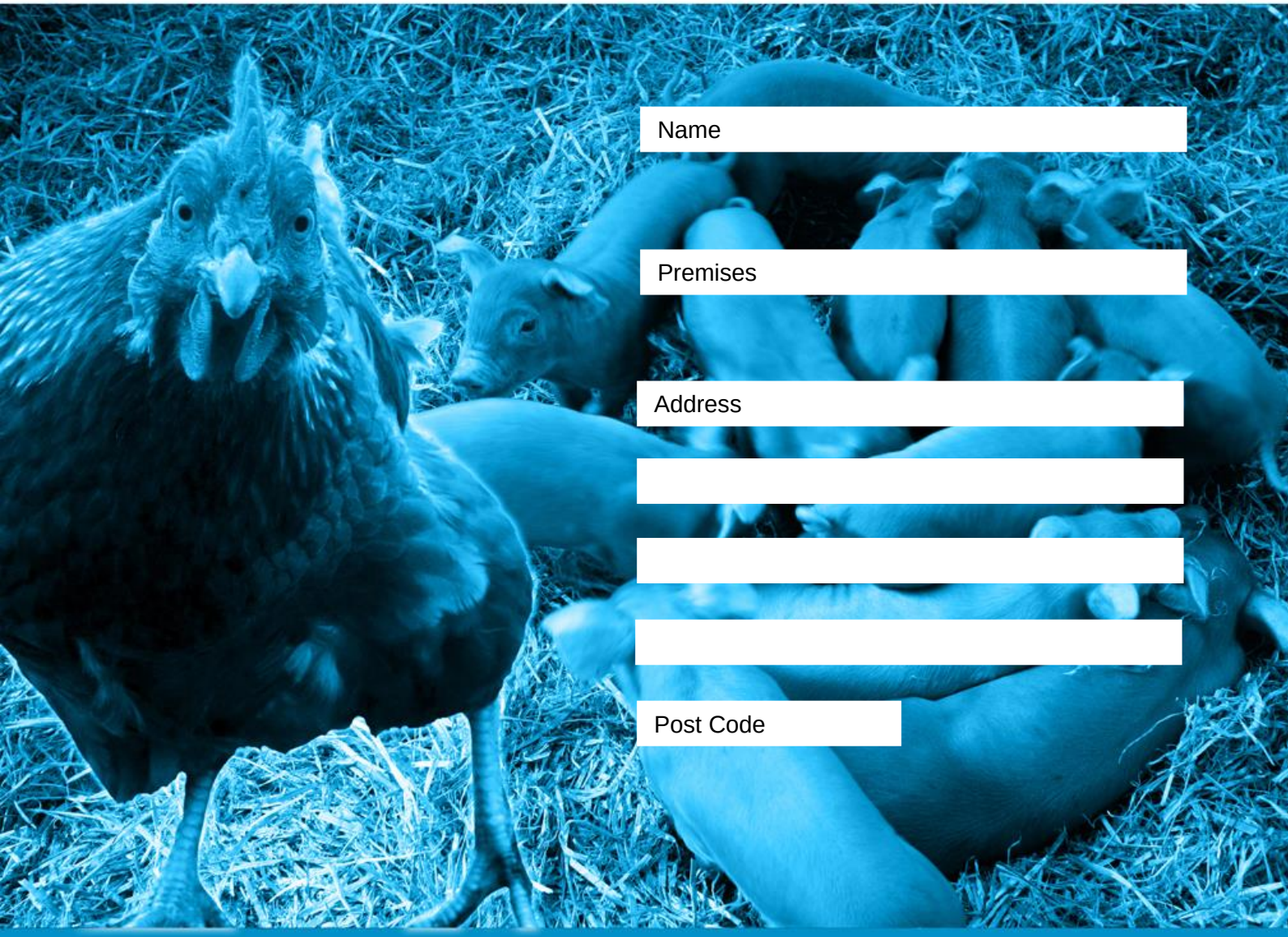
SEARS natural scotland
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



Name

Premises

Address

Post Code

Contingency plan for the outbreak of a notifiable disease

County Parish Holding (Herd) (CPHH)	
BRN (business reference number)	
PPC Permit Number	
OS Grid Ref. of main access (six figures)	

This document is primarily intended for use by intensive agricultural units covered by the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations. It provides both advice and a framework to help operators protect their business from the risks posed by notifiable animal disease. No operator is under any obligation to fill in this template, to fill in sections that they do not wish to or to submit the plan to either SEPA or Animal Health.

This document is uncontrolled when printed or in an electronic format. To view the document in its original form please visit www.sepa.org.uk

Background

The outbreak of a notifiable disease anywhere in the UK could have a devastating impact on your business. If the disease affects your premises directly, it is likely that all susceptible species will be culled and disposed of. Animal Health is the public body responsible for managing an outbreak, working closely with your local authority and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA); they would manage the cull and disposal as well as preliminary disinfection. You are likely to have to carry out the secondary cleansing and disinfection of your premises and the treatment and disposal of organic wastes at your own expense.

Once an outbreak of a notifiable animal disease has been confirmed, the main aim of the Scottish Government is to prevent the spread of the disease by:

- taking action on the Infected Premises;
- controlling wider area livestock movements;
- placing controls on animal products;
- investigating the origin of the outbreak;
- monitoring for further spread of disease.

Official controls imposed during an emergency may affect you in a range of ways, from a cessation of your business if your farm is declared an Infected Premises, to disruption resulting from wider movement controls. Movement controls could prevent or severely restrict animal movements on and off your farm over a prolonged period, so you could find yourself with no new stock coming in while at the same time carrying potentially unmarketable animals that have outgrown their accommodation. If you haven't planned for this build-up it may adversely affect animal welfare. The welfare of your livestock is your responsibility and if animals begin to suffer you may

have no option but to humanely cull your animals. Importantly, there is no statutory compensation for financial losses suffered because of movement controls.

It is in the interests of every livestock keeper to prepare themselves for the outbreak of disease and have a contingency plan in place that is regularly practised and reviewed. These plans are particularly important on premises with a high throughput, as farms that rely on a large number of regular animal transfers will be worst affected by a movement standstill.

Purpose of this document

This document provides you with a template to produce your own contingency plan for dealing with the outbreak of a notifiable disease on your premises or elsewhere in the UK. Specifically the document is designed to:

- inform you of the likely consequences of an outbreak of disease on your premises;
- encourage you to improve biosecurity measures on your premises;
- help you prepare your business for an outbreak on your premises, or the imposition of movement controls;
- provide a single source of information to allow you and Animal Health to deal quickly and efficiently with an outbreak and return your unit to productivity as quickly as possible;
- ensure you put in place measures to prevent pollution of the environment or harm to animal or human health, specifically encouraging you to think through potentially polluting actions and establish appropriate mitigation strategies.

Producing a contingency plan

This template will help you record all biosecurity and disease outbreak planning information relevant to your premises, within a single document. It is your plan; you can change it, or add to it, in any way to meet the specific needs and circumstances of your business. It should ideally be used in its electronic form allowing maximum freedom to add or subtract text, diagrams or sections to suit. It is not intended that the document be used in a hard copy format although this could easily be achieved through the addition of supplemental sheets. If you choose to use an entirely different layout this document should be used as a source of guidance and information which highlight areas of importance to Animal Health and SEPA which the operator should address.

This document is intended as self help for farmers. We hope that, by carefully considering the points raised, you can reduce the chances of a disease outbreak on your premises and mitigate problems, should an outbreak occur. You may find it easier to fill in those sections of the document you feel competent to address and then approach Animal Health and SEPA for further help, and a review of your plan. It is critical that these plans take the concerns of all relevant parties into account.

The document is for use by operators, it provides both information and a framework for the development of a plan. The plan would belong to the operator and can be changed or altered to meet the specific needs and circumstances of the business. It

should ideally be used in its electronic form allowing maximum freedom to add or subtract text, diagrams or sections to suit. It is not intended that the document be used in a hard copy format although this could easily be achieved through the addition of supplemental sheets. It is hoped that the issue of the document will at very least prompt operators to consider these issues. If operators choose to use a different format it is hoped that the document would provide a source of guidance and information and highlight areas of importance to Animal Health and SEPA which the operator should consider addressing.

Data Protection Notice

Any information you provide to Animal health or SEPA may be shared between, and used by, SEARS partners and other public authorities such as local authorities, the Food Standards Agency or the emergency services, to help deal with an outbreak of animal disease, whether suspected or confirmed.

The SEARS partners have registered with the UK Information Commissioner that they are using personal data and will only use personal data for the purposes set out in their submission to the Information Commissioner. The SEARS partners are: Animal Health; Cairngorms National Park Authority; Crofters Commission; Deer Commission for Scotland; Forestry Commission Scotland; Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority; Scottish Environment Protection Agency; Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate; and Scottish Natural Heritage.

SEARS partners may be asked to release information under the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 or the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. However SEARS partners will not act in a way that breaches confidentiality or the Data Protection Act 1998. Individuals have a right to see the information we hold about them. We will correct it if it is inaccurate.

Security of information in this document (Animal Health or SEPA)

We will hold the information in this form securely. If your plan contains personal information of any individual (such as a name), please tell them and ensure that you have their permission before submitting any such information to Animal Health or SEPA.

Section 1: Contact details

In an emergency it is important to have immediate access to a number of contacts. Below is a list of suggested contacts. Contacts in bold would be particularly useful to Animal Health or SEPA.

Owner of livestock (name and address)	
Keeper of livestock (name and address)	
Owner of premises (name and address)	
Occupier(s) of premises (name and address)	
First point of contact within the company for Animal Health or SEPA (inc. telephone number)	
Company vet (name and telephone number)	
Animal Health **Tel. Number (local office - day)** **Tel. Number (out of hours)**	
SEPA **Tel. Number (local office - day)** **Tel. Number (out of hours)**	(0800) 80 70 60
Any other livestock keeper on site (name and contact number)	
Company crisis management team	
Company contact details for key personnel	
Other key contacts – livestock suppliers, recipients of livestock, feed suppliers, waste disposal, downstream water users and so on	

Section 2: Site biosecurity precautions

What is required

Your business is always at risk from disease, including notifiable diseases. If you operate effective biosecurity measures you can substantially reduce that risk. All operators should produce and follow a comprehensive biosecurity plan.

You can find more advice on site biosecurity in *Codes of recommendation for the welfare of livestock: Animal Health and Biosecurity* published by the then Scottish Executive in 2002, available at www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/47007/0017624.pdf

A good biosecurity plan should include:

- procedures for introducing new livestock onto the farm;
- having a dedicated reception point for visitors and controlling visitor access;
- having a visitors' reception book (essential for traceability);
- providing, maintaining and using disinfection facilities for boots and vehicles;
- limiting visitor access to livestock (please note the requirements of access legislation);
- good pest control;
- a minimum period of time between contact with other livestock and your own;
- regular training for stockmen on recognition of disease and action to take;
- systems to reduce the risk posed by regular visitors such as post or waste collection.

What you should do now

You should have a comprehensive biosecurity policy. You can base your plan on the table below, however if you already have a stand alone policy or biosecurity measures set out in other documents you may simply refer to these documents below. Elements of the plan such as the use of a visitors book and details of disinfection protocol would be extremely useful to Animal Health if there is an outbreak.

Procedure for introducing new livestock to the farm – potential measures include:

- an isolation facility keeping new livestock separate from existing animals for at least two weeks;
- testing for endemic disease (discuss this with your vet);
- vaccinating/worming/fluking the new livestock to give them the same protection as existing stock (discuss all treatments with your vet).

Visitor reception – potential measures include:

- keeping visitor reception and car parking remote from your livestock;
- using a visitors' book and recording visitors' mobile phone numbers;
- providing washing and showering facilities;
- providing overalls or footwear.

Disinfection protocol/facilities – potential measures include:

• requiring all personnel to disinfect between houses; • a protocol for replenishing/replacing disinfectant baths.
Rules governing access to livestock – potential measures include: • showering before and after contact with your livestock; • a minimum period between contact with other livestock and contact with yours.
Pest control You should operate a pest control plan that includes control of rodents and feral populations of potential disease carriers.
Training on recognition of disease including notifiable disease You should ensure all your key staff know what to do if they suspect a notifiable disease.
Service access to site (for example, post, refuse, social visitors) – potential measures include: • keeping service access separate from that of livestock vehicles; • ensuring service personnel do not have any contact with livestock.
Additional biosecurity measures if a notifiable disease is suspected

Section 3: Business continuity plan

What you need

Your business may be significantly disrupted if there is an outbreak of notifiable disease. As well as the direct impact of disease on your premises, you need to prepare for the imposition of movement restrictions, closure of markets or abattoirs, and restrictions on activities such as slurry and manure spreading. You should consider what you could do to minimise the impact of disease on your business. Appendix 1 gives guidance on movement restrictions that would be applied in the event of an outbreak of key notifiable diseases.

What you should do now

Examine the major risks to your business and options for mitigating those risks. You should consider:

- the potential to relocate activity or management within your business;
- additional instructions to staff on their biosecurity responsibilities;
- animal welfare – for example, access to feed, bedding, provision of sufficient appropriate housing, potential for temporary accommodation on site to reduce overcrowding;
- the movement of stock in chains, for example, from hatchery to farm;
- contact with your suppliers and customers;
- potential alternative outlets for marketable stock;
- other non business considerations.

Service access during disease restrictions

Your plan should cover how routine visitors (for example, postal service, contractors or social visitors) might access your site should restrictions be placed on your premises. For example, movement restrictions would normally exclude a dwelling house if access can avoid an area which you have used to keep/house livestock. Do you think that access to the dwelling house could be maintained without compromising the biosecurity of the disease control operation? If so, setting out your proposals below (including a map/plan) would help inform decisions should there be an outbreak on your site.

Section 4: Information Animal Health will need quickly following an outbreak

What Animal Health will probably need

Animal Health will initiate an immediate and detailed veterinary inquiry should there be any suspicions of an outbreak of a notifiable disease on your premises. As part of this inquiry they will need a lot of detailed information on your operation some of which is set out below. However, this list is not exhaustive and you will almost certainly be asked additional questions at what will be a very difficult and stressful time.

What you should do now

Investigating officers will need the following information at the very earliest stage of their inquiry. You probably already record much of this routinely. **You do not need to duplicate your records in this document but it is essential that everyone in your Crisis Management Team knows where this information is kept and how it can be accessed.** You should regularly review your records.

Please record the following in the columns provided:

- Reference: the name or reference of the document in which you hold the information.
- Location: where you keep the document.
- Access: how the information can be retrieved at any time (including out of hours).

Specific information on affected livestock

If only some of your animals are sick this may help identify how the disease entered your farm. Animal Health would need the information in Appendix 3 as quickly as possible. Clearly, this information only becomes available during an outbreak.

If there is an outbreak on your premises please fill in the table in Appendix 3.

Where can Animal Health find information on current livestock?

If there is a suspected outbreak, investigating officers will urgently need to know the numbers and class(es) of livestock currently on your premises, details of movements (including internal movements) and when those movement took place. Ideally, this detail should be available to house and pen, or field level.

Numbers of animals in each house (by livestock class – see Appendix 2)	Reference: Location: Access:

Details of recent movement – either from an external premises or from which house or pen if it was an internal movement	Reference: Location: Access:
Where Animal Health can find information on recent activity on the premises	
Production records for the previous 21 days (min)	Reference: Location: Access:
Feed and water intake/use	Reference: Location: Access:
Weight gain figures (if appropriate)	Reference: Location: Access:
Mortalities (with dates)	Reference: Location: Access:
Veterinary medicines usage on current and previous 'batch'	Reference: Location: Access:
Use of artificial insemination/embryo transfer	Reference: Location: Access:
Background information on livestock You may be paid compensation at 'standard table values' or at 'market value' if your livestock are culled for disease control purposes but this depends on the disease and species involved. Animal Health will appoint a valuer from a list of approved valuers. You should establish what this would mean for your business. You may also need to provide valuation assessments for insurance purposes.	
Livestock type – pedigree/commercial	Reference: Location: Access:
Date livestock placed in each house	Reference: Location:

	Access:
Details of livestock on the premises under other ownership including species kept and numbers	Reference: Location: Access:
Are there any special circumstances that would justify using a specialist valuer?	
Details of your premises	
Number and type of livestock houses	Reference: Location: Access:
Capacity of each house	Reference: Location: Access:
Number of animals/birds currently in each house	Reference: Location: Access:

Information on movements, linked and neighbouring premises

In the early stages of an outbreak, it is critical to identify other linked premises which may be at risk of disease. The most important links are through animal movements but the movement of personnel, equipment, feed and so on are also important. You should have a readily available list of all other premises which have links to yours, including the nature of those links.

Animal Health will also need details of other businesses and private residences within premises boundaries to try to limit the effect on businesses or residences properties if movement restrictions are imposed on your premises.

Other premises in the area with similar livestock need to be investigated quickly. Local knowledge can be extremely helpful in finding these and identifying the extent of the disease. Investigating officers will need to find any premises within approx 3 km that holds the same species or other species which may be susceptible to the same disease.

Animal movements ON to your premises in previous 21 days	Reference: Location: Access:
Animal movements OFF your premises in previous 21 days	Reference: Location:

	Access:
A list of all visitors including staff within the previous 21 days Additional information about visitors: • details of biosecurity observed by each visitor; • details of contact with livestock on your premises; • details of contact with livestock on other premises.	Reference: Location: Access:
Details of other company premises linked to the site including the type of link, for example, shared personnel, feed deliveries by the same vehicle	Reference: Location: Access:
Details of other businesses and private residences within your premises boundaries	Reference: Location: Access:
Details of other premises in the vicinity with similar livestock	Reference: Location: Access:

Section 5: Map/plan(s) showing your premises

Agencies dealing with an outbreak on your premises will urgently need to know the location of the following. You should plot the following on a map(s)/plan(s):

- housing units (identified by name or number);
- vehicle access points including farm entrance and car parking areas;
- showering/changing area;
- surfaces – indicate concrete/ tarmac/ hardcore/ grass;
- water intakes/meters/storage tanks;
- power switch/meters;
- gas storage/ switch points;
- details of the drainage system (including inlets and discharge points);
- slurry/ waste water storage including pumps and shut off valves;
- feed storage facilities including silos, hoppers and silage clamps;
- bedding stores;
- egg packaging stores;
- proposed emergency manure/litter storage site (see Section 9);
- staff welfare areas and indicate manager's and workers' accommodation;
- proposed vehicle cleansing and disinfection area (see Section 6);
- public footpaths or rights of way.

Section 6: Cleansing and disinfection station

What is likely to be required

If a disease outbreak is suspected on your premises Animal Health will set up a cleaning and disinfection (C&D) station to clean and disinfect all vehicles, personnel and equipment entering and leaving the site. Animal Health will be responsible for operating the station and collecting run-off.

A particular concern during these operations is the potential for wash-water and disinfectants to escape and cause serious pollution of watercourses or groundwater. C&D facilities should not be located within 10 metres of any surface water drain, ditch or watercourse, or within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole; although it is recognised that this may not always be possible – see Section 8 for advice on containing run-off.

Effluent from the C&D station and (as far as reasonably practicable), rainwater falling on surfaces contaminated with disinfectants or detergents, should be collected, contained and treated. It may be treated separately, combined with other wash-waters, or added to the slurry collection system. Once treated, it may be allowed to leave the premises under an Animal Health licence – Section 8 of this document provides further details on treatment and disposal, or beneficial use of treated wash-water.

What you should do now

With the help of Animal Health and SEPA you should identify appropriate locations to clean and disinfect vehicles up to the size of articulated lorries as they enter and leave your premises. In choosing a location you must consider proximity to drains, ditches and watercourses as well as how wash-water and detergent can be collected, contained, treated and used/disposed of. Although Animal Health will be responsible for this on the day, forward planning will ensure that this can be done without polluting your site.

It may be in your interests to adopt similar standards for cleaning and disinfecting vehicles during periods of heightened disease risk nationally.

Proposed location for the C&D station

Proposed method for collecting and containing wash-water

Proposed method for beneficial use or disposal of wash-water

Section 7: Culling of livestock, storage and removal of carcases

What is likely to be required

If there is an outbreak of notifiable disease on your premises, it is likely that Animal Health will cull affected livestock using powers contained in national legislation. In this scenario **Animal Health will make all operational decisions about the cull based on circumstances on the ground at the time of the outbreak**. However, you should remember that if you need to cull animals on welfare grounds, for example, due to insufficient feed, bedding or accommodation resulting from movement restrictions, you will be responsible for organising the cull and disposal of animals yourself. As part of your plan, you should identify culling options and locations in consultation with Animal Health and SEPA.

Cull method/location

A number of cull methods are likely to be available which can be discussed with Animal Health however in the interests of public health and animal welfare the method and location chosen should minimise livestock movement and handling. You should be aware that under normal conditions, rigor mortis and swelling will set in within a few hours of death and this may hinder carcase movements through restricted spaces, for example, sows from farrowing pens. Rapid removal of dead birds from cages would also be necessary as the onset of putrefaction may occur within a few hours, potentially damaging cages.

Carcase storage and removal

In most cases carcases will be removed offsite for disposal. Good vehicle access and space to use loaders is essential to allow bulk loading and transport. On 'infected premises', Animal Health will arrange suitable transport (preferably articulated vehicles) provided there is suitable access. Your plans should consider the logistics of vehicle access and movement on site as well as access restrictions such as weak bridges or height restrictions. A traffic management plan for your premises would also be helpful.

Containment and disinfection

Ensure that all areas used for holding and culling animals, and storing and loading carcases, can be cleaned and disinfected, and that all fluids, tissue and run-off are contained and collected. Where possible, carcases should be stored on an impermeable surface which is suitably bunded – see section 8 for guidance on containing run-off.

Potential culling options

Different methods may be appropriate for different ages of livestock. If whole house gassing (WHG) of poultry is an option, Animal Health will commission a separate WHG assessment and you can include this as an annex to your plan. If a cull is necessary on an infected premises Animal Health will appoint a case officer who will take charge and, in discussion with farm managers, plan the logistics of the cull and disposal however some aspects such as preferred location, setup of the site, access for equipment, personnel safety and so on can be planned in advance.

What you should do now

You should consider the issues in the boxes below in developing a culling plan for your site.

Assume that all animals on site need to be culled. Animal Health would decide the method of culling if your site is classified an infected premises so you need to fill in this part of the document in close co-operation with them. However, you should remember that if you must cull animals on welfare grounds, you will be responsible for organising the cull and disposal of animals yourself, with advice from Animal Health and SEPA if necessary.
Potential culling options
Potential location and set up for a culling station
Potential temporary location for carcase storage
Potential site access by loading and disposal vehicles

Section 8: Cleansing and disinfecting buildings and equipment

What is likely to be required

Following an outbreak of a notifiable disease, your buildings, yards and equipment will need to be cleaned and disinfected (C&D) before restocking can begin. **Animal Health will decide the extent and method of the C&D required, including any site preparation.** However, it is likely that buildings in which you kept infected animals or carcases and all other locations, equipment, utensils, vehicles and drains which may be contaminated will need full C&D.

C&D is carried out in two distinct phases: a preliminary disinfection and a secondary thorough clean and disinfection. Animal Health is responsible for the preliminary disinfection which takes place after the cull and involves applying an approved disinfectant to surfaces to damp down the grossly contaminated areas thereby reducing the levels of infective agent and minimises the risk of local spread. However, this does not remove all infective agents from premises and it is likely that you will be required to undertake secondary C&D aimed at minimising the chances of the disease recurring.

Before beginning Animal Health will agree a full step by step plan with you and discuss who will pay costs. Secondary C&D usually involves removing all organic material from contaminated surfaces, washing down buildings inside and out, degreasing and application of an approved disinfectant. Normally two cycles of secondary C&D is carried out, seven days apart. On completion Animal Health will inspect the premises; you must wait for a prescribed period from the date of a satisfactory inspection before you begin restocking. Appendix 1 gives indicative restocking timescales.

Collecting and containing wash-water to avoid polluting the water environment

Because C&D uses large volumes of water, detergents and disinfectants, it has the potential to cause significant pollution of the environment. As a first step to avoiding this problem it is essential to have a good understanding of the drainage on your site. You should prepare and maintain an accurate drainage plan, highlighting inlets, discharge points and surface types (for example, concrete or gravel). You may also need to carry out dye test investigations. Please contact SEPA for general advice.

If your farm is upstream of any significant water user, such as a water supply or industrial intake, fish hatchery or agricultural users they must be warned before cleaning starts. SEPA can help identify users at risk and help you contact other organisations who may need to be warned such as Scottish Water, the fisheries board or the local authority environmental health department.

You should ensure that all wash-water or disinfectant is collected and contained. Do not allow it to discharge onto permeable ground, or allow it to enter a watercourse, field drain, ditch or soak away. To achieve this, you may need to direct run-off to a suitable collection point using temporary ditches or physical barriers such as earth or clay bunds (small walls) or sandbags. Ditches in permeable ground should be lined to prevent run-off soaking into the soil. You should block or cap any drain in the wash down area directing run-off off-site. You can use drain seals (pads of impermeable material moulded over the drain cover to prevent water getting in) which are light, portable and widely available. If it is not possible to seal a drain you may need to intercept it at an appropriate point to prevent the discharge. All run-off collected should be held securely using slurry tanks, wash-water holding tanks, mobile tankers or temporary holding pits and sumps excavated for the purpose. As far as reasonably practicable,

you should also use the same techniques to collect and contain any rainwater falling on surfaces that may have been contaminated with disinfectants.

Temporary storage structures

Due to the volumes of water used, and the potential for an outbreak to coincide with full slurry stores or heavy rain, you should plan for the use of temporary storage in case existing facilities are overwhelmed.

If constructing temporary lagoons, they must be lined with impermeable materials such as clay or plastic liners to comply with the Control of Pollution (Silage, Slurry & Agricultural Fuel Oil) (Scotland) Regulations 2003. However, in an emergency where immediate action is required, it is likely that the full requirements would be waived as long as you take all appropriate measures to prevent pollution of the environment. The storage facility should not be located, within 10m of a watercourse, wetland or field drain, and at least 50m from any well, borehole, spring or drinking water supply. The base of the store should be at least 2m above the water table. You should agree proposed designs with SEPA as part of your plan. Alternatively you could use road tankers or other mobile tanks.

Treatment and beneficial use or disposal of the wash-water

All wash-water must be collected and treated before application to land or disposal. Treatment methods used will depend on the disease but often involve raising or lowering the pH and/or temperature to remove pathogens. A further option would be to combine wash-water with slurry, before treatment – see Section 9 for guidance on treating slurry. If wash-water cannot be treated, it may have to remain isolated for several months, potentially delaying a return to normal operations on the site.

Following treatment, and under licence from Animal Health, you may dispose of wash-water to agricultural land in compliance with The Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the code of good practice Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA code) and any restrictions imposed by Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) legislation. Alternatively, it may be possible to discharge to a sewer with Scottish Water's permission, or use a licensed waste contractor. You must not dispose of wash water to septic tanks.

Protected species

Some species of birds and all species of bats are protected, as are their nests and roosts. You must seek advice from Scottish Natural Heritage if these are likely to create a problem for the wash down.

Temporary storage of oils and neat disinfectant

You should store oils and disinfectant in sealed containers unlikely to leak during use, and sufficiently bunded to contain any spill. Absorbent material should be available to collect spills promptly. Regulation 6 of The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 details best available techniques for oil storage. You should place generators in a bunded area, well away from surface waters.

What you should do now

You should address the questions below in developing a C&D plan for your site. Assume that all buildings will need to be washed down inside and out, degreased and then disinfected. When preparing your plan consider other issues such as structural defects, electrical safety,

proximity to surface waters or limited water supply. Discuss your plan with SEPA and Animal Health before finalising it.
Downstream water users you need to inform before starting C&D
Issues relating to protected species
How will the wash down be conducted?
Proposals for collecting and containing wash-water
Proposed method for the beneficial use or disposal of wash-water

Section 9: Removal of manure, litter, slurry, feed, bedding and other materials

What is likely to be required

All organic materials that have come into contact with infected animals (such as feed, bedding and excreted wastes) will need to be dealt with to remove any residual disease vector. This is likely to be your responsibility **but you MUST agree procedures in advance with Animal Health to ensure you minimise any risk of disease spread**.

SEPA regards manures, litter, slurry, feed, bedding and other materials suspected of being infected with a notifiable disease as a hazardous waste until the infection risk has been dealt with and the material can be re-used in accordance with conventional agricultural practice. However, during the period of emergency response to a disease outbreak, SEPA will not impose additional regulatory burdens on the handling and treatment of this material over and above those applied by Animal Health. This assumes that storage, handling and treatment is carried out to the satisfaction of Animal Health and performed using the best available techniques to prevent or (if that is not possible) minimise pollution.

Slurry

Disease can survive in slurry for several months. Animal Health will identify the slurry which will need treatment before land application or disposal. Treatment options depend on the disease agent involved but typically involve storage (without adding new material) for at least 90 days, or adding chemicals (for example, lime or citric acid) to alter the slurry pH and kill the disease. Alternative methods of thermal treatment may also be available. When considering pH adjustment, treatment with an alkali such as lime may be safer, less odorous and provide greater agricultural benefit once spread but you should seek advice on treatment options from Animal Health as some diseases are resistant to high pH. Whichever method you choose, you must ensure that all liquids are contained during treatment to protect the water environment and human health. See section 8 for guidance on containing and collecting liquids.

If it is uneconomic or impractical to treat slurry, Animal Health will likely place lagoons, tanks and so on under a restriction notice. The length of quarantine will vary depending on the disease but could last several months. Similar restrictions will be placed on slurry storage facilities which cannot undergo appropriate C&D, for example, under slat stores inaccessible for practical or health and safety reasons.

Animal Health will decide when you can remove slurry from the site. You should only spread slurry on pastures or arable fields which do not have a common boundary with other premises with susceptible livestock. When spreading materials you must comply with The Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the PEPFAA code and any Nitrate Vulnerable Zone action plans.

Manure/litter/feedstuff/bedding

All used feedstuffs, manure, litter and bedding must be removed from the buildings and treated before land application or disposal. A common treatment involves stacking materials in a densely packed heap, spraying with an approved disinfectant, covering and leaving for a period of time specified by Animal Health, usually at least 42 days.

In preparing a plan consider how you can isolate infected material from your production sheds.

Assuming the premises are otherwise satisfactory, and depending on site specifics such as proximity to livestock or drainage, Animal Health may be prepared to limit restrictions to the area around the stack and allow restocking on the rest of the premises. It may also be acceptable to use field heaps or 'fallow' buildings or even to move the materials off-site (under licence from Animal Health). However, once you have introduced infected material to a new location, that area would also be declared an infected premises and restrictions applied. Animal Health will review restrictions case by case.

You should **not** locate the pile:

- within 250 metres of any well, borehole or spring used for abstraction;
- within 250 metres of any drinking water supply;
- within 50 meters of any watercourse, wetland etc;
- within 10 meters of a field drain;
- where the water table is close to the surface, for example, low lying or boggy ground;
- where the soils are highly permeable, for example, sands and gravels;
- where the soils are of low permeability, for example, clay;
- where the land is prone to flooding;
- in close proximity to homes, public buildings or workplaces (other than the farm) where it could cause odour or other nuisance problems for nearby residents.

Once treated, you may spread on land provided you have an Animal Health licence and you comply with The Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008, the PEPFAA code and any Nitrate Vulnerable Zone action plans.

Commercial incineration, power stations, rendering or landfill

Commercial disposal offers a theoretical disposal option but premises may not be licensed to accept infected waste containing large quantities of disinfectant. If considering this option as part of your contingency plan, please remember that:

- you can only move waste off the infected premises under an Animal Health licence;
- vehicles used to move the waste will need to meet specific standards;
- you may only use premises approved by Animal Health;
- the premises must have an appropriate licence from SEPA;
- the availability of commercial outlets is not guaranteed during an outbreak as their capacity may be taken up dealing with carcases;
- some outlets will not be willing to accept the infected material due to concerns for the health and safety of their workforce or the implications for their business of being classified as an infected premises by Animal Health.

Even if you prefer transporting off-site to one of these facilities it may be wise to have a contingency in case the outlet is unavailable during an outbreak.

Other materials (for example, soils, eggs, packaging)

If the floors of poultry premises are earth or other material that cannot be disinfected, you will need to remove the top 3 cm and treat it to Animal Health requirements before land application or disposal. Depending on the disinfectant used, you may need authorisation under The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005. Consult SEPA before disposing of this material.

You will need to disinfect contaminated eggs and packaging before disposal at an appropriately licensed facility. Animal Health will decide when it is safe to remove this material

from the site. In addition you should be prepared to store this material before uplift if required. **What you should do now** You should address the points below to develop a contingency plan for dealing with all potentially contaminated organic matter on site.
Proposed method of treatment and beneficial use/disposal for contaminated slurry
Proposed method of treatment and beneficial use/disposal for contaminated litter/manure/feed/bedding
Proposed method of treatment and beneficial use/disposal for other contaminated materials like contaminated soils or eggs

Section 10: Carcase disposal (on-site burning)

Under Scotland's Disease Contingency Plans, commercial incineration or rendering are the preferred options for carcases disposal. Other methods such as landfill or on-farm burial/incineration would only be considered in exceptional circumstances**.**

What is likely to be required

Animal Health, on behalf of Scottish Government, is responsible for disposing of carcases from Infected Premises; they will choose the disposal method and take responsibility for disposal. In very limited circumstances, where transport of carcases off-site for incineration or rendering is not possible on-site burning may be considered. However, if due to movement restrictions you have to cull animals on welfare grounds, for example, due to insufficient feed, bedding or housing, you will need to organise carcase disposal yourself, with advice from Animal Health and SEPA. You should ensure that this advice includes consideration of the need to comply with any movement restrictions which may apply to your livestock.

Burning carcases presents a logistical challenge requiring excavations and substantial quantities of solid and liquid fuels, manpower and equipment. Burning poses a significant risk to human health, air quality and the water environment. Considering whether burning on site is a viable option and, where appropriate, evaluating potential locations in advance will maximise the efficiency with which any outbreak is addressed and will ensure disposal is carried out with minimum risks to human health, your business and the surrounding environment. On-site burning is unlikely to be a viable option for poultry.

Pollution

Department of Health information indicates that, of the various pollutants emitted by pyres, inhaled particles and sulphur dioxide are likely to pose an immediate threat to public health, particularly for people with certain medical conditions who live or work close to the pyres.

Risks to the water environment arise from the use of hydrocarbon oils as fire accelerants; and the potential for contamination of groundwater with heavy metals and dioxins resulting from the infiltration of rain water through the ash.

Pyre location

Pyres should be built on level ground as far as possible from, and downwind of, public highways and residential areas. Pyres burning around 1000 adult pigs daily (or equivalent) should be located at least 2 km, from local communities, larger pyres (more than 4000 adult pigs daily or equivalent) at least 4km.

To protect the water environment the pyre must **not** be:

- within 250 metres of any well, borehole or spring used for abstraction;
- within 250 metres of any drinking water supply;
- within 50 meters of any watercourse, wetland etc;
- within 10 meters of a field drain;
- in areas where the water table is close to the surface, such as low lying or boggy ground;
- in areas where the soils are highly permeable, for example, sands and gravels;
- in areas where the land is prone to flooding.

Pyres should **not** be built on sites designated for their conservation or historical value (for example, a SSSI) without the express permission of Scottish Natural Heritage or Historic Scotland (as appropriate).

Other points to consider:

- good vehicle access to deliver carcases (from culling site);
- access for carrying combustion materials;
- proximity of pipelines for gas, oil and water, and buried or overhead power cables;
- proximity of buildings and combustible materials such as hay straw or plastics;
- proximity of designated sites/features, for example, SSSIs, SACs and ancient monuments;
- proximity of roads, railways or airport approach paths;
- proximity of neighbouring livestock.

Pyre size

When assessing the suitability of a potential site, you should allow one metre length for each adult cow (equivalent to four adult pigs or three adult, unshorn sheep). Animal Health can give you detailed guidance on pyre construction if you are interested but, to get an idea of the scale of a pyre, you would expect to use around 210 logs the size of railway sleepers, 47 tonnes of coal and 375 gallons of diesel to burn 1000 adult pigs.

To minimise the emission of harmful gases (including dioxins) tyres, engine oil (waste or new), mattresses, furniture, treated timber products (for example, railway sleepers) and plastics (except bags covering lesions and any ground sheet) must not form part of the pyre.

Ash disposal

After cremation a lot of ash will remain, typically 1.6 tonnes per hundred adult pigs. This material will need to be removed from site and disposed of in a suitably licensed facility.

What you should do now

Very few sites will be suitable for carcase burning however you should consider this option when developing your carcass disposal plan. You should assume that all stock normally held on site needs to be burned. If there is no suitable location or only limited numbers can be burnt, record this in your plan and include the reasons for this. Such information would save a great deal of time and avoid poor decisions in the unlikely event that burning was being considered as an option by Animal Health. Please discuss this aspect of the document with Animal Health and SEPA before finalising it. Specifically, you should ask SEPA and Animal Health to assess the suitability of any proposed location and include their advice in your plan.

Is burning on-site a viable option? Yes/No
Given the limitations outlined above, consider whether there is any location on your property/site where carcases could be burned. If "no", delete the boxes below.

Could all animals on-site be burned?
Assuming suitable location(s) can be identified is there scope to burn all livestock. If not, estimate how many may be incinerated within the above limitations.

Suitable location(s) for burning
If appropriate propose a pyre location(s). It may be helpful to use an OS map.

Section 11: Carcase disposal (on-site burial)

Under Scotland's Disease Contingency Plans, commercial incineration or rendering are the preferred options for carcases disposal. Other methods such as landfill or on-farm burial/incineration would only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

What is likely to be required

Animal Health, on behalf of Scottish Government, is responsible for disposing of carcases from Infected Premises; they will choose the disposal method and take responsibility for disposal. In very limited circumstances, where transport of carcases off-site for incineration or rendering is not possible on-site burial may be considered. However, if due to movement restrictions you have to cull animals on welfare grounds, for example, due to insufficient feed, bedding or housing, you will need to organise carcase disposal yourself, with advice from Animal Health and SEPA. You should ensure that this advice includes consideration of the need to comply with any movement restrictions which may apply to your livestock.

Large scale burial of carcases presents a significant hazard to the environment. Poorly situated burial sites could lead to serious pollution of groundwater and increase the chances of breakdown products reaching a watercourse. Pollutants released during the decomposition of carcases may include products of liquefaction and saponification of lipids, ammonia, various gases, certain metals, sulphides and chlorides. The pollution can be released over a considerable period of time, resulting in long term contamination. There is also a potential risk of public and private water supplies being affected in terms of taste, odour and microbial pollutants. Given the potential risks to human health, your business and the environment, careful consideration is required to establish whether burial on site is an option.

Burial location

To protect the water environment a burial site must **not** be located:

- within 250 metres of any well, borehole or spring used for abstraction;
- within 250 metres of any drinking water supply;
- within 50 meters of any watercourse, wetland etc;
- within 10 meters of a field drain;
- in areas where the water table is close to the surface, such as, low lying or boggy ground;
- in areas where the soils are highly permeable, for example, sands and gravels;
- in areas where the soils are of low permeability, for example, clay;
- in areas where the land is prone to flooding.

There must be at least two metres of unsaturated soils below the base of the pit (confirmed by trial pitting where necessary) and one metre of soil covering the carcases. So, depending on what you need to bury, any proposed location would need to have nearly 3.5m of unsaturated soils before it is suitable. In some locations, this will rule out burial or severely limit the number of carcases you can bury.

Burial should not be considered on sites designated for their conservation or historical value (for example, a SSSI) without the express permission of Scottish Natural Heritage or Historic Scotland (as appropriate).

You should also consider:

- if the site has good vehicle access to deliver carcases (from culling site);
- proximity of pipelines for gas, oil and water and buried or overhead power cables;
- proximity of designated sites/features, for example, SSSIs, SACs and ancient monuments;
- that no grazing of the immediate area will be permitted after restocking.

To assess the suitability of a given location for burial you will need to undertake a detailed investigation of the soil and geology in the area. SEPA will confirm if a site is suitable once you identify its location.

What you should do now

Very few sites will be suitable for carcase burial however you should consider this option when developing your carcass disposal plan. You should assume that all stock normally held on site need to be buried. If there is no suitable location or only limited numbers can be buried record this in your plan including the reasons for this. Such information would save a great deal of time and avoid poor decisions in the unlikely event that burial was being considered as an option by Animal Health. Please discuss this aspect of the document with Animal Health and SEPA before finalising it. Specifically, you should ask SEPA and Animal Health to assess the suitability of any proposed location and include their advice in your plan.

Is burial of carcases on the premises a viable option? Yes/No
Given the limitations outlined above, consider whether there is any location on your property/ site where carcases could be buried. If you answer "no" delete the boxes below.

Could all animals on-site be buried?
Assuming you can identify a suitable location(s), is there scope to bury all carcases on-site? If not, estimate of the numbers that may be buried within the above limitations.

Suitable location(s) for burial
Propose a location for burial. It may be helpful to use an OS map.

Appendix 1: Actions and movement restrictions in the event of an outbreak of key

notifiable diseases

This movements table is only a guide it is not a definitive summary of the legislative requirements. It does not list any restrictions which may apply outside a surveillance zone due to a national movement ban or EU safeguard decisions.

Animal		**Pigs**				**Poultry**	
Disease		**African Swine Fever**	**Classical Swine Fever**	**Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD)**	**Foot and Mouth**	**Avian Influenza**	**Newcastle Disease**
Infected Premises (IP)	Susceptible livestock restrictions	All pigs on the premises would be killed without delay	All pigs on the premises would be killed without delay	All pigs on the premises would be killed without delay	All susceptible animals would be killed without delay	All poultry on the premises would be killed without delay	All poultry on the premises would be killed without delay
	Non-susceptible livestock restrictions	Other domestic animals may be restricted	N/A	Restricted movement of things liable to transmit SVD	Non susceptible animals restricted to the premises	Mammals may be restricted	
Protection Zone (PZ) **Minimum 3km radius around IP**	Susceptible livestock restrictions	No pig movement for at least 40 days after preliminary C&D of last IP	No pig movement (including semen embryo and ova) for at least 30 days after prelim C&D of last IP	No pig movement for at least 30 days since the declaration of the PZ	All susceptible animal movement banned for the duration of the PZ (PZ remains in force for a minimum of 15 days after preliminary C&D of the final IP)	(High Path) All poultry and egg movement banned for duration of the PZ (PZ remains in force for minimum 21 days after preliminary C&D of last IP then becomes part of SZ)	All poultry/ captive bird and egg movement banned for duration of the PZ (PZ remains in force for 21 days after preliminary C&D of last IP then becomes part of SZ)
	Non-susceptible livestock restrictions	No domestic animal movement	No domestic animal movement	N/A	non-susceptible animal movement restricted	Restricted movement of domestic mammals	N/A
Surveillance Zone (SZ) **Minimum 10km radius around IP]**	Susceptible livestock restrictions	No pig movement for at least 30 days after preliminary C&D	No pig movement (including semen embryo and ova) for at least 21 days after preliminary C&D	No pig movement for the duration of the SZ	No susceptible animal movement for the duration of the SZ (SZ remains in place for at least 30 days after preliminary C&D	(High Path) No poultry or egg movement for duration of SZ (SZ remains in place for at least 30 days after preliminary C&D)	No poultry or hatching egg movement for the duration of the SZ (SZ remain in place for at least 30 days after preliminary C&D)
	Non-susceptible livestock restrictions	No animal movement (domestic or other) for 7 days after C&D	No animal movement (domestic or other) for 7 days after C&D	N/A	Non-susceptible animal movement banned	Restricted movement of domestic mammals	N/A
Restocking of IP		a) non-vector-linked restocking can take place 40 days after C&D b) vector linked – restocking cannot take place for 6 years	Controlled restocking can begin 30 days after C&D	Controlled restocking can begin 28 days after C&D	Controlled restocking can begin 3 months after last cull	Controlled restocking can begin 21 days after C&D	21 days after C&D

Please note

All animal movements are banned for the specified time span unless with a certified licence or if the movement involves:

a) transport through the zone but not moving to a different zone or
b) moving through the zone without stopping.

Movement is only permitted again when the zone has been thoroughly inspected and approved by a veterinary officer.

Appendix 2: Possible livestock classes

Pigs	Piglets (<7kg) Weaners (7-30kg) Growers (30-80kg) Fatteners (80+kg) Gilts Sows Boars
Laying hens	Caged Free range Barn Deep litter Layer breeder Layer rearer
Broilers	Deep litter Broiler breeder Free range
Ducks	Slats Free range Deep litter
Hatchery (list species)	Housed Free range
Poultry other (list species)	Housed Free range

Appendix 3: Numbers of animals affected

Appendix 3 is for illustration only. Animal Health would need the information below in the early stages of a veterinary inquiry but you do not need to fill it in unless an outbreak is suspected.

Draw a sketch plan of the premises or copy plan in Section 5. Number the houses/paddocks.

House/paddock	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**
Number of animals/birds present in the shed/paddock						
Number which have died						
Number which appear diseased						
Number which appear unaffected						
Date arrived on premises						
Source of stock						