



**agriculture, land reform
& rural development**

Department:
Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development
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Reference: 13/1/1/18/2/1/11

ATTENTION ALL IMPORTERS

IMPORTATION RESTRICTION NOTICE:

RE: IMPORTATION OF LIVE POULTRY, BIRDS, MEAT AND OTHER PRODUCTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS TO SOUTH AFRICA: HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN THE NETHERLANDS

Dear Importer,

An outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has occurred in The Netherlands (OIE report dated 30 October 2020).

It is our policy not to import any poultry / birds or products thereof from countries where Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza occurs in domestic poultry.

The Directorate Animal Health of South Africa has decided to put trade restrictions in place on the import of live poultry, birds, meat and other products derived from poultry and birds from The Netherlands into South Africa. In terms of the trade restrictions the following products are banned from entering South Africa:

1. Live poultry, pigeons and other birds
2. Eggs (excluding SPF eggs)
3. Fresh (including frozen) poultry meat

No new veterinary import permits will be issued for any products mentioned under points 1-3. Unused permits will be cancelled and importers have to return those permits.

Heat processed poultry products for which the importer has obtained a valid veterinary import permit are exempted from this ban.

The following cut-off dates will be applied:

A. Consignments containing products packed in their final packaging* on or after 09 October 2020, will be rejected and returned to The Netherlands or destroyed at the cost of the importer.

This is because the OIE report dated 30 October 2020 indicates the “start date” of the event as 29 October 2020 and the incubation period of AI is 21 days according to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

Please note that a reefer container will be regarded as a consignment, and will be handled as an entity. We will not allow cartons (eg. in the case of poultry meat) to be sorted according to date of production.

AND

B. Consignments accompanied by veterinary health certificates with an official signature dated after 30 October 2020 (the date of the OIE report) will be rejected and returned to The Netherlands or destroyed at the cost of the importer.

This is because the official would not have been able to certify country freedom of HPAI after The Netherlands had notified the OIE of the outbreak.

Please note that a reefer container will be regarded as a consignment, and will be handled as an entity. We will not allow cartons (eg. in the case of poultry meat) to be sorted according to date of packing.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards

DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Date:

* Final packaging means cartons permanently closed and labelled with facility identification, slaughter date and final packing date. This excludes repacked product.