

**NEWCASTLE DISEASE VACCINATION PROGRAM  
LAYING HENS AND PULLETS (IN CAGES)  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES**

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

Titres are defined as adequate if, from 4 weeks post-vaccination the mean HI titre of the flock is at least  $2^3$  (1/8) to 18 weeks of age and at least  $2^5$  (1/32) thereafter.

All serological sampling is to be undertaken by a veterinarian or a person approved by the CVO of the relevant State or Territory in accordance with the approved sampling protocol.

2–4 weeks <sup>a,b</sup>	Live V4
6–8 weeks	Live V4
12–14 weeks	Inactivated vaccine
Thereafter	If a flock is to be retained beyond 86 weeks of age, serological monitoring is to be undertaken at 80 weeks of age and, if the mean titre is less than $2^5$ , the flock must either be: (a) disposed of for slaughter within 6 weeks; or (b) revaccinated with inactivated vaccine; or (c) revaccinated with V4, followed by serological monitoring 2–3 weeks later; if the mean titre in this test is less than $2^5$ , then the flock is to be revaccinated with inactivated vaccine.

Notes:

- a) In addition, where a veterinary advisor feels it is appropriate, live V4 may also be used at day-old
- b) If the birds are older than 4 weeks at the time that vaccination becomes compulsory in an area *and* they have not previously received both live and inactivated vaccine, please refer to the vaccination protocol below.

**If the birds are older than 4 weeks but not older than 18 weeks** at the time that vaccination becomes compulsory in an area, and they have not previously received both live and inactivated vaccine, the following vaccination program will apply:

Live V4 immediately
Inactivated vaccine as soon as possible thereafter, but within 6 weeks of live V4

**If the birds are 18 weeks or older** at the time that vaccination becomes compulsory in an area, and they have not previously received both live and inactivated vaccine, the following options are available:

- Option A. Vaccinate with live V4 followed by inactivated vaccine as soon as possible thereafter, but within 6 weeks of live V4.
- Option B. Undertake serological testing (to the protocol provided), and
  - (i) **if the mean titre of any flock tested is less than  $2^3$** , that flock must be vaccinated with live V4 immediately, followed by inactivated vaccine as soon as possible thereafter, but within 6 weeks of live V4.
  - (ii) **If the mean titre of any flock is greater than or equal to  $2^3$  but less than  $2^5$** , then the following alternative courses of action will apply:
    - vaccinate the flock with live V4 immediately, and again thereafter every 8 weeks, or
    - undertake serological monitoring of the flock every 8 weeks thereafter, and revaccinate with live V4 if the mean titre is less than  $2^3$ .
  - (iii) **If the mean titre is greater than or equal to  $2^5$** , no revaccination required.

Note: Wherever serological sampling is required above, it must be undertaken by a veterinarian or a person approved by the CVO of the relevant State or Territory.