

# INDUSTRY STANDARD

## NO. 64

### **Instruction Removal of dead birds**

**14 March 2018**

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## Document Control Sheet

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This document will be controlled in accordance with the NOGEP A Industry Standard No. 80 on Standards and Document Control.

## Terms and definitions

AID	General Inspection Service
NVWA	Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority
WHO	World Health Organisatie (Wereld Gezondheids Organisatie)

## Legal Requirements

Chapter 4, section 9	Working conditions decree
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## Related Standards

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## Important Nomenclature used in this Standard

In the context of this Standard and when so used to describe a method or practice:	
'shall'	means that such method or practice reflects a mandatory provision of law (in Dutch: <i>dwingend recht</i> ). Such method or practice is mandatory for those who are the addressees of such provision (mostly the operators). A Standard can describe or quote, but not amend, mandatory provisions. When an operator in exceptional cases for technical, operational or HSE reasons cannot comply, exceptions shall be documented and reported, and risks mitigated. Please note that this does not release the operator from the obligation to comply with the law. *
'should'	means that such method or practice reflects a Good Operating Practice. An operator is generally expected to apply such method or practice, but a specific situation may require a specific alternative. In other words: the operator complies or explains, and documents the explanation. *
'could'	means that such method or practice is of an advisory nature or mentioned by way of example. An operator is not obliged to comply and is not obliged to explain if he does not comply.
* Please refer to paragraph 2.3 of Standard 80 (Standards and Document Control), for further explanation on an exception of a 'shall' provision, or on a comply-or-explain of a 'should' provision.	

## 1. Executive Summary

This Standard addresses measures, like protective clothing, and a procedure which must be followed when a dead bird is found on an offshore mining installation. Applying the described measures and procedure reduces the chance of spreading bird flu.

## 2. Scope and application

### 2.1 Scope and application

Scope of this Standard is to address the hygienic procedure for disposing off dead birds as well as the cleaning procedures of surfaces.

These measures are applicable to all offshore mining installations on the Dutch Continental Shelf.

## 3. Hygienic procedures

### 3.1 General

Avian flu, also known as avian influenza or avian influenza, is a contagious viral disease that is occasionally demonstrated in bird species such as pigeons, gulls and swans. Worldwide, various avian influenza viruses circulate among wild water birds, also in the Netherlands. These water birds are the natural source of the viruses that can cause avian influenza, especially among poultry. Some of these virus types cause serious disease or the death of birds. This is called highly pathogenic avian flu. Other types of bird flu are just mild or even without disease symptoms (low pathogenic avian flu).

The presence of the virus is monitored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and by the European Union in relation to travel advise.

In rare cases, some virus types can pass from animal to human. This only happens if there is direct and intensive contact between infected birds and people.

So far, the virus has not spread from person to person.

It is anticipated that through internal changes and after mixing with human viruses, avian influenza virus will pass from human to human.

Under such conditions there will be large numbers of the infected individuals (Pandemic). To prevent such Pandemic governments at national level have issued surveillance programmes and guidelines. The use of antiviral medicines such as Tamiflu is part of such programme. The antiviral substances are to be given after persons have been infected. At this moment there is no prophylactic vaccination available for usage in humans.

Droppings of infected birds may also fall into drinking water basins, swimming pools and (rain) water barrels. According to experts it is unlikely that the virus presents a health hazard to humans under such conditions. The virus itself is vulnerable and is unable to multiply significantly in (rain) water.

Contaminated surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned with water and soap or normal household cleaner. Contaminated surfaces are also cleaned by means of steam cleaning.

### 3.2 Personal protective equipment

The following protective clothing could be worn for (cleaning) activity related to dead bird, faeces of birds or birds' nests<sup>1</sup>:

- Rubber boots

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<sup>1</sup> It shall not be allowed to remove bird nests in the breeding season. The breeding season for seagulls runs from April to the end of August



- Neoprene rubber gloves, washable (no disposable gloves)
- A paper mask (type FFP2, however, type FFP3 is recommended)
- Faceshield
- A disposable overall

If regular (possible) exposure and thus higher levels of exposure exist, such as in special cleaning teams, neoprene overalls and a mouth nose piece mask type EN 149:2001, class FFP3 could be worn.

The operator shall identify the risks in order to decide on the personal protective equipment needed.

**A work permit will be required prior to the cleaning activities.**

### 3.3 Hygienic procedures

When a dead bird is found, then act as follows:

- Place the dead bird (using a shovel or a tin-plate) in a suitable plastic bag, preferably leak proof and tightened properly. Next it should be placed into a second bag which is also tightened properly.
- Tie the bag and place in a second plastic bag.
- Although the bird(s) in the double bags can be disposed of in the normal household waste.
- Disposable coverall and gloves are also placed in the second bag. Then tighten bag tightly. For transport place the double bag(s) into a box.

Thoroughly clean the other personal protective equipment (boots, gloves and safety goggles) and used tools (eg scoops, brooms and scrapers) with soap and water and a disinfectant eg Lysol.

- Wash hands thoroughly with water and soap. Use a hand detergent or cream.
- It is advised to change the clothing underneath the disposable overall. Wash any clothing that has been in contact with dead bird using ordinary washing detergent at temperatures normally used for the clothing.

### 3.4 Advise NVWA

The NVWA uses the following notification instruction:

- Did you find 1 or 2 dead wild ducks, swans or geese in the same spot?  
Or less than 20 other wild birds in one place?  
Report this to the Dutch Wildlife Health Center (DWHC) via the online reporting form Report a dead animal.
- Did you find 3 or more dead ducks, swans or geese in the same place?

Or more than 20 other wild birds in one place? Report this to the National Animal Disease Center via telephone number (045) 54 63 188. The NVWA Veterinary Incident Team will then contact you.

### 3.5 **Final conclusion**

The advice is:

- Other birds than wild ducks, swans or geese which are found on the platform can be put in double plastic bags as per procedure in chapter 3.3 and that these can be deposited into the regular waste container.
- Wild ducks, swans or geese which are found on the platform are also put in double plastic bags as per procedure in chapter, but sent separately ashore. The NVWA will be informed in accordance with the notification instruction