



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 Elliptical Road, Diliman
 1100 Quezon City

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 23
 Series of 2020

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 *Chesterfield County, South Carolina, United States of America*

WHEREAS, Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order No. 292 provides the authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department, to establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government and promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;

WHEREAS, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 (Charter of BAI) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;

WHEREAS, based on the official report to the OIE submitted by Dr. Mark Davidson, Associate Administrator, USDA-APHIS, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, United States of America on April 9, 2020, there was one (1) outbreak of H7N3 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) affecting turkeys in Chesterfield County, South Carolina, as confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (National Laboratory);

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures for the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products from United States of America:

1. Banning the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day old chicks, eggs and semen;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodities;
3. All incoming poultry meat shipments with SPS Import Clearance issued on or before 14 April 2020 will be allowed provided that the frozen poultry meat has a slaughter/process date of 21 days prior to the HPAI outbreaks (on or before 19 March 2020)¹. All shipments will be subject to veterinary quarantine rules and regulations.
4. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above stated commodity into the country by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports.
5. Importation of meat products of poultry is subject to the conditions provided in Article 10.4.19, 10.4.20 and 10.4.26 of OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019)².

This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately and shall remain enforced unless revoked in writing. All orders inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 22 day of APRIL 2020.

WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD
 Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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¹Applicable to shipments with valid SPS Import Clearance
²Heat treated products are acceptable following Chapter 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2019) provided that in addition to the Veterinary Health Certificate, the Competent Authority will include in the certification the following:
 1. Temperature and duration of heating or pasteurization of products
 2. There is no co-mingling of raw materials with any other materials of origin

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