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16 May 2016

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 20
Series of 2016

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD BIRDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING POULTRY MEAT, DAY OLD CHICKS, EGGS AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM the Province of Ferrara, EMILIA-ROMAGNA, ITALY.

WHEREAS, based on the official report submitted by Dr. Romano Marabelli, Chief Veterinary Officer, Secretary General, Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy to the Office Internationale Des Epizooties (OIE) on 2 May 2015 that there was an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus in FERRARA, Portomaggiore, EMILIA-ROMAGNA Italy;

WHEREAS, the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza virus serotype H7N7 which started on April 24, 2016 affecting commercial poultry farm consisting of layer hens (free-range/organic) located in the Province of Ferrara, EMILIA-ROMAGNA Italy was confirmed by the Experimental Zooprophyllactic Institute (IZS), Venezie- Padova (National laboratory);

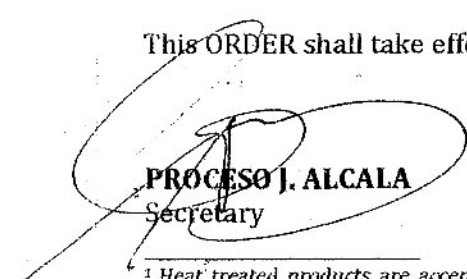
WHEREAS, the OIE Animal Health Information Department: H5 and H7 of High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) viruses are among the notifiable OIE Listed terrestrial animal diseases, OIE-Listed diseases, infections and infestations in force in 2016;

WHEREAS, there is a need to prevent the entry of HPAI virus to protect the health of the public and the local poultry population;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PROCESO J. ALCALA, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following emergency measures:

1. Banning the importation of domestic and wild birds, including poultry meat, day old chicks, eggs, and semen from the Province of Ferrara, EMILIA-ROMAGNA Italy;¹
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodities from the Province of Ferrara, EMILIA-ROMAGNA Italy;
3. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above stated commodities (with the exception on heat treated products) into the country originating from the Province of Ferrara, EMILIA-ROMAGNA Italy by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports.
4. Frozen poultry meat with slaughter/process date of 21 days prior to the HPAI outbreak shall be allowed to enter the country subject to veterinary quarantine rules and regulations.²
5. Importation of meat products of poultry is subject to the conditions provided in article 10.4.1 and 10.4.20 to 10.4.26 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2014 Chapter 10.4.²

This ORDER shall take effect immediately.


PROCESO J. ALCALA
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
in replying pls cite this code :
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¹ Heat treated products are acceptable following chapter 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2014) recommending, provided that in addition to the Veterinary Health Certificate, the Competent Authority will include in the certification the following:

1. Temperature and the duration of heating or pasteurization of products; and
 2. There is no commingling of raw materials with any other materials of animal origin.
2. Applicable to poultry products already in transit upon the issuance of ban.

