

Part B: Information about the release application to be included on the public register

B1 The name and address of the applicant

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF
Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB.

B2 A general description of the genetically modified organisms in relation to which the application is being made

This is a recombinant vaccine consisting of Herpes Virus of Turkeys (HVT) with two inserted genes: the structural protein (VP2) gene of infectious bursal disease (IBD), and the Haemagglutinin (HA) from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus (HPAI) subtype H5N1.

B3 The location at which the genetically modified organisms are proposed to be released

Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA), Woodham Lane, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 3NB.

B4 The purpose for which the genetically modified organisms are proposed to be released (including any future use to which they are intended to be put).

This GMO will be used in a poultry trial to assess the vaccination regimen for high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) in Turkeys.

B5 The intended dates of the release.

February 2026, until February 2027

B6 The environmental risk assessment.

As the HVT recombinants are nonpathogenic, the level of risk for both humans and the environment can be considered as effectively zero. No environmental impact is expected. - HVT is a naturally non-pathogenic virus. Its natural host is the turkey, but the virus can also replicate in chickens, but only after an intramuscular or subcutaneous application. Replication in other avian species is very unlikely. HVT causes no clinical disease in turkeys, chickens and other avian species. Genetic modifications made by introducing either the IBD VP2 or the HPAI HA H5 genes does not change the non-pathogenic phenotype of the parent virus and the recombinants are therefore still non-pathogenic.

The HVT can spread via inhalation of dust particles shed from the skin from infected

(or vaccinated) birds to turkeys but spreading to chickens is highly unlikely. Shedding from vaccinated chickens is limited and transient in nature; but more prolonged in Turkeys. HVT and recombinant HVTs are not capable of replicating in mammalian cells and cannot infect humans. HVT and recombinant HVTs are not capable of replicating in mammalian cells and cannot infect humans.

B7 The methods and plans for monitoring the genetically modified organisms and for responding to an emergency.

No specific monitoring will occur and methods for responding to an emergency are not applicable.