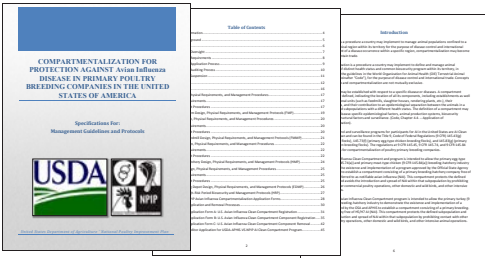


## February 2014

US poultry primary breeder’s group begins planning and writing set of rules to govern the program.

## July 2016

The US government approves the Compartmentalization program.



## January 2017

Auditor selection and training are completed.

## May 2017

Aviagen applies for registration as a compartment.

## August 2017

Aviagen pedigree and GGP facility audits begin.

## October 2017

Aviagen, Inc. is certified as a “US Avian Influenza Clean Compartment.”



## AVIAGEN IN THE US

- Is home to one of Aviagen’s two global pedigree breeding programs.
- Supplies great grandparent (GGP) stock to Aviagen’s wholly owned subsidiaries — Brazil, India and the UK — as well as its own farming operations in the US.
- Provides grandparent (GP) stock to distributors in South America and Asia.
- Delivers parent stock (PS) to customers across the US, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, and Asia.





  
Aviagen®

**For more information on Compartmentalization, please visit:**  
[www.poultryimprovement.org](http://www.poultryimprovement.org)

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