

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Number: HK2024-0003

Report Name: Entry Requirements for Poultry Products in Response to Avian Influenza May Impact Eligibility of Other Products

Country: Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Report Category: Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

This report serves as a second reminder to U.S. exporters and traders that the Hong Kong Government (HKG) does not allow entry of U.S. poultry and egg products originating from affected counties reporting highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) when the bill of lading falls on or after the effective date of a ban. According to HKG's practice, shipments which are loaded after the ban are not allowed access to Hong Kong regardless of the date of production. Moreover, in the event that eligible meat and pre-packaged products are shipped along with ineligible products in the same container, these may risk denied access to Hong Kong as all affected containers will not be released to consignees.

As previously reported ([GAIN HK2022-0064](#)), ATO Hong Kong notes that Hong Kong importers are unable to obtain an import permit for a container shipment which consist of poultry meats, including frozen chicken, processed meat, and pre-packaged food products that are loaded after the Hong Kong Government imposes a U.S. county ban after a reported outbreak of avian influenza (AI).

In the latest case, frozen chicken products were not allowed entry to Hong Kong because they were loaded after the HKG county ban went into effect. According to HKG's practice, shipments loaded on or after the ban's effective date are not allowed access to Hong Kong regardless of the date of production. In another words, if a container carries an assortment of eligible products (processed and pre-packaged products) and ineligible meats (raw poultry or egg products from banned U.S. counties), the HKG will decline to issue an import permit for the entire shipment on the grounds that the importer is prohibited from taking possession of a container carrying banned products. Importers will not be allowed to receive and open the container even if agreeing to dispose of the ineligible products and just collect eligible products for entry.

In this regard, U.S. meat exporters should be mindful of Hong Kong's implementation of county-based AI-related bans on U.S. poultry and egg products. While HKG has been limiting the scope of the bans to affected counties, **it determines the eligibility of incoming product based on the bill of lading date and not the date of production**. Therefore, to preempt any disruptions to the flow of products, U.S. exporters should minimize mixing shipments of eligible products with products that may be potentially affected by AI restrictions.

As of December 28, 2023, U.S. poultry and egg products from a total of 70 counties in 18 states are still ineligible to ship to Hong Kong due to AI. While there have been some reinstatements of eligibility of U.S. counties from June to September 2023, the recent flow of AI outbreaks in the United States has challenged U.S. poultry and egg supplies to Hong Kong. This has prompted Hong Kong buyers to shift to other suppliers, particularly in the case of eggs. In the first ten months of 2023, U.S. egg exports to Hong Kong dropped 60 percent to \$7.2 million. In contrast, U.S. exports of poultry to Hong Kong recovered 141 percent to \$78 million compared to the same period last year. Exporters should be mindful of recent AI-related bans when consolidating shipments to prevent any denial of eligible products in a mixed shipment to Hong Kong.

Attachments:

No Attachments.