

# Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

## Respiratory Diseases: **Airsacculitis, Pneumonia & Aspergillosis**

### Post Mortem Disposition



**Figure 1:** *Airsacculitis*



**Figure 2:** *Aspergillosis*

### FSS Responsibilities

#### Post Mortem Disposition

**Total rejection:** when associated with other conditions.

**Partial rejection:** if the lesion is chronic and the affected parts can be removed completely.

#### Average rejection levels in GB

Poultry: 0.003%

#### Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded on the “Respiratory disease/Airsacculitis” entry on the Post Mortem Inspection section of OWS.

## Further Information

### Definition

**Airsacculitis:** Inflammation of the air sacs in poultry frequently accompanied with the presence of yellowish caseous exudates in the sacs and often accompanied by peritonitis and/or perihepatitis.

**Aspergillosis:** Fungal infection of the lungs and/or air sacs by *Aspergillus spp.*

**Pneumonia:** Inflammation of the lungs usually caused by a bacterial/viral infection.

### Remarks/Consequences

- Conditions are caused by respiratory infections.
- Depending on the stage of progression of the infection, the conditions could be localised only at the frontal or rear sacs or spread through them all.
- Environmental farm shed conditions, such as ammonia levels in the air, shed ventilation, bird concentration and hygiene could have an effect on the development of this condition which is indicative of poor welfare conditions.

### Causes

**Airsacculitis & Pneumonia:** Many agents can cause airsacculitis, however *Mycoplasmas* and *E.coli* are probably the most frequently found. Avian air sacs have few immune protection mechanisms; therefore any pathogen breathed in could produce this condition.

**Aspergillosis** is caused by infection with *Aspergillus* spores from the environment, often from bedding.

### Comments from the Inspection Teams

Take note of the numbers affected. Current levels of rejections are low, however due to the nature of some respiratory infections high numbers of carcasses could have this condition within the same batch. As always, whenever a flock is affected by a high level of prevalence the staffing at PM inspection points may need to be reviewed or the team could liaise with FBO to slow the line down.

### What is the data on rejects used for?

**Airsacculitis & Pneumonia:** These conditions provide a good indication of the prevalence of respiratory virus within the poultry operation or ventilation parameters on farms.

**Aspergillosis:** Prevalence provides an indication of issues with bedding or feed.

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