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## United Arab Emirates

### Poultry and Products

## New UAE Requirements for Imports of Table Eggs 2008

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**Report Highlights:**

The Ministry of Water and Environment in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has issued a new decree that stipulates the conditions for importing table eggs. UAE egg supplies have declined in recent months following the imposition of import bans due to the detection of Avian Influenza in key egg exporting countries. Companies considering exporting eggs to the UAE may wish to review these requirements closely to ensure that they are consistent with international requirements.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Dubai [TC1]  
[TC]

**Disclaimer:** This summary is based on an informal translation of the decree into English and is a  *cursory*  review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete decree published in Arabic, the latter shall prevail.

**ATO Dubai Analysis:** Egg supplies in the UAE have been hampered by bans on imports of table eggs from Saudi Arabia and India due to detections of Avian Influenza in those countries. In some cases, retail stores have had to ration sales and industry reports indicate that eggs are simply not available in some stores and hotels. This new decree appears to be an attempt to tighten import procedures during a period of scarcity and high prices.

Exporters, regulators and interested parties may wish to review these requirements closely. ATO Dubai believes that at least two of the requirements could prove to be problematic for U.S. egg exporters.

1. The requirement that each egg be printed with the date of production, expiration and name of the farm is a long standing UAE requirement that is repeated in this decree. ATO Dubai is aware of a several local importers who have sought to import eggs from the United States in recent months. However, the requirement to stamp or print each egg is one that has proven to be problematic for U.S. suppliers in light of the relatively small volumes of eggs that are imported by the UAE.

2. The requirement that a country be free of Avian Influenza for at least six months may be inconsistent with World Animal Health Organization principles that allow for the regionalization of countries, zones, or compartments following the detection of certain diseases.

A translation of the decree follows.

**Ministerial Decree No. (53) for 2008**  
**Conditions of Importing Table Eggs into the Country**

Minister of Environment and Water:

Having reviewed the following:

- Federal Law number (1) for 1972 with regards to the specialization of the ministries and the authorities of the ministers and the laws that have been annexed to it;
- Federal Decree number (1) for 2006 pertaining to adjusting the federal jurisdictions of Federal Law number (1) for 1972 regarding the specialization of the ministries and the authorities of the ministers;
- Federal Law number (6) for 1979 regarding the veterinary quarantine and the adjustments to the Law;
- The Council of Ministers' Decree number (5) for 2006 regarding delegating to us some ministerial tasks
- Ministerial Decree number (460) for 2001 regarding the executive list for the veterinary quarantine procedures of the GCC countries;

based on ongoing coordination efforts with the Secretariat of National Emergency Committee for monitoring bird flu and the General Secretariat of Municipalities;

in keeping with the mandate to protect human and animal health conditions in the country against the infiltration of any animal epidemic or contagious diseases particularly those that are common among humans and animals;

and based on the requirements of the national interest;

the following has been decided:

### **First Clause:**

Importers of table eggs to the country must abide by the following conditions:

1. Importers must obtain an advance approval from the Ministry of Environment and Water in accordance with the quarantine procedures followed in the country;
2. The exporting country must have a surveillance program of epidemic and contagious diseases especially bird flu and Newcastle disease;
3. A valid veterinary certificate must be obtained from a government agency in the exporting country containing the following information:
  - a. name of sender and receiving party;
  - b. that the country is free of avian flu for at least six months prior to exporting. In case a vaccination program is being implemented, the period should not be less than 12 months before exporting;
  - c. that the eggs are fresh, wholesome, clean, and good for human consumption and not for hatching. They must be derived from layer flocks which are bred at farms authorized in the exporting country.
4. A certificate that attests that the farm is free of diseases that spread through eggs to the breeding stocks including Newcastle disease, Gumboro, and respiratory contagious diseases. The certificate should also indicate that the farm has been tested negative against Salmonella. Farms that use a program of vaccination against bird flu should present a certificate from an approved laboratory that they are free of the disease using the DIVA test within a period of 21 days before exporting.
5. A certificate must be presented to attest that an epidemic surveillance program for bird flu in the area where the farm is has been conducted 45 days prior to the shipping date for at least 60 birds. This has to be issued by the official health authorities supported by a certificate from an approved laboratory showing the surveillance and test results.
6. Products must be packed and shipped in clean cartons that have not been used before marked with the production and expiry dates, name of producing farm, and country of origin.
7. Eggs must be sterilized or vaporized according to the appendix (Appendix 3.4.1.7) of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) mentioning the method used.
8. Eggs must be individually stamped with the production and expiry dates and name of producing farm.

9. Transportation systems have to be sterilized in accordance with the requirements set by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
10. A certificate that attests that the processes used with the egg products are in accordance with the recommendations of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), (Appendix 2.7.12.9 and 2.7.12.10 and 2.7.12.11) must be presented.

### **Second Clause:**

In case of non compliance and violation of these conditions or any of them, the consignment will be rejected and returned at the expense of the importer or it may be confiscated and destroyed in accordance with the quarantine procedures followed in the country. In addition, the places where examining and confiscating the products has been done must be sterilized with anti viral detergents in accordance with the health procedures applied.

### **Third Clause:**

This decree is valid from the day it has been issued. Whoever this decree concerns should do the necessary to comply with it. The decree must further be published in the official Gazette.

Dr. Mohamed Saeed Al Kindi  
Minister of Environment and Water

Issued on: 07 Feb., 2008

### **Important Dates:**

1. **Implementation Date:** February 7, 2008
2. **Validity Period:** Indefinite from the date adoption
3. **Comments:** This is a final decree. However, importers, exporters may wish to provide comments to ATO Dubai or FAS Washington if they have concerns about the provisions of this decree.

### **For More Information:**

Should you require more information on the above, Please don't hesitate to contact us on the following:

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