

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Vietnam Issues Amendment to Terrestrial Animal Product Quarantine Regulations

Country: Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On June 24, 2025, Vietnam issued Circular No. 28, amending Circular No. 25/2016 on the quarantine of terrestrial animals and their products. Despite feedback from trading partners and industry stakeholders, Vietnam maintained its zero-tolerance policy for Salmonella. The key change is a reduction in sampling frequency (once a history of compliance is established) for Salmonella spp. and E. coli O157:H7 in high-risk imported animal products for human consumption. This includes frozen/chilled meat, poultry, edible offal, and byproducts. Effective July 1, 2025, the amendment aims to improve import control efficiency while maintaining strict safety standards. While the sampling frequency adjustment may ease inspection burdens, the continued zero-tolerance approach could still impact compliance and rejection rates. Companies should be prepared to adapt to sampling strategies based on consignment performance.

Summary

On June 24, 2025, Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) issued Circular No. 28 amending and supplementing Point a), Clause 1, Section II, Appendix XII of Circular No. 25/2016, which regulates the quarantine of terrestrial animals and their products. MAE notified the draft amendment of Circular 25/2016 to the World Trade Organization (WTO) as G/SPS/N/VNM/169 on April 14, 2025. The new Circular will take effect on July 1, 2025.

Under the revised regulation, Vietnam continues to enforce *E. coli* O157:H7 testing and maintain a zero-tolerance policy for *Salmonella* spp. Rather than easing the standard, the amendment reduces sampling frequency for *Salmonella* spp. and *E. coli* O157:H7 in high-risk imported animal products intended for human consumption once consistent compliance is demonstrated. Affected products include frozen/chilled meat, poultry, edible offal, and byproducts. The change aims to balance stringent safety standards with more efficient import controls. This decision comes despite feedback and repeated requests from key trading partners, including the United States, and industry stakeholders, to reconsider this strict approach in line with international practices, which often allow for more flexible, science-based standards.

According to Circular 28, after the first three (03) shipments pass testing for *Salmonella* spp. and *E. coli* O157:H7, sampling is reduced to one (1) randomly selected shipment out of every three (3) subsequent shipments. Any non-compliance triggers a return to full sampling for the next three (3) consignments.

Prior to this amendment, the zero-tolerance policy for *Salmonella* posed significant operational and financial risk to businesses. The lowered sampling frequency may reduce administrative burdens and testing costs in the short term. However, the risk of shipment failure remains high, as the strict zero-tolerance threshold continues to expose producers to the possibility of entire consignments being rejected based on a single positive test. This could lead to shipment rejections, delays, or re-export, resulting in reputational and economic costs.

Post recommends that exporters review Circular 28 thoroughly and maintain strong compliance to benefit from reduced sampling and testing frequency. While this report provides an unofficial translation and summary of key changes, exporters should conduct their own regulatory assessments and ensure that their compliance systems align with Vietnam's updated regulation.

Post is aware that MAE is currently working on an integrated and consolidated Circular to replace all existing Circulars regulating animal quarantine, with expected issuance by the end of 2025. Post will continue to monitor these regulatory developments and provide further updates as necessary. Should U.S. exporters have any questions regarding MAE's Circular 28, please feel free to reach out to us at: aghamoi@usda.gov.

An unofficial translation of Circular 28 and a copy of Circular 28 in Vietnamese are attached below.

Attachments:

[Unofficial translation of Circular 28.docx](#)

[Circular 28 \(Vietnamese version\).pdf](#)