

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Voluntary - Internal

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Russia Lifts Avian Influenza Restrictions

Report Categories:

Poultry and Products

Policy and Program Announcements

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On February 20, 2017, the Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (Rosselkhozadzor) issued instruction No. FS-NV-7/3749 lifting restrictions imposed in 2014-2015 after an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the United States. The document does not mention HPAI specifically, but the cancelled instructions contained therein include all HPAI related bans which therefore become null and void. This report outlines conditions for the import of affected commodities to the Russian Federation and through Russia to the Republic of Kazakhstan. Note: Due to the Government of Russia's counter sanctions, U.S. poultry meat and products are still not eligible for import into Russia.

General Information:

On February 20, 2018, the Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation (Rosselkhoz nadzor) issued instruction No. FS-NV-7/3749 lifting restrictions imposed by Rosselkhoz nadzor in 2014-2015 after an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the United States. Please see the full translation at the end of this report.

The following restrictions are no longer in force:

- FS-NV-8/25052 of December 17, 2014 - HPAI related restriction on the import of poultry meat and all kinds of poultry products that were not heat-treated (no less than 70 Centigrade), feeds and feed additives for birds (excepting for feed additives of chemical and microbiological synthesis), as well as used equipment for keeping, slaughtering and cutting birds, down, and feather from the entire United States.; HPAI ban on the import of live birds and hatching eggs, poultry meat and all kinds of poultry products that were not heat-treated (no less than 70 Centigrade), feeds and feed additives for birds (except for feed additives of chemical and microbiological synthesis), as well as used equipment for keeping, slaughtering and cutting birds, down, and feather from the State of Washington;
- FS-NV-8/8679 of May 26, 2015 - restriction on the import of live birds and hatching eggs, except for Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) eggs from the entire United States;
- [FS-EN-8/9618](#) of June 09, 2015 - HPAI related ban (suspension) on the transit of live birds, poultry products, and hatching eggs, except for SPF eggs, shipped from the United States, through the territory of the Russian Federation, starting June 10, 2015.

Products Newly Eligible for Export to the Russian Federation

As a result of the lifting of HPAI restrictions, as described above, the follow products are now eligible to export from the United States to the Russian Federation:

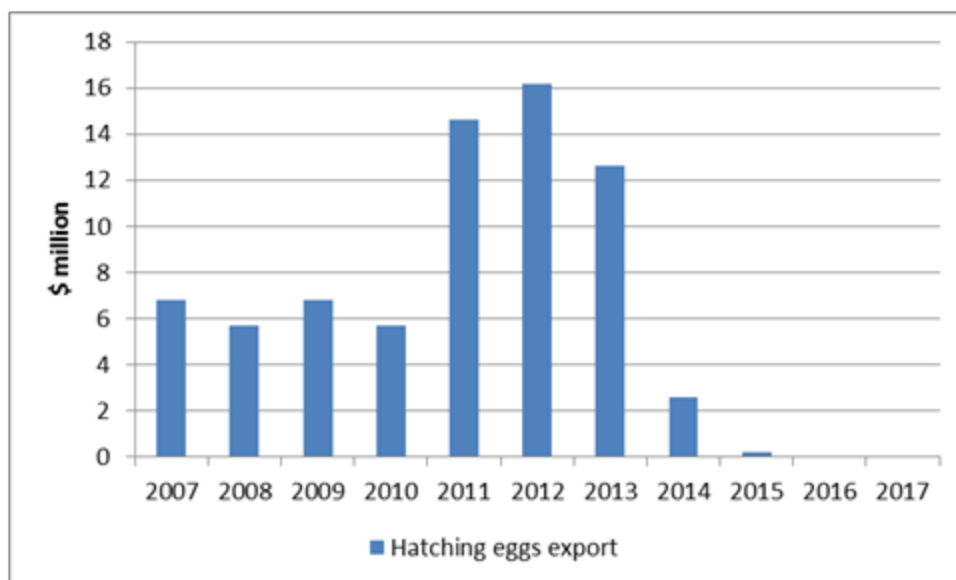
- Hatching Eggs
- Live birds, including day old chicks

Rosselkhoz nadzor still requires “pre-notification” of shipments of hatching eggs by USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). (Please see Attachment.) According to Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) legislation, a list of hatching egg and day-old chick producers eligible for the export to the Russian Federation and other member states of the EAEU is not required.

Importers should note that effective July 1, 2018, Rosselkhoz nadzor is expected to launch an e-certification program with which imports will need to comply.

At its peak in 2012, U.S. exports of hatching eggs to Russia were valued at \$16.2 million. Imports of hatching eggs and breeding stock would help support Russia’s poultry sector. In particular, turkey production is increasing.

Chart 1. Export of hatching eggs to the Russian Federation



Transit of Poultry and Hatching Eggs Through the Russian Federation to Kazakhstan

Starting February 20, 2018, Kazakhstani importers may transship poultry meat, poultry by-products, live birds including hatching eggs and day-old chicks, from the United States through the territory of the Russian Federation to the Republic of Kazakhstan by truck and railway.

Kazakhstani importers must also be aware of two additional requirements. First, the Kazakhstani importer must apply for a Transit Permit via Rosselkhoznadzor's electronic Information Database "Argus".

Second, for transit by rail, Kazakhstani importers must notify Rosselkhoznadzor of the shipment via the Informational Database "Mercury". This should be done in compliance with Rosselkhoznadzor instruction No. FS-SA-6/27354 of December 14, 2017.

Products That Remain Restricted for Export to the Russian Federation

Despite lifting HPAI restrictions, export of poultry meat and poultry by-products to the Russian Federation remain banned due to Government Decree No. 778 of August 7, 2014 commonly referred to as the "counter sanctions". Russia's ban on the import of agricultural products from the countries that applied economic sanctions against Russia, including the United States, was extended by Presidential decree No. 293 through December 31, 2018.

FAS/Moscow notes that an SPS restriction on the import of poultry meat products from the United States to Russia imposed by Rosselkhoznadzor on December 5, 2014 is also still in force. This relates to supposed "findings" in U.S. poultry of microbiological indicators and residuals such as tetracycline. Rosselkhoznadzor delivered a series of letters to the U.S. Government on this topic in 2014.

In order to meet the requirements placed in the VPSS letter of March 29, 2017, the "Number of packages" and "Net weight" should be indicated for each production date of the products on the

accompanying veterinary certificate. That may require additional lines on the veterinary certificate or in an addendum.

In the letter of March 28, 2017, Rosselkhoznadzor proposed that FSIS update the list of U.S. plants and cold stores eligible for the export of poultry to the Russian Federation and that the United States provide the Russian side with information concerning each establishment according to a large questionnaire. Russia has also indicated in several instances the possibility of conducting joint audits of U.S. poultry suppliers. These issues would have to be resolved in order to resume the export of poultry meat and poultry byproducts to the Russian Federation.

Attachment: Hatching Eggs Pre-Notification Points of Contact

As agreed by Rosselkhoz nadzor and APHIS in 2016, each shipment of hatching eggs must be pre-notified by sending a scanned copy of the accompanying veterinary certificate to the following address:

Notification-us@fsvps.ru

The following 22 APHIS addresses are designated originators:

vspsny@aphis.usda.gov

VSPSAL@aphis.usda.gov

VSPSFL@aphis.usda.gov

VSPSGA@aphis.usda.gov

VSPSPR@aphis.usda.gov

VSPSSC@aphis.usda.gov

VSPSTN@aphis.usda.gov

iowaexport@aphis.usda.gov

vspsil@aphis.usda.gov

vspsin@aphis.usda.gov

vspsky@aphis.usda.gov

vspsmi@aphis.usda.gov

vspsmn@aphis.usda.gov

vspsoh@aphis.usda.gov

vspswi@aphis.usda.gov

EXPCERTMS@aphis.usda.gov

expcerttx@aphis.usda.gov

servicecenter4@aphis.usda.gov

vspsmo@aphis.usda.gov

servicecenter5@aphis.usda.gov

sacanimalexport@aphis.usda.gov

sacramento.vs.import.export@aphis.usda.gov

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION:

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FEDERAL VETERINARY AND PHYTOSANITARY SURVEILLANCE SERVICE**

(Rosselkhoz nadzor)

No. FS-NV-7/3749 of February 20, 2018

To Heads of Territorial Divisions of Rosselkhoz nadzor
(according to the list)

Copy: Federal Customs Service of the Russian Federation

The Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service informs that, starting February 20, 2018, the following temporary restrictions on the import to the Russian Federation have been lifted:

- Live birds and hatching eggs, poultry meat and all kinds of poultry products that were not heat-treated (no less than 70 Centigrade), feeds and feed additives for birds, as well as used equipment for keeping, slaughtering and cutting birds, down and feather from whole territory of the U.S.
- Live birds and hatching eggs, poultry meat and all kinds of poultry products that were not heat-treated (no less than 70 Centigrade), feeds and feed additives for birds, as well as used equipment for keeping, slaughtering and cutting birds, down and feather from whole territory of Canada.

At the same time, temporary restrictions on movement or transit through the territory of the Russian Federation of live birds from Canada, as well as live birds, poultry products, and hatching eggs shipped from the U.S. have been lifted.

The following Decrees considered invalid: No. FS-NV-8/25052 of December 17, 2014; No. FS-NV-8/8679 of May 26, 2015; No. FS-EN-8/9618 of June 09. 2015; No. FS-EN-8/24878 of December 16, 2014*; No. FS-EN-8/6139 of April 15, 2015*; No. FS-NV-7-/13638 of July 22, 2016*.

This information shall be acted upon and made known to the veterinary authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation and interested organizations.

Deputy Head

N.A. Vlasov

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

* - Instructions related to the Avian Influenza restrictions on the export of poultry products from Canada.