



Ref: VITT 1200/AI (H5) – South Korea  
Date: 29 November 2006

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in the Republic of Korea

**Note:** Defra's International Animal Health Division (IAHD) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza (HPAI) is among those diseases of major concern.

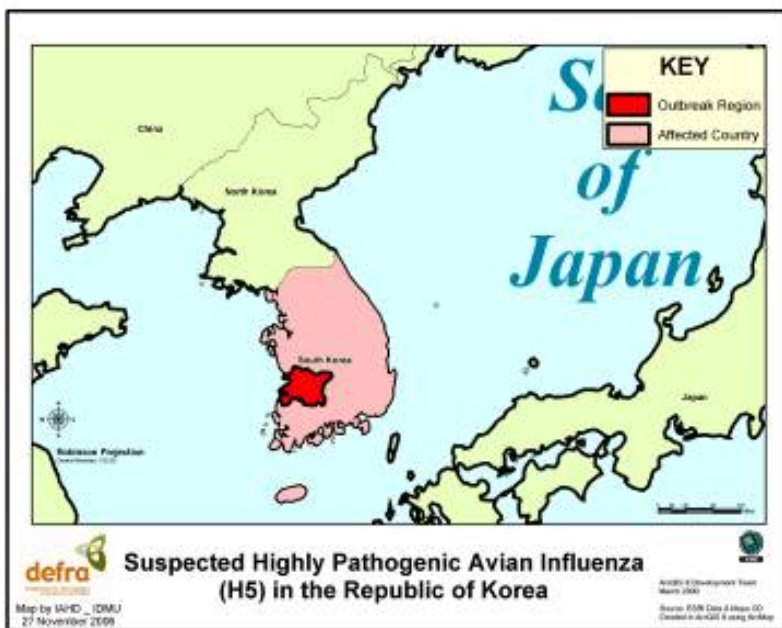
### Disease Report

The Republic of Korea (South Korea) has reported an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus H5N1 in a parent stock farm for broiler chickens in Jeollabuk-do province on 22 November 2006 (OIE, 2006a & b). The outbreak was characterised by high mortality (50% of the 13,000 susceptible 45 week old birds were infected and died).

### Situation Assessment

The last outbreaks of HPAI, caused by H5N1 virus in South Korea were in Chonnam, Chungbuk, Chungnam, Kyongnam and Kyonggi provinces in December 2003 to March 2004

(OIE, Handistatus II). South Korea has applied vigorous measures to control wildlife reservoirs, stamp out affected birds, apply quarantine and control movements inside a 10-km radius zone around the infected holding. It is also applying screening and zoning.



Previous outbreaks of HPAI (H5N1) in Asia have primarily involved domestic poultry. Imports of live poultry to the EU from South Korea are not permitted and the EU agreed an additional

safeguard decision on 27 November banning imports of live birds and avian products from that country. There have been no legal imports of any live poultry, eggs or poultry products into the UK during the past 6 weeks. No commercial imports of captive birds are currently permitted from any Third Country.

The geographical location of the Republic of Korea and its distance from the UK also means that it would be highly unlikely that this virus may be directly introduced by wild bird migration to the UK from South Korea.

### Conclusion

The last outbreaks of HPAI (H5N1) (and other diseases) in South Korea have all been rapidly and efficiently controlled. At present, it is considered that there is a negligible likelihood of the

introduction of this virus to the UK from South Korea by legal trade. IAHD does not intend to carry out a full risk assessment on this outbreak but will continue to monitor the situation.

## **References**

OIE (2006a). Highly pathogenic avian influenza in the Republic of Korea (suspicion). OIE Alert message - 061124KOR . Received by e-mail on 24/11/2006.

OIE (2006b). Highly pathogenic avian influenza in the Republic of Korea (diagnosis confirmation). OIE Alert message - 061128KOR . Received by e-mail on 28/11/2006.