



MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 02

Series of 2024

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 *Belgium*

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 submitted by the Deputy CVO Head of Health Policy, Animal and Plants Unit, Directorate-general Animals, Plants and Food SPF, The Federal Public Service (FPS) Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment, *Belgium* to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 01 December 2023, there was an outbreak of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (HPAI) in Diksmuide, West-Vlaanderen, Vlaanderen, Belgium last 30 November 2023 affecting domestic birds (*Gallus gallus*) as confirmed by the Sciensano, National Public Health Institute of *Belgium*;

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

NOW, THEREFORE, this Order is hereby issued to institute the following emergency measures for the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products from *Belgium*:

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 shipments coming from *Belgium* that are IN TRANSIT/LOADED/ACCEPTED UNTO PORT before the official communication of this order to the *Belgian* Authorities shall be allowed provided that the products were slaughtered/produced on or before November 16, 2023;
4. Shipments that have not complied with the conditions outlined in Item 3 shall be dealt with as per Administrative Circular 6 series of 2022, Article V, Section II E.; and
5. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above-stated commodities (with the exception of heat-treated products) into the country by all Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports of entry.

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

Done this 8th day of January 2024.


FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary



DA-CO-USECL-MO20231218-00017

Heat-Treated products are acceptable following Chapter 10.4 of the WOH Animal Health Code of 2019 provided that in addition to the Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC), 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