

Import Alert: Additional Restrictions on Avian Commodities Imported from Neuchatel, Switzerland Due to Newcastle Disease

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Effective December 2, 2011, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) is placing temporary restrictions on the importation of avian eggs for hatching, and processed and unprocessed avian products or by-products, originating from Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland, based on the detection of Newcastle disease virus in commercial poultry in Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland. The overall disease-free status of Switzerland for Newcastle disease is not affected at this time by this event. This alert is limited to Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland.

Until further notice, avian eggs for hatching that originate from, or which transit through, the Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland will be required to undergo a 30-day entry quarantine as a condition of importation to the United States. This quarantine may be performed at a privately-owned quarantine facility that has been approved in advance by APHIS. All other import requirements (a valid USDA import permit, a valid health certificate, and an inspection at the time of entry) continue to apply to avian eggs for hatching from the Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland. The requirements for US-origin pet birds, other pet birds, commercial birds, theatrical/performing birds, zoological birds, research birds, ratites, poultry of any type, or other avian species that originate from the Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland will remain unchanged, i.e. an entry quarantine is normally required for these commodities. Shipments of avian hatching eggs falling under these temporary restrictions should be inspected by VS at the port of entry and sent under seal to the approved quarantine facility (a VS Form 1-27 should also be issued at the port of entry). Avians that hatch from these eggs will be tested for avian influenza and Newcastle disease, per normal VS protocols for hatching eggs originating from regions affected with Newcastle disease.

Processed avian products and byproducts originating from Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland imported as cargo must be accompanied by a VS import permit and/or government certification confirming that the products were treated according to APHIS requirements, unless consigned to an APHIS approved establishment, as appropriate.

Processed avian products and byproducts entering in passenger baggage originating from Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland not having a thoroughly cooked appearance must also be accompanied by a VS import permit and/or government certification confirming that the products were treated according to APHIS requirements, unless consigned to an APHIS approved establishment, as appropriate.

Unprocessed avian products and byproducts originating from Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland imported as cargo will not be permitted to enter unless accompanied by a VS import permit and consigned to an APHIS approved establishment as per the conditions on the permit.

Unprocessed avian products and byproducts originating from Canton of Neuchatel, Switzerland will not be permitted to enter in passenger baggage unless consigned to an APHIS approved establishment.