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Mexico

Poultry and Products

Status on Avian Influenza - Update #5

2004

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Report Highlights:

On September 13, 2004, the Government of Mexico banned imports of raw poultry meat for direct consumption, live birds, hatching eggs, table eggs and SPF eggs from Missouri due to detections of low path avian influenza (LPAI) in that state. Cooked products as well as products destined for thermal processing are exempt.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1]
[MX]

MEXICO BANS POULTRY IMPORTS FROM MISSOURI DUE TO LPAI

Mexican government concerns about the presence of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) and High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the United States have resulted in the establishment, by the Secretariat of Agriculture (SAGARPA), of import restrictions for poultry and poultry products from several U.S. states during 2003 and 2004 (see reports MX4022, MX4023, MX4080, MX 4101).

Most recently, on September 13, 2004, SAGARPA, through the Office of Animal Health, notified the U.S. government they were banning imports of raw poultry meat for direct consumption, live birds, and hatching, table eggs and SPF eggs from Missouri due to detections of LPAI in that state. Products that are exempt from this prohibition are the ones that have been subjected to a cooking, pasteurization or sterilization process. Also, poultry meat and poultry products that are destined to thermal treatment (cooking) are exempt from this regulation, as long as they follow the required import regulations.

Import restrictions continue for the states of California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania because of detections of LPAI, and for the following Texas counties due to HPAI: Gonzales, Guadalupe, Galdwell, Bastrop, Fayette, La Vaca, De Witt, Karnes, Wilson, Comal and Hays (see table below).

The following table summarizes some of the regulations that are currently being implemented by the Mexican government for U.S. live poultry and poultry meat exports.

REGULATIONS FOR POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS EXPORTS

Item	Raw Poultry Direct Consumption 1/	Raw poultry Further Processing 5/	Fully Cooked Products	Table and Hatching Eggs	Live Birds
AI states export status 2/	NO	YES 6/	YES	NO	NO
Required language on cleaning and disinfection of trucks	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Required sealing of trucks at point of origin	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES
Agar Gel test required	YES	NO	NO	YES 3/	YES 3/
Certification requirements on END 4/	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

1/ SAGARPA still does not allow imports of bone-in chicken leg quarters for further processing to the interior of Mexico because of concerns about products being diverted to the retail market.

2/ Imports are prohibited from the states of Connecticut, California, Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland, Missouri, and Pennsylvania because of LPAI, and the following Texas counties due to a HPAI outbreak: Gonzales, Guadalupe, Galdwell, Bastrop, Fayette, La Vaca, De Witt, Karnes, Wilson, Comal and Hays. Therefore meat and birds should not come or originate from these areas.

3/ Test should begin 21 days before laying and should continue on a quarterly basis.

4/ END statement for meat, meat products and by products. - "That the product comes from flocks that have a monitoring program of 70 birds that began after 12 days of age, using viral isolation tests and identification of velogenic strains through a test that indicates intracerebral pathogenicity in chicks of one day of age and that is carried out for each lot that is delivered for slaughter, obtaining negative results for Velogenic Newcastle disease, or that comes from a country free of Velogenic Newcastle Disease. "

5/ Imports are only approved to proceed to Federal Inspected Plants (TIF) and non-TIF meat processing facilities authorized by SAGARPA.

6/ Imports are prohibited from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Texas, unless their destination is an establishment authorized by SAGARPA to carry out thermal treatment processes. However, imports of raw materials for thermal processing should not come or originate from the following Texas counties: Gonzales, Guadalupe, Galdwell, Bastrop, Fayette, La Vaca, De Witt, Karnes, Wilson, Comal and Hays.

For additional information regarding poultry meat and egg products exports to Mexico see the web page USDA/FSIS/Export Library at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov> (Export Requirements for meat and poultry products)