

Notice to Industry: Veterinarians and Farmers – Applications for Emergency Importation of Live Avian Metapneumovirus (aMPV) Vaccines

March 2025

Background

The Canadian Centre for Veterinary Biologics (CCVB) of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is accepting applications from veterinarians for the emergency importation of live avian metapneumovirus (aMPV) vaccines. This is an important step in the response to deal with the challenges the turkey industry in Canada has been facing due to aMPV over the past year. The CCVB is allowing this because aMPV is an emerging disease, and had significant impacts on the Canadian poultry industry and no suitable veterinary biologics are licensed in Canada.

Live vaccines may be available through several manufacturers. Depending on the product, vaccines may be applied through a combination of spray vaccination at the hatchery and through spray or drinking water on-farm. Your veterinarian will work with you to establish the best program for your flock.

Outside of North America, both live and inactivated vaccines are commonly used to protect poultry against avian metapneumovirus. This also follows similar announcements in December 2024 and January 2025 from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Center for Veterinary Biologics (CVB) to authorize the importation of live aMPV vaccines into the U.S. market. Applications for products which have been already authorized by the USDA would be preferable for efficiency. CFIA has previously allowed the import of inactivated vaccines against aMPV.

Turkey Farmers of Canada appreciate the collaborative work of the CFIA with the industry and veterinarians to protect animal health and the turkey industry.

Process

The process for obtaining the vaccine will work through the guideline [VB-GL-3.21.2: Importation of unlicensed veterinary biologics manufactured in a foreign country](#).

- **Veterinarians** will apply for the emergency use import permit to the CCVB with supporting rationale and other information as per guideline VB-GL-3.21.2. The request can be sent through [MyCFIA](#) account or by sending all forms and applicable fee by email to Pre-market Application Submissions Office at cfia.paso-bpdpm.acia@inspection.gc.ca.

The veterinarians will attest to the following statements in the application:

- The product will be used under the veterinarian's supervision.
- The veterinarian and clients are aware that the product is not licensed (conditional or full) in Canada pursuant to the Health of Animals Act and regulations and has not been fully evaluated for safety and efficacy by the CCVB.
- The product will be used at the owner's and veterinarian's risk.
- The veterinarian accepts full responsibility for providing appropriate instructions to anyone using the veterinary biologic under their supervision, even in those instances when bilingual English-French labelling is unavailable.
- The veterinarian and importer will follow all conditions listed on the import permit.

- The **CCVB** will review applications and contact manufacturers for product information. The information requested for live aMPV vaccines is more extensive than inactivated aMPV vaccines and therefore the review process for live vaccines may take longer. CCVB will also review vaccine serial-specific information provided by the manufacturer.
 - For unlicensed inactivated aMPV vaccines, if the information provided by the manufacturers is satisfactory on review, then the CCVB will issue a serial specific import permit to the requesting veterinarian.
 - For live aMPV vaccines, if the information is satisfactory on review, then the provincial authorities will be consulted prior to issuance of an import permit to the veterinarian.
- Live vaccines come with higher inherent risk compared to the inactivated vaccines. The potential risks of live vaccines are reversion to virulence, shedding and spreading of the vaccine agent to the other birds, farms or species, and persistence in environment. The veterinarians are advised to discuss these risks with the manufacturers and share them with farmers prior to the use of vaccine.
- Interested **farmers** should work with their veterinarians and review administration and husbandry recommendations carefully.
- Veterinarians are encouraged to provide feedback about safety and efficacy of requested vaccines to the CCVB. Any adverse events should be reported to the manufacturer or CCVB.

Any questions on the process may be directed to the CCVB

Email: cfia.pasobpdpm.acia@inspection.gc.ca; Telephone: 1-855-212-7695.