



MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 20
Series of 2025

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, Book IV Chapter 2 Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order no. 292, s. 1987 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 Dr. Herman Claeys, Deputy CVO Head of Health Policy, Animals and Plants Unit, Directorate-general Animals, Plants and FoodSPF Public Health, Safety of the Food Chain and Environment, *Belgium* to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) on 20 February 2025, there was an outbreak of H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in Sint-Niklaas, Oost-Vlaanderen, Vlaanderen, *Belgium* last 17 February 2025 affecting Domestic Birds as confirmed by Sciensano.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby 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 03 February 2025.
4. Shipments which have not complied with the conditions set forth in Item 3 shall be dealt with as per DA AC 06 S. 2022 Article V, Section II. E.;
5. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above-stated commodities (with the exception of heat-treated products¹) 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 3rd day of APRIL 2025.



FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary

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¹ Heat-Treated product are acceptable following Chapter 10.4 of the WOHAT Terrestrial 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 duration of heating or pasteurization of products; and
2. There is no commingling of raw materials with any other materials of animal origin