

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** April 16,2020

**Report Number:** CE2020-0003

**Report Name:** Sri Lanka Restricts Import of Live Animals - Animal Products and Animal By-Products Due to COVID-19

**Country:** Sri Lanka

**Post:** Colombo

**Report Category:** Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products

**Prepared By:** Ayodya Galappattige

**Approved By:** Mark Wallace

**Report Highlights:**

In an attempt to reduce the spread of COVID-19, on March 20 the Sri Lankan Government's (GOSL) Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) issued a notice to importers which restricts the import of live animals, animal products, and animal by-products.

**Background:**

On March 20, DAPH, the GOSL's regulator of imports and exports of animals and animal products, published a notice to importers restricting certain products as an additional precaution to contain the spread of COVID-19. The notice, effective immediately, announced a prohibition on importing live animals, animal products, and animal by-products (meat and bone meal, bristles, hair etc.), with the notable exception of dairy products. The notice does not identify what criteria will be considered to determine when the prohibition can be withdrawn.

With reporting of the first local person infected with COVID-19 on March 10 and the increasing number of cases in the weeks since, the GOSL has taken swift measures to stop spread of the disease. The GOSL announced the closedown of schools nationwide on March 12, and on March 19 declared a partial shutdown until the end of the month of all the ports, as well as Bandaranaike International Airport for inbound passengers (for the first time in 19 years). Since then, however, the GOSL has extended these closures indefinitely. Air cargo and sea cargo processing remain open, subject to health and safety measures notified by GOSL. On March 20, the GOSL declared a nationwide curfew for 7 days (which has since been extended indefinitely) and published its notice restricting the import of live animals, animal products, and animal by-products.

Sri Lanka's total meat and meat by-product imports from all sources have averaged under \$5 million, per year, for the past two years, and the Sri Lanka poultry industry imports a significant quantity of live birds (day-old chicks) for breeding purposes, averaging about \$4 million, per year, for the past 2 years. Of those day-old chicks, over 70 percent are supplied by the United States. In addition to the loss to U.S. producers and exporters, the Sri Lankan poultry industry will suffer productivity losses without regular imports of breeding stock.

Regarding meat imports, over the past two years Sri Lankan imports of both beef and poultry products have each averaged about \$1 million from all sources. Most of this imported meat is used by Sri Lanka's hotel and restaurant industry (HRI), which already registered a steep drop in imports following the terrorist attacks in April 2019, which severely depressed travel and tourism in Sri Lanka.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.