UGA guide to obtaining a permit for an NVSL confirmed LPAI subtype H5 & H7

This guide was established by UGA Office of Biosafety in order to assist researchers in preparing for an APHIS permit for the transport of low pathogenic strains of avian influenza subtype H5 or H7. All other subtypes will simply require BSL2 or ABSL2 practices, procedures and facilities. This guide is not necessarily the "end all" to obtaining permits and does not give UGA personnel permission to possess, use or transport such materials. USDA APHIS is the authority and their permit requirements are subject to change. This document follows a permit received by a researcher in summer 2007 as the most current source of information. UGA personnel may contact the Office of Biosafety at (706) 542-9657 or biosfty@uga.edu for assistance. A permit request for LPAI H5 and/or H7 will initiate a lab inspection from APHIS. UGA requires IBC authorization for such work even if no rDNA work is involved in a project.

For Georgia isolates no transport permit is required
Since all LPAI strains are potential human pathogens, standard BSL2 and ABSL2 practices, procedures and facilities are the required minimum. For information on biosafety level requirements, refer to BMBL 5th Edition, Section IV, Laboratory Biosafety Level Criteria.

For movement of an isolate from other states or countries, an APHIS permit is required, with the following permit conditions necessary. Your permit will list the locations where you can move the material to, so all subsequent movement of a strain (even in your possession) will require an amendment to your permit. A transfer of this material to another PI from your lab under a permit will require that the new researcher obtain his/her own permit.

General USDA permit requirements for working with LPAI subtypes H5 & H7 *in vitro* and/or *in vivo*:

1. Standard BSL2 and ABSL2 practices, procedures and facilities
    - refer to BMBL for more information (see link above)
2. No avian species near the facility – USDA will want you to verify
    - No commercial flocks within ½ mile
    - No other avian colonies within 100 meters
3. All waste is incinerated or autoclaved
    - A written protocol for waste disposal should be provided and incorporated in your lab specific Biosafety Manual
    - Autoclaves should be validated annually
4. A change of clothing is issued for entry into the lab or animal room and is laundered by the research organization while conducting research (for in vitro work only in the lab, it is our understanding that a lab coat is sufficient – USDA would verify this)
5. Lab personnel are prohibited from having contact with susceptible avian species for a minimum of 5 days
    - Written documentation of quarantine policy is required and should be incorporated into your lab specific Biosafety Manual
    - Personnel must agree to this required quarantine in writing
    - Susceptible avian species includes, but is not limited to, pet birds, backyard poultry flocks, birds at county/state fairs, commercial poultry operations, zoological collections (i.e., zoos), and wild birds
6. For *in vivo* studies, isolators with HEPA filtered exhaust air for in vivo studies
7. For *in vivo* studies, animal caretakers and feed delivery personnel must be dedicated for the area where H5 & H7 subtypes are in use. Only limited dedicated people will have access to the animal room containing the isolators and these individuals do not have access to the animal rooms or facilities where other poultry studies or feed is located