

Impact assessment, proposals for amended regulations on vaccination against Newcastle disease virus, etc.

As a general rule, an impact assessment must be prepared and documented before an administrative authority is to decide on regulations or general advice.

Administrative authorities must also report an impact assessment when they submit proposals to the Government or the Government Offices for the Government to propose or decide on new or amended laws and regulations. When preparing the analysis, consideration should be given to the guidance provided by the Swedish National Financial Management Authority. If any part of the analysis cannot be carried out, this shall be justified.

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1 General

Background

Newcastle disease

Sweden is one of the few countries in Europe that does not vaccinate poultry against Newcastle disease virus. Only Finland and Sweden are currently classified as free from Newcastle disease virus infection without vaccination. In recent years, however, the number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease in Sweden has increased, and the European Commission has repeatedly questioned Sweden's disease-free status and whether Sweden can still be considered disease-free when the number of outbreaks has increased so much over time. In January 2025, the European Commission also announced that all co-financing of Newcastle disease in respect of Member States would cease from 1 February 2025. The letter sent out stated, among other things, that safe and effective vaccines against Newcastle disease have been available for many years, which gives each Member State ample opportunity to develop a vaccination programme that suits the conditions in their respective countries. The letter also stated that Sweden had actively chosen not to vaccinate against Newcastle disease virus. It is therefore likely that if the number of outbreaks continues at the same level, Sweden will lose its status as free from Newcastle disease without vaccination.

Newcastle disease is classified as a Category A disease in accordance with the EU Animal Health Regulation¹ and related sub-acts, which means that the control of the disease includes measures that have major direct and indirect consequences for food producers and thus affect food security in the country. An outbreak negatively affects trade with both EU Member States and third countries. The conditions for the introduction of mandatory vaccination of poultry have changed in recent years, partly as a result of new vaccines available on the market, which have reduced the cost of vaccination, while the costs of handling outbreaks have increased. From a socio-economic perspective, the introduction of vaccination against Newcastle disease is therefore justified. With vaccination, the number of outbreaks would very likely decrease and thus the consequences that result from these.

West Nile fever

West Nile fever (WNF) is a disease that affects horses, among other animals, and is spread by wild birds and mosquitoes. The disease has spread further north in Europe in recent years, and we therefore need to be prepared for it to appear in Sweden as well.

Infected horses are what are known as 'dead-end hosts', which means that they cannot spread the infection further, through either mosquitoes or direct contact. There is therefore

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law')

no basis for combating the disease in horses and no basis for retaining it as an epizootic disease in horses.

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1.1 Regulations that are being amended

Tables with new or amended paragraphs

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on the prevention and control of certain animal diseases (SJVFS 2023:15), regulation number K3

Chapter	Paragraph	Relates to	Comment
1	4	Concepts and significance for poultry and captive birds added	<i>Amended</i>
1	5	Exemptions from the provisions	<i>Amended</i>
2	1	Reference to regulations on the use of veterinary medicinal products	<i>Repealed</i>
2	4	Permitted vaccination against certain diseases	<i>Amended</i>
2	7	Vaccination against Newcastle disease virus for certain categories	<i>New</i>
2	8	Vaccination against Newcastle disease virus for establishments with several different categories of poultry and captive birds, with some exceptions	<i>New</i>
2	9	Vaccination against Newcastle disease for establishments keeping pigeons	<i>New</i>
2	10	Vaccination against Newcastle disease virus for establishments keeping pigeons, poultry and other captive birds	<i>New</i>
2	11	Vaccination against Newcastle disease virus for those who keep poultry or captive birds that participate in competitions, exhibitions or other events where birds are brought together	<i>New</i>
2	12	Vaccination against Newcastle disease virus shall be carried out in accordance with the Swedish Board of Agriculture's decision on the establishment of a vaccination programme against Newcastle disease virus.	
2	13	Vaccination against Newcastle disease virus for the categories in which vaccination is voluntary shall be carried out in accordance with that stated in the Swedish Board of Agriculture's decision establishing vaccination programmes against Newcastle disease virus.	<i>New</i>
2	14	Documentation for vaccination against Newcastle	<i>New</i>

Chapter	Paragraph	Relates to	Comment
		disease	
Annex		States whether or not West Nile fever is covered by the Epizootic Diseases Act	<i>Amended</i>

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on biosecurity measures and notification and monitoring of animal diseases and infectious agents (SJVFS 2021:10), Regulation number K12

Chapter	Paragraph	Relates to	Comment
4	1	Reference to specific provisions in Chapter 5	<i>Amended</i>
4	6	Reference to sampling in accordance with Chapter 5	<i>Amended</i>
5	1-4	Status as free from Newcastle disease without vaccination	<i>Repealed</i>
7	1	Grant exemptions	<i>Amended</i>

1.2 The proposal concerns

☒ Companies

☒ Other individuals

☐ Municipalities

☐ Regions

☒ The State

1.3 The issue and the change sought

Newcastle disease

Sweden is one of the few countries in Europe that does not vaccinate poultry and captive birds² against Newcastle disease. Today, only Finland and Sweden are classified as free from infection with the Newcastle disease virus without vaccination. Newcastle disease is classified as a Category A disease in the EU Animal Health Regulation and its sub-acts, which means that the control of the disease includes measures that have major direct and indirect consequences for food producers, thus also affecting food security in the country. An

² The definition of captive birds is set out in Article 4(10) of the EU Animal Health Regulation. 'Captive birds' means any birds other than poultry that are kept in captivity for any reason other than those referred to in Article 4(9) of the EU Animal Health Regulation, including those that are kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions, breeding or selling; Captive birds are not kept for any type of production, such as pigeons in Sweden.

outbreak also adversely affects trade, both with EU Member States and trade with third countries. The conditions for the introduction of mandatory vaccination of poultry have changed in recent years, partly because new vaccines are available on the market that reduce the cost of vaccination. The conclusion in previous comparative calculations of outbreak management and vaccination costs was that outbreak management was significantly cheaper compared to vaccination costs. This is no longer the case.

The latest investigation into the costs of vaccination and outbreak management shows that it is now more profitable to vaccinate compared to dealing with outbreaks. The number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease has increased in recent years, and so have the costs. Vaccination would most likely reduce the number of outbreaks and their consequences. The main changes leading to a reduction in the cost of vaccination compared to previous estimates are:

- vaccination of breeding animals in the egg and broiler sectors, as well as future laying hens, with one dose of vector-based ND vaccine administered at hatcheries,
- there is no negative impact on egg production,
- vaccination of certain categories of poultry and captive birds is voluntary.

The purpose of the amendments to the regulations is to introduce mandatory vaccination against Newcastle disease for certain categories and to ensure that a monitoring programme adapted to a vaccinated population is in place. A mandatory vaccination programme for Newcastle disease should result in a reduction in the number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease in poultry and captive birds, as well as the subsequent consequences for animals, production, food security and restrictions, and the costs associated with this. The amendments to the regulations permitting vaccination against Newcastle disease mean that Chapter 5 of the Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations and general guidelines on biosecurity measures and the notification and monitoring of animal diseases and infectious agents (SJVFS 2021:10) (ref. no. K12) must be repealed as the chapter deals with provisions necessary to maintain status as free from the Newcastle disease virus without vaccination.

West Nile fever (WNF)

Table 5 in the Annex to the Regulations is amended so that WNF in horses is no longer covered by the Epizootic Diseases Act.

A horse affected by WNF cannot spread the infection further, either through mosquitoes or through direct contact. There is therefore no basis for combating the disease in horses and no basis for retaining it as an epizootic disease in horses.

The Epizootic Diseases Act (1999:657) applies to generally hazardous animal diseases that may pose a serious threat to public or animal health or cause major economic losses to society (epizootic diseases), and what these epizootic diseases are must be specified in operational regulations from the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

The diseases to be covered by the Epizootic Diseases Act are listed in the Annex to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on the prevention and control of certain animal diseases (SJVFS 2023:15). WNF is one of the diseases covered.

The Epizootic Diseases Act lays down measures such as notification of suspicions and prevention of the spread of infection that animal owners and veterinary surgeons are obliged to implement in the case of epizootic diseases. The Act also specifies a large number of measures that authorities, primarily the Swedish Board of Agriculture, shall or may implement to prevent and combat epizootic diseases.

The measures required by the Epizootic Diseases Act are not relevant for the control of WNF in horses. Culling and movement restrictions, which are important in the control of several other serious infectious animal diseases, are not relevant. Therefore, an amendment needs to be made to the Annex to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on the prevention and control of certain animal diseases (SJVFS 2023:15), case no. K3. In connection with this, minor editorial amendments are also being made to the Annex.

1.4 What will the consequences be if we do not take any action (the no-action alternative)?

Newcastle disease

The European Commission has, for some time, questioned Sweden's disease-free status, given the number of outbreaks and the numerous applications for co-financing that Sweden has submitted. Since February this year, the European Commission has decided that there is no longer any possibility of co-financing for the costs of managing outbreaks of Newcastle disease, and one of the reasons for this is that the European Commission considers that there are safe and well-proven vaccines that each Member State can use as a preventive measure and in a way that suits their national circumstances. The decision that Member States will no longer have the option of co-financing will mean that Sweden (and Swedish taxpayers) will incur a greater cost in connection with payments of epizootic compensation in the event of an outbreak. Businesses are also hit hard by many outbreaks because not all costs are reimbursed by the State.

If the trend continues in the same direction as at present, the number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease in poultry and captive birds is likely to increase. This will lead to negative consequences for animals, production and food security, and increased costs for both the sector and the State. With an increased number of outbreaks, the consequences could affect the sector in both the long and short term. In recent years, both the egg and poultry sectors have faced several challenges due to various diseases that have necessitated the destruction of large numbers of poultry. The current system means that animals are raised to go to a specific final facility. Thus, there is no space in the system to redistribute animals if it is not possible to place the animals in the planned facility. Today, there is also no surplus of laying hens or broiler chickens. In the egg industry, this has created a shortage of pullets to restock after an outbreak, which has left a facility empty and thus created a large loss of production and ultimately an egg shortage at the consumer level. On the poultry side, there has instead

been a shortage of parent stock, making it impossible to produce broiler chickens for consumers. Reduced animal and product losses are also desirable from an environmental and climate perspective.

Without vaccination, Sweden is also likely to lose its status within the EU as being free from infection with the Newcastle disease virus without vaccination due to recurring and increasing outbreaks of the disease. If Sweden loses its status as free from Newcastle disease virus without vaccination, this will mean that the market will open up to vaccinated poultry, and we will no longer be able to impose any special restrictions or requirements in connection with trade in hatching eggs and live poultry. At present, when the majority of countries vaccinate against Newcastle disease virus, the market for trade is more challenging for Swedish companies. Among other things, Swedish breeding companies can only sell unvaccinated poultry, which means that buyers in the recipient country must vaccinate poultry themselves: this places Swedish breeding companies at a disadvantage.

West Nile fever

If WNF were to continue to be covered by the Epizootic Diseases Act, the Swedish Board of Agriculture would be required to take a decision to combat the disease, despite the fact that there are no grounds for disease control since horses cannot spread the infection.

1.5 Different options for achieving the change and their advantages and disadvantages

Newcastle disease

In addition to the option described above to continue the way things are today, which will mean Sweden losing its status as free from Newcastle disease virus without vaccination, there are no alternatives to introducing vaccination as we have an excessive number of outbreaks and the European Commission has pointed out that our disease-free status is in danger. Furthermore, the European Commission considers that EU legislation allows for preventive vaccination against Newcastle disease and that safe and effective vaccines have been available for many years, giving each Member State the flexibility to design its own vaccination programme to suit the circumstances in each individual country.

One advantage for the sector is that, with the introduction of vaccination against Newcastle disease, the broiler industry expects the market to open up for the sale of parent stock abroad. For Swedish companies and operators, the market is opening up for purchases from other countries, as it is now possible to buy poultry and captive birds that have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease. One potential disadvantage is that the risk of contracting other diseases may increase.

The possible alternative is voluntary vaccination against Newcastle disease. However, it is likely that a voluntary vaccination programme would not have the impact necessary to tackle the increasing number of outbreaks in Sweden. The desired effect of reducing the number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease in poultry and captive birds, and the subsequent consequences for animals, production, food security and costs to the sector and the State, is

unlikely to be achieved. An example of this can be found in Poland, which until recently had voluntary vaccination. However, Poland has recently experienced a large number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease in a short period of time and has therefore introduced mandatory vaccination for commercial poultry. It has also been noted that there is a large number of vaccines on the market, which makes it more challenging for operators to vaccinate in a well-balanced manner on a voluntary basis.

In connection with the Swedish Board of Agriculture taking a strategic decision to investigate the vaccination issue, the Swedish Veterinary Agency was asked to provide supporting documents for a vaccination and monitoring programme, if vaccination were to be allowed in Sweden. As part of the supporting documents, the Swedish Board of Agriculture has also asked the Swedish Veterinary Agency to assess the risks of outbreaks if certain categories are exempted from vaccination requirements. The Swedish Veterinary Agency's supporting documentation is a proposal for a vaccination and monitoring programme for Newcastle disease. The Swedish Veterinary Agency recommends that vaccination against Newcastle disease be introduced in three stages. Stage 1 includes domestic fowl within the categories of breeding hens and laying hens, stage 2 may begin when stage 1 is completed and includes the other categories. Stage 3 can be applied if the need arises, for example if the infection situation were to change due to more virulent strains or if immunity in stages 1 or 2 were to prove to be insufficient. The final vaccination and monitoring programme will be decided by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. This may differ from the Swedish Veterinary Agency's supporting documents, as the Swedish Board of Agriculture needs to take into account a number of factors such as economics, legislation, EU confidence and the principle of proportionality when making a decision. Details of the vaccination programme will be developed at a later stage.

Provisions of the proposal

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on the prevention and control of certain animal diseases (SJVFS 2023:15), ref. no. K3

Chapter 1 Introductory provisions

Section 4. The proposal clarifies what is meant by the terms 'poultry' and 'captive birds', as the terms are key to understanding the vaccination provisions.

Section 5 The provision will be reviewed in the light of the vaccination provisions against Newcastle disease that are introduced. It shall be possible to apply for an exemption from the vaccination regulations if there are special grounds.

Chapter 2 Use of veterinary medicinal products for the prevention and control of certain animal diseases

Section 1 The proposal means that the information clause is repealed. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered not repealing the information paragraph, but updating it instead, but a repeal is preferable since references to official regulations are at risk of becoming

outdated quickly. The advantage of the proposal is that unnecessary sections are removed from the regulations. The Swedish Board of Agriculture therefore sees no disadvantages with the proposal and therefore considers it the most appropriate option.

Section 4 The proposal means that it will be permitted to vaccinate all poultry and captive birds against infection with Newcastle disease virus. Previously, it was only permitted to vaccinate pigeons with an inactivated vaccine against paramyxovirus infection. The proposal does not entail any change in substance for pigeons, as they are defined as captive birds under Article 4 of the EU Animal Health Regulation. Paramyxovirus infection is just another name for infection with Newcastle disease virus.

Vaccination against Newcastle disease virus

Section 7 The proposal means that it will become mandatory to vaccinate certain categories of poultry against Newcastle disease virus if the operator keeps more than 200 poultry at the same facility. By making a provision regarding which categories are to be vaccinated, it should be easy to find out what applies for each category of poultry. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered whether the vaccination should be voluntary for all categories. The advantage of the vaccination requirement in these categories is, among other things, that our poultry population, including the majority of our poultry, will be expected to gain immunity against Newcastle disease virus and be protected from unnecessary risks and thus the major consequences of an outbreak of Newcastle disease.

Section 8 The proposal means that it will be mandatory to vaccinate all poultry or other captive birds against Newcastle disease virus if the operator keeps more than 200 birds at the same facility. The proposal does not cover pigeons, ducks, geese, mallards, guinea fowl, quails or ratites. As part of its outbreak management, the Swedish Board of Agriculture often needs to consider whether the number of poultry or captive birds at a facility exceeds 50, as the authority is then obliged to establish restricted zones if Newcastle disease is detected. In its supporting documents, the Swedish Veterinary Agency proposes that the limit for when vaccination becomes mandatory for hens should be set at 200 birds. 200 hens is also the limit for when there is a requirement for salmonella sampling in a flock. The advantage of the proposal to set 200 poultry as the threshold for mandatory vaccination is that those who keep 200 hens or more often source animals from pullet breeders, which means that the hens are vaccinated with a vector vaccine at the hatchery. It is also reasonable to assume that those who keep over 200 poultry sell eggs or other products and thus have an income from their livestock. The Swedish Board of Agriculture would therefore not introduce increased costs for animal keepers who have no direct income from their poultry. Since 1995, Sweden has had only one outbreak (out of 23) of Newcastle disease at a facility with fewer than 200 poultry, which was in 2003. The Swedish Veterinary Agency also suggests in its supporting documents that certain categories should be exempted from the vaccination requirement against Newcastle disease virus. The Swedish Board of Agriculture sees some disadvantages to the proposal because the EU Animal Health Regulation and its related sub-acts require the establishment of restricted zones in the event of an outbreak at a facility with 50 captive

birds. However, the Swedish Board of Agriculture is of the opinion that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

Sections 9-10 The proposal means that vaccination against Newcastle disease virus will be mandatory for anyone keeping more than 50 domestic pigeons. The proposal also means that operators who keep domestic pigeons and poultry or captive birds at a facility where the number exceeds 50 must vaccinate all birds. By imposing a separate provision for domestic pigeons to be vaccinated, it is easy to see for whom it will be mandatory. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered whether vaccination should be voluntary for this category.

Some operators already vaccinate their domestic pigeons against Newcastle disease virus because this is a requirement for participating in competitions, and for them the introduction of vaccination requirements will involve no change in practice.

An additional advantage of a vaccination requirement for establishments that keep mixed categories of poultry and captive birds, including pigeons, is that outbreaks are more common at these facilities in other EU Member States. Denmark, for example, has had no outbreaks in vaccinated animals since they introduced vaccination against Newcastle disease in 2004. By contrast, Denmark has had two outbreaks of Newcastle disease at facilities keeping unvaccinated birds of several different species, including pigeons. Domestic pigeons often fly freely outdoors and are therefore at greater risk of exposure to infection than other captive birds kept only at one facility, which could explain why outbreaks in these flocks are more common in other European countries. There have been three outbreaks of Newcastle disease in domestic pigeons in Sweden between 2020 and 2024. These three facilities held between 80 and 100 pigeons, most of which were unvaccinated. Restricted zones were established during these outbreaks because the EU Animal Health Regulation and its associated sub-acts require restricted zones to be established at facilities with more than 50 captive birds. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered which animals should be covered by mandatory vaccination. The advantage of setting the limit at 50 birds is to reduce the risk of having to establish restricted zones in cases where outbreaks occur at facilities keeping pigeons or mixed flocks that include pigeons. These outbreaks at facilities that keep more than 50 captive birds have major consequences, with economic losses for the poultry sector as a whole if the outbreak occurs in an area with a high concentration of poultry. The Swedish Board of Agriculture considers this to be the most appropriate proposal.

Section 11 The proposal means that vaccination against Newcastle disease virus will be mandatory for operators who keep poultry or captive birds and participate in events such as competitions, exhibitions and other events where birds from different facilities are brought together in one place. All poultry and captive birds at the facility shall be vaccinated. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered whether vaccination should be voluntary for these facilities. However, this type of operation entails most risks, including through the actual process of moving the birds, but also in terms of biosecurity and the risk posed to the birds by mixing with birds from other facilities. Therefore, all poultry and captive birds kept at the same facility shall be vaccinated in order to eliminate the risk of birds that are exhibited or used in competitions, for example, bringing infection back to the facility and

infecting the rest of the flock. In its supporting documents, the Swedish Veterinary Agency recommends that pigeons for competition, breeding and exhibition be vaccinated against Newcastle disease. The advantage of the vaccination requirement for this type of activity is that it reduces the risk of spreading disease between unvaccinated and vaccinated flocks. The Swedish Board of Agriculture sees no disadvantages to the proposal.

Section 12 The proposal means that those belonging to certain categories where vaccination is mandatory must follow the vaccination programme against Newcastle disease virus as decided by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered regulating this in more detail. The advantage of the proposal is not to include details about vaccination in the regulations, as the vaccination programme may vary depending on the category of poultry and captive birds in question. The Swedish Board of Agriculture sees no disadvantages to the proposal.

Section 13 The proposal means that those who keep fewer than 200 poultry or captive birds or others whose activities are not covered by the vaccination requirements in sections 7–14 of the proposal but who choose to vaccinate against Newcastle disease virus must in that case follow the vaccination programme against Newcastle disease virus adopted by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered that these facilities that vaccinate voluntarily should not be required to follow a vaccination programme. The advantage of the proposal is that all those who choose to vaccinate voluntarily will follow the vaccination programme that the Swedish Veterinary Agency has helped to develop and which has then been adopted by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. This means it is possible to monitor vaccination coverage and its effects more effectively. It will probably be easier for those who need to administer the vaccine to choose a vaccination strategy if there is a programme to follow. The Swedish Board of Agriculture sees no disadvantages to the proposal.

Section 14 The proposal means that anyone vaccinating against the Newcastle disease virus must document certain information regarding vaccination, and this information must accompany the animal in the event of any movement. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has considered whether records from vaccination facilities constitute sufficient supporting documents, but has concluded that this is not the case. The advantage of the proposal is that the information that may be needed in different contexts to demonstrate that the animals are vaccinated is readily available to the operator who has the animals in their possession, and the administrative burden is limited to this information. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has also considered whether information about vaccination should be recorded in other ways, such as via the poultry register or the registration of veterinary prescriptions for medicines. The advantage of the proposal is that the operator will have a reduced administrative burden as a result of only having to save the document and not having to enter information elsewhere. The Swedish Board of Agriculture sees no disadvantages to the proposal.

Entry-into-force provisions

The proposal means that specific entry-into-force provisions are necessary as all operators, regardless of their activity, must have the opportunity to vaccinate their birds in order to comply with the legislation's vaccination requirements. It will take time to implement a vaccination for all the operations that need to vaccinate according to the adopted vaccination programme due to the way the operation and the entire chain work. Therefore, specific entry-into-force provisions are proposed, which will allow each operator to comply with the vaccination requirement and the agreed vaccination programme within a reasonable transitional period.

Annex to the Regulations – West Nile fever

The alternative to this amendment would be to keep the disease as an epizootic disease. From a animal owner's perspective, the most obvious disadvantage of the amendment is that they would then be entitled to financial compensation for measures decided by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. However, since there is no basis for taking any decisions on measures to prevent and/or eradicate infection with regard to WNF in horses, this will not be relevant.

The consequence that arises for animal owners is that it is no longer self-evident that the State should pay for sampling and analysis in cases where disease is suspected. Here, we plan to decide on sampling instead, by virtue of the Act on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:806), as we have an interest in monitoring the disease within the country. Therefore, there will be no practical or financial consequences for animal owners at the present time. In addition, some minor editorial amendments are made to the annex to the regulations, in addition to the amendment relating to West Nile fever.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on biosecurity measures and the reporting and monitoring of animal diseases and infectious agents (SJVFS 2021:10), ref. no. K12

Chapter 4 Monitoring of animal diseases and infectious agents

Section 1 Amended as a result of Chapter 5 being repealed.

Section 6 Amended as a result of Chapter 5 being repealed.

Chapter 5 Status of freedom from Newcastle disease

This chapter contains provisions necessary for maintaining status as free from the Newcastle disease virus. The chapter is therefore repealed in its entirety as a consequence of the fact that Sweden's status as free from infection with Newcastle disease virus without vaccination will cease when vaccination against Newcastle disease virus becomes mandatory in accordance with the amendment to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on the prevention and control of certain animal diseases (SJVFS 2023:15), case no. K3.

Chapter 7 Exemptions

Section 1 Amended as a result of Chapter 5 being repealed.

2 Authorisations, etc.

2.1 Information about the authorisations on which the authority's decision-making power is based

The authorisations applied by the Swedish Board of Agriculture in the draft regulation are set out below. Where relevant, reference is also made to the applicable EU legislation.

Table with authorisations

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on the prevention and control of certain animal diseases (SJVFS 2023:15), regulation number K3

Chapter	Paragraph	Enabling provisions	Relevant EU legislation (reference to article(s))
Chapter 1	Section 4	Section 17 of the Ordinance on epizootic diseases (1999:659)	
Chapter 1	Section 5	Section 17 of the Ordinance on epizootic diseases (1999:659)	
Chapter 2	Section 1	Section 19 of the Ordinance on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:815)	
Chapter 2	Section 4	Section 4 of the Ordinance on epizootic diseases (1999:659)	
Chapter 2	Sections 7-13	Section 4 of the Ordinance on epizootic diseases (1999:659)	
Chapter 2	Section 14	Section 5 of the Ordinance on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:815)	
Annex		1 b of the Epizootic Diseases Ordinance (1999:659)	

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's regulations on biosecurity measures and notification and monitoring of animal diseases and infectious agents (SJVFS 2021:10), Regulation number K12

Chapter	Paragraph	Enabling provisions	Relevant EU legislation (reference to article(s))
Chapter 5	Sections 1-4	Section 3 of the Ordinance on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:815)	
Chapter 4	Section 5	Section 3 of the Ordinance on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:815)	
Chapter 4	Section 5	Section 3 of the Ordinance on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:815)	
Chapter 7	Section 5	Section 3 of the Ordinance on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:815)	

2.2 Assessment of whether the regulation consistent with or goes beyond the obligations arising from Sweden's membership of the European Union

Newcastle disease

In recent years, the number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease in Sweden has increased. The European Commission has repeatedly questioned Sweden's disease-free status in light of the fact that there are now also safe and effective vaccines. In January 2025, the European Commission also announced that all co-financing for Newcastle disease would cease on 1 February 2025. The Swedish Board of Agriculture therefore considers that the proposal for mandatory vaccination against Newcastle disease is more consistent with the obligations arising from Sweden's membership of the EU than the current situation, where there is a general ban on vaccination against Newcastle disease.

West Nile fever

WNF is listed as a Category E disease, and no control for those diseases is required in the EU.

2.3 Please state the reasons if the proposal aims at transposing EU directives into national law that go beyond the minimum level of the directive

Not relevant.

3 Company

A company refers herein to a legal or natural person engaged in business activities, i.e. the sale of goods and/or services professionally and independently. Professional activities should be interpreted broadly.

3.1 Description of the number of companies affected, the sectors in which the companies operate and the size of the companies

Newcastle disease

The companies directly affected by the amendments to the regulations are companies whose birds will be subject to the vaccination requirement. In the egg sector, this includes breeding operations, pullet breeders and egg producers. In the broiler industry, the vaccination requirement is applicable to those who keep breeding hens and turkeys for breeding or slaughter. The majority of these companies are organised in the trade associations Svenska Ägg and Svensk Fågel. There are however business activities that are not members of any trade association. This applies mainly to small-scale producers and producers keeping hens

in production systems other than conventional or organic production, often known as 'pasture-raised hens' or 'pasture-raised chickens'. Those who keep pheasants and partridges for breeding in enclosures all year round will also be subject to the vaccination requirement. The vaccination requirement will apply to those who keep more than 200 poultry, with certain exceptions. According to the register of the Swedish Board of Agriculture, there are approximately 460 companies and individuals registered as keepers of the categories that will be subject to a vaccination requirement against Newcastle disease. They are distributed according to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's register below:

NUMBER OF OPERATORS

Interval from	Interval to	Number of operators
PHEASANTS - breeding flocks		
200	1000	3
HENS - breeding flocks		
200	1000	1
1001	5000	0
5001	10000	0
10001	20000	1
20001	50000	3
50001		2
HENS - slaughter		
200	1000	16
1001	5000	8
TURKEYS - slaughter		
200	1000	2
1001	5000	4
5001	10000	0
10001	20000	2
20001	50000	2
50001		1
TURKEYS - breeding flocks		
200	1000	0
1001	5000	1
5001	10000	1
PARTRIDGES - breeding flocks		
200	1000	1
LAYING HENS - all categories		

and Hens - egg production		
200	1000	152
1001	5000	38
5001	10000	28
10001	20000	57
20001	50000	95
50001		39

In the Swedish Board of Agriculture's register, it is not possible to see which companies or individuals are engaged in business activities. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has therefore assumed that animal keepers with more than 200 poultry do not consume all the products (e.g. eggs) produced by the birds for their own household use, and therefore sell the surplus.

Following the amendment to the regulations, companies or individuals in other industries that keep poultry or captive birds and which will not be covered by the vaccination requirement will be free to choose whether or not to vaccinate their birds. However, those who choose to vaccinate their birds against Newcastle disease must follow the vaccination programme adopted by the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

West Nile fever

The latest statistics show that there are around 100,000 establishments with horses involved in harness racing, gallop racing and equestrian sports. Companies are not affected by the proposed amendment because horses that have contracted WNF cannot spread the disease, and it is therefore not relevant for the authorities to intervene with any control measures. There will therefore never be a case for companies to apply for compensation under the Epizootic Diseases Act.

3.2 Description of how much time companies may need to adjust to the regulation and what the implications are in terms of the companies' administrative costs

Newcastle disease

The specific impact assessment contains a detailed calculation of the administrative costs for businesses.

Breeding companies in the poultry and egg sector purchase grandparent and parent birds from abroad. These animals will be vaccinated against Newcastle disease at hatcheries in the country of origin. However, at the present time, they are already vaccinated against other diseases at the hatchery, and chickens that are not going to Sweden are already vaccinated against Newcastle disease.

Breeding companies in the egg industry that rear and hatch future laying hens will vaccinate them as day-old chicks at the hatcheries. Currently, they are vaccinated against other diseases at the hatcheries by means of injections. As vaccination against Newcastle disease is a requirement, supporting documents on vaccination shall contain specific information and accompany the birds from the hatchery to the pullet breeder and on to the egg producer, even if the flock is divided along the way. This will entail some increased administrative burden compared to today's record-keeping of vaccination.

Breeding companies in the poultry industry that rear parent stock have similar conditions to breeding companies that rear laying hens. The big difference is that many parent animals are sold abroad and therefore do not remain in Sweden. Here, too, the introduction of vaccination with Newcastle disease means that documentation of vaccination against Newcastle disease will be added.

Those who keep more than 200 poultry and are not members of the trade associations Svensk Fågel and Svenska Ägg, and those who keep breeding and slaughter turkeys or pheasants or partridges in enclosures for year-round breeding, will also incur increased administrative costs because they will need to vaccinate their poultry and thus comply with a requirement to document this vaccination.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's register is not structured in such a way that it is possible to determine the number of companies or individuals that hatch their own poultry on farms and that keep more than 200 birds in the categories that will be subject to vaccination requirements. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has therefore had to estimate the number.

Based on information from affected industry operators, the Swedish Board of Agriculture has assumed that there will be no increase in working hours for companies such as pullet breeders, egg producers or others who purchase poultry that has already been vaccinated, and therefore no increase in administrative costs.

West Nile fever

Not relevant.

3.3 Description of any other costs the draft regulation may entail for companies, and the operational changes companies may need to adopt as a result of the draft regulation

Newcastle virus

Breeding companies in the poultry and egg sector purchase grandparent and parent birds from abroad. These animals will be vaccinated against Newcastle disease at hatcheries in the country of origin. However, at the present time, they are already vaccinated against other diseases at the hatchery, and chickens that are not going to Sweden are already vaccinated against Newcastle disease.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture, together with the trade associations Svenska Egg and Svensk Fågel, has calculated the costs that the industry would incur when introducing vaccination against Newcastle disease. The total cost for all companies that will be subject to the vaccination requirement is estimated to be approximately SEK 3.1 million. The total cost includes savings of approximately SEK 1 million per year in vaccine costs for Svensk Fågel members, as the use of combination vaccines can replace doses of other vaccines currently administered in the industry.

The companies that are members of Svensk Fågel and that keep grandparents and parents of broiler chickens have stated that they will not see any change in labour costs if vaccination against Newcastle disease is introduced compared with the current situation.

For operators active in breeding and slaughter turkeys, the vaccination requirement against Newcastle disease will mean that turkeys will be vaccinated with live and/or inactivated vaccines. Depending on which vaccine the operator chooses, the number of vaccinations and the method of administration will differ. If the turkeys are vaccinated twice with live vaccine and once with inactivated vaccine, two of the vaccinations can be administered orally or by spray (live vaccine) and one by injection (inactivated vaccine). For the companies, vaccination of the turkeys entails additional work, particularly when the vaccine is administered by injection. Those keeping turkeys for breeding or slaughter have stated that the labour cost will increase by a total of SEK 84,000 per year.

Members of the Svenska Ägg trade association have not indicated any specific time or labour costs for vaccination against Newcastle disease. The total cost of vaccinating 6.3 million laying hens is estimated by Svenska Ägg at SEK 3,990,000. The vaccine dose per hen is estimated at SEK 0.50, which means that other costs for vaccination against Newcastle disease can be estimated at about SEK 0.13 per hen.³ However, Svenska Ägg has included follow-up checks after vaccination in this amount. However, the regulatory amendments do not stipulate that follow-up checks must be carried out, and the cost of follow-up checks should therefore not be included in the costs. Following up, which is a labour-intensive operation, is therefore estimated to account for 75% of the estimated SEK 0.13 per hen. Other costs (in addition to the actual cost of the vaccine) for work related to vaccination against Newcastle disease can therefore be estimated at SEK 0.0325 per hen based on these assumptions. This gives a total annual cost of SEK 204,750, based on the assumption that 6.3 million hens will be vaccinated. Converted into working time, assuming an hourly wage of SEK 388⁴, this corresponds to an additional 528 working hours.

³ The Swedish Board of Agriculture's calculation: 6,300,000 birds to be vaccinated per year divided by 3,990,000, which is the cost including labour and follow-up checks, gives a cost of approximately SEK 0.63 per hen. Of this SEK 0.63, SEK 0.50 is subtracted for the cost of the vaccine, leaving SEK 0.13 per hen for labour costs, including follow-up checks.

⁴ Calculated on the basis of the monthly salary (SEK 31,800) for the category 'Animal keepers etc.' at Statistics Sweden with the addition of the standard value of 1.84 for holiday pay, employer's contributions and overhead costs according to the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth's calculation model in the guide 'Ekonomiska effekter av nya regler' [Economic effects of new rules], p. 16.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's register includes a total of four operators registered as having breeding flocks of partridges or pheasants. However, they will only be subject to the vaccination requirement if they keep pheasants or partridges in enclosures all year round, which not all of them do. For these companies that keep more than 200 partridges or pheasants for breeding in enclosures all year round, vaccination against Newcastle disease will be carried out using inactivated vaccines administered by injection. The Swedish Board of Agriculture assumes that a veterinary surgeon or approved vaccinator will have time to vaccinate 60 birds per hour and that the animal owner will assist the veterinary surgeon during the vaccination process. For a flock of 480 pheasants or partridges, vaccination by injection would take 8 hours. The company would then need to spend just over 8 working hours per year. The labour cost for the company's staff is approximately SEK 2,704 for 8 working hours per year.⁵ A veterinary surgeon, who is more expensive to hire than an approved vaccinator, is assumed to have an hourly cost of SEK 2,000 per hour excluding VAT based on the the Swedish District Veterinary Organisation's price list⁶. There may also be additional travel costs. This gives a veterinary cost of SEK 16,000 per year. The cost of the vaccine is estimated at SEK 0.50 per bird, which amounts to a cost of SEK 240 if the company keeps 480 pheasants or partridges.

Operators outside the trade organisations Svenska Ägg and Svensk Fågel who do not buy their hens from a hatchery or pullet breeders are estimated to have a vaccine cost of SEK 0.50 per hen. The Swedish Board of Agriculture assumes that 8,000 hens per year hatch at these operators, which gives a total vaccine cost of SEK 4,000. Depending on which vaccine and vaccination programme are used for these, the cost of vaccination work will differ. Live vaccines administered orally or as a spray take significantly less time to administer than vector vaccines or inactivated vaccines, which need to be injected. Vector vaccines or inactivated vaccines must be administered by a veterinary surgeon or approved vaccinator because they are injected, while live vaccines can be administered by the animal keeper. However, veterinary surgeons always need to prescribe vaccines against Newcastle disease. The Swedish Board of Agriculture estimates that the total working time required to administer live vaccines amounts to one hour, regardless of flock size. As in the example with pheasants and partridges, the time required to inject 480 hens is estimated to be eight hours. The company's staff costs are therefore estimated to be between SEK 338⁸ and approximately SEK 2,704⁹. Veterinary surgeons, who are more expensive to hire than approved vaccinators, are assumed to have an hourly cost of SEK 2,000 per hour excluding VAT, based on the the Swedish District Veterinary Organisation's price list¹⁰. There may be additional travel costs. Veterinary costs will therefore vary depending on the time it takes for a veterinary surgeon who knows the flock to prescribe the vaccine until a veterinary surgeon is on site to vaccinate the hens.

West Nile fever

Not relevant.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ <https://distriktsveterinaren.se/vara-priser-och-tjanster/timavgift--alla-djurslag>

3.4 Outline of the measures taken to ensure that the draft regulations do not entail costs or restrictions that go beyond what is deemed necessary to achieve the objective

Newcastle disease

The Swedish Board of Agriculture has commissioned a risk assessment from the Swedish Veterinary Agency regarding which categories of poultry and captive birds should be subject to vaccination requirements. This is reported in the Swedish Veterinary Agency's supporting documents (Swedish Board of Agriculture ref. no.: 6.2.17-20081/2024). The Swedish Board of Agriculture, as the risk management authority, has then also taken other factors into account. This is because the desired effect – fewer outbreaks of Newcastle disease – needs to be achieved through regulation without entailing more far-reaching costs or restrictions than are deemed necessary. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has decided that the threshold for mandatory vaccination of poultry should be set at 200 birds. The limit of 200 birds has been chosen so as not to affect private individuals keeping poultry for their own use, given the fact that Sweden has not had an outbreak at a facility with fewer than 200 poultry since 2003, and to facilitate matters for producers, given that the limit for mandatory salmonella testing is also 200 poultry. Furthermore, according to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's register, it is estimated that approximately 1% of hens are kept in facilities with fewer than 200 hens. The disadvantage of setting the limit at 200 birds is that the Swedish Board of Agriculture will need to establish restricted zones in the event of an outbreak of Newcastle disease in these smaller flocks where a decision may have been made not to vaccinate. An outbreak of Newcastle disease in an establishment has consequences for the operator, other operators in the restricted zone and the State.

West Nile fever

The consequence that arises for animal owners is that it is no longer self-evident that the State should pay for sampling and analysis in cases where disease is suspected. Here we plan instead to decide on sampling on the basis of the Act on sampling of animals, etc. (2006:806), because we have an interest in monitoring the disease. Therefore, there will be no practical or financial consequences for animal owners at the present time.

3.5 Description of the extent to which the regulation may affect companies' competitive environment

Newcastle disease

Since Sweden is one of two countries in the EU that has not allowed vaccination against Newcastle disease, the opportunities for entry of vaccinated poultry and other captive birds from other countries will be opened up, creating greater competition on the Swedish market. At the same time, however, Swedish companies may gain access a larger market in which to operate when they have better opportunities to sell poultry to other countries where vaccination against Newcastle disease is required. Members of Svensk Fågel see that the introduction of vaccination against Newcastle disease would provide the opportunity for

increased sales of breeding animals from Sweden with an estimated annual profit of SEK 2,875,000.

West Nile fever

Not relevant.

3.6 Description of how the regulation may impact companies in other respects

Newcastle disease

The aim of the amendments to the regulations is to reduce the number of outbreaks of Newcastle disease. In the event of an outbreak of Newcastle disease, the operator whose animal falls ill is affected, but other operators within and outside the restricted zone are also directly or indirectly affected by the restrictions established by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. The outbreaks therefore lead to increased costs and/or reduced income for both the affected operator and others within the restricted zone and in the production chain, such as breeding companies, slaughterhouses and egg packing stations. The outbreaks in the past five years (2020-2024) are estimated to have cost other operators (other than the affected facility) a total of SEK 11.2 million. These are costs for which companies are not reimbursed by the State. Trade with other countries is also negatively affected in connection with outbreaks, leading to reduced revenues and poorer trading opportunities.

West Nile fever

The removal of WNF in horses from the list of epizootic diseases means that keepers are no longer entitled to compensation for measures adopted by the Swedish Board of Agriculture in relation to the disease. However, since there is no basis for taking any decisions on measures to prevent and/or eradicate infection with regard to WNF in horses, this will not be relevant.

4 Other individuals

4.1 Description of those affected by the regulation, and their number

Newcastle virus

According to the Swedish Board of Agriculture's register, there are 71 operators keeping 50 or more pigeons. In Sweden, pigeons are kept not for food production, but as a hobby.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture's register is not designed in such a way that it is possible to obtain the number of companies or individuals who keep several different species of poultry. It is therefore not possible to determine the exact number affected by the vaccination

threshold of 200 or more poultry. Similarly, it is not possible to identify how many people keep more than 50 poultry or captive birds where pigeons are one of the species.

There will also be a requirement for vaccination for poultry and captive birds participating in events where birds are brought together. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has no information on the number of birds participating or the number of events held per year. The birds that usually participate in exhibitions are mainly poultry or captive birds of special breeds, such as pedigree chickens or exhibition pigeons. It is therefore assumed that only a very small proportion of the total number of poultry and captive birds participate in events where birds are brought together.

Vaccination will be voluntary for others who keep poultry or captive birds and who are not subject to vaccination requirements against Newcastle disease. However, those who choose to vaccinate against Newcastle disease shall follow the vaccination programme decided by the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

West Nile fever

The latest statistics show that there are around 100,000 establishments with horses involved in harness racing, gallop racing and equestrian sports. These facilities are not affected by the proposed amendment as horses that have contracted WNF cannot spread the disease, and so it is not relevant for the authorities to intervene with any control measures. The companies will therefore not be in a position to apply for compensation.

4.2 Description and estimate of the proposal's costs and revenues

Newcastle virus

The cost of one dose of vaccine is estimated at SEK 0.50. The cost of vaccinating 200 individuals, then, would be SEK 100. However, this type of vaccine is often sold in vials containing more doses than required, which may result in a higher cost as the entire vial is not used. A veterinary visit of one hour is assumed to cost SEK 2,000 excluding VAT based on the price list of the the Swedish District Veterinary Organisation (see section 3.2).

West Nile fever

Not relevant.

4.3 Description and, if possible, a calculation of other relevant impacts

Newcastle virus

The Swedish Board of Agriculture does not identify any other relevant consequences of the amendments to the regulations.

West Nile fever

Not relevant.

4.4 Outline of the measures taken to ensure that the draft regulations do not entail costs or restrictions that go beyond what is deemed necessary to achieve the objective

Newcastle disease The Swedish Board of Agriculture has commissioned a risk assessment from the Swedish Veterinary Agency regarding which categories of poultry and captive birds should be subject to vaccination requirements. This is reported in the Swedish Veterinary Agency's supporting documents (Swedish Board of Agriculture ref. no.: 6.2.17-20081/2024). The Swedish Board of Agriculture, as the risk management authority, has then also taken other factors into account. This is because the desired effect – fewer outbreaks of Newcastle disease – needs to be achieved through regulation without entailing more far-reaching costs or restrictions than are deemed necessary.

After due consideration, the Swedish Board of Agriculture has chosen to set the limit for mandatory vaccination at 50 poultry or captive birds, which includes pigeons. This limit has been chosen because Sweden has had three outbreaks among domestic pigeons involving between 80 and 100 birds in the last five years, and Denmark has had outbreaks in unvaccinated flocks of mixed bird species, including pigeons. The limit has also been chosen to reduce the consequences in the event of an outbreak, as the Swedish Board of Agriculture is obliged to establish restricted zones in the event of an outbreak at facilities keeping 50 or more captive birds.

For poultry and other categories of captive birds, except domestic pigeons, the Swedish Board of Agriculture has decided to set the limit for mandatory vaccination against Newcastle disease at 200 birds. The reason for this is the same as set out in 3.4, i.e. that the Swedish Board of Agriculture does not want to affect the keeping of poultry by private individuals for their own use, that Sweden has not had an outbreak at a facility with fewer than 200 poultry since 2003, and to make it easier for producers in view of the fact that the limit for mandatory salmonella control is also set at 200 poultry.

West Nile fever

Not relevant

5 Municipalities and regions

Not relevant, see section 1.2.

6 The State

6.1 Description of those affected by the regulation, and their number

Newcastle disease

The Swedish Board of Agriculture is affected by the regulation because the authority develops regulations, is the disease control authority and also ensures that controls are carried out to ensure compliance with the rules. Checks to ensure that poultry and captive birds covered by the requirement have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease is currently the responsibility of the Swedish Board of Agriculture. In addition, the State, through the Swedish Board of Agriculture, pays compensation for infection control measures in the event of outbreaks of disease.

The Swedish Veterinary Agency (SVA) has carried out investigations and risk assessments in connection with the preparation of the draft vaccination and monitoring programme and the amendments to the regulations. The Swedish Veterinary Agency also performs autopsies and analyses samples taken from poultry and other captive birds suspected of being infected with Newcastle disease. They also carry out risk assessments and can provide advice in connection with outbreaks of infectious animal diseases.

The Swedish Food Agency is also affected, as food security may be impacted in the event of outbreaks of disease when food-producing animals are culled and food is destroyed.

West Nile fever

The State authorities affected by the regulation are the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the county administrative boards and the Swedish Veterinary Agency.

6.2 Description and estimate of the proposal's costs and revenues

Newcastle disease

The amendments to the regulations would entail costs for the State, which are estimated to amount to almost SEK 1.9 million per year. These include costs for monitoring vaccination results, personnel costs for working with the vaccination and monitoring programme, and also training and information. However, the cost of the Newcastle monitoring required for Sweden's status as free from infection with Newcastle disease virus without vaccination will disappear, resulting in a cost reduction of SEK 412,000. The cost to the State will then be approximately SEK 1.5 million per year.

The outbreaks of Newcastle disease over the past five years (2020-2024) have cost the State a total of approximately SEK 64.25 million, or approximately SEK 12,850,000 per year. The aim of the regulatory amendments is to reduce the number of outbreaks of Newcastle

disease. A reduction in the number of outbreaks would therefore mean cost savings for the State.

West Nile fever

Not relevant

6.3 Description and, if possible, a calculation of other relevant impacts

Newcastle disease

The Swedish Board of Agriculture has not identified any other consequences of the regulatory amendments.

West Nile fever

As WNF in horses will no longer be classified as an epizootic disease, it will no longer be a disease that must be reported to the county administrative board. However, it will still be necessary to report WNF to the Swedish Board of Agriculture.

The Swedish Veterinary Agency is affected by the removal of the epizootic classification of WNF in horses, as it affects their management of the disease internally. In general, dealing with a disease classified as an epizootic disease usually involves a greater workload per suspected case than dealing with a disease that is not classified as an epizootic disease.

6.4 Outline of the measures taken to ensure that the draft regulations do not entail costs or restrictions that go beyond what is deemed necessary to achieve the objective

Newcastle disease

The Swedish Board of Agriculture has commissioned a risk assessment from the Swedish Veterinary Agency regarding which categories of poultry and captive birds should be subject to vaccination requirements. This is reported in the Swedish Veterinary Agency's supporting documents (Swedish Board of Agriculture ref. no.: 6.2.17-20081/2024). The Swedish Board of Agriculture, as the risk management authority, has then also taken other factors into account. This is because the desired effect – fewer outbreaks of Newcastle disease – needs to be achieved through regulation without entailing more far-reaching costs or restrictions than are deemed necessary.

West Nile fever

The removal the classification of WNF in horses as an epizootic disease potentially means reduced costs for managing the disease at the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Veterinary Agency and the county administrative boards.

7 Consultation

7.1 Description of early consultation

Newcastle disease

The Swedish Board of Agriculture has carried out early consultation with, among others, the industry, Svensk fågel, Svenska Ägg, Viltmästarna and the Swedish Veterinary Agency.

Face-to-face and online meetings were held where questions could be asked and comments made. The Swedish Board of Agriculture has also obtained supporting documents from both the industry and other authorities.

West Nile fever

The Swedish Board of Agriculture has been in contact with the Swedish Veterinary Agency and the organisations within the equine sector during the preparation of the draft regulation.

8 Entry into force and evaluation

8.1 Assessment as to whether special consideration must be given to the date of entry into force and whether special information initiatives are required

The regulations on mandatory vaccination will enter into force on 10 April 2026 for the breeding and laying hens category, which will be about one month after the regulations have been adopted by the Swedish Board of Agriculture. The amendments to the Annex concerning West Nile fever will also enter into force at the same time. As regards mandatory vaccination for other poultry and captive birds, these regulations will not enter into force until 10 March 2028. This is a consequence of how the Swedish vaccination programme against Newcastle disease is structured, whereby vaccination is to be carried out in two stages. Firstly, the breeding hens and laying hens categories are to be vaccinated before other categories of poultry and captive birds are vaccinated. The reason for this is that large populations of breeding and laying hens must be vaccinated before vaccination for other categories can take place.

Information is being provided to the industry and other stakeholders by means of meetings, information on the Swedish Board of Agriculture website and targeted mailings.

8.2 Description of how and when the impact of the draft regulations can be evaluated

Newcastle disease

The amendments to the regulation on Newcastle disease will take several years to implement. Only when this is complete can an evaluation be carried out. The evaluation is

likely to include aspects such as the Swedish Veterinary Agency conducting a study of immunity in poultry and other birds. The number of outbreaks will also be evaluated.

West Nile fever

No evaluation will be carried out, as it has been established that horses are what are known as 'dead end hosts' and cannot spread infection. Evaluating the amendment in the regulation is therefore not relevant.