

**RE: Import Alert: HPAI restrictions for avian commodities originating from or transiting Lebanon**

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**Effective Date: April 26, 2016**

Effective immediately, and until further notice, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) is placing prohibitions on the importation of poultry, commercial birds, non-U.S.-origin pet birds, other types of birds (zoological, research, performing), ratites, any avian hatching eggs, unprocessed avian products and by-products, and certain fresh poultry products from Lebanon. Any of these commodities originating from or transiting through Lebanon are prohibited entry to the United States, based on the diagnosis of highly pathogenic avian influenza in commercial poultry. Lebanon has been listed on the appropriate websites. These restrictions may be updated as additional epidemiological information is obtained.

Previously, VS has placed avian commodity prohibitions on the following countries due to the presence of HPAI: Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire), Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Libya, Macau, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Autonomous Territories, People's Republic of China, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, South Sudan, Sudan, Taipei Chinese/Taiwan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam. These prohibitions continue in effect.

Processed avian products and by-products originating from or transiting through Lebanon imported as cargo must be accompanied by an APHIS import permit and/or government certification confirming that the products were treated according to APHIS requirements.

Processed avian products and by-products for personal use originating from or transiting through Lebanon entering in passenger baggage not having a thoroughly cooked appearance, or not shelf-stable as a result of APHIS approved packaging and cooking (i.e. packaged in hermetically sealed containers and cooked by a commercial method after such packing to produce articles that are shelf stable without refrigeration), must also be accompanied by a VS import permit and/or government certification confirming that the products/by-products were treated according to APHIS requirements.

Unprocessed avian products and by-products originating from or transiting Lebanon are not permitted to enter in passenger baggage. This includes hunter harvested, non-fully finished avian trophies and meat.

U.S.-origin pet birds will be allowed to return to the US from Lebanon, under an APHIS import permit, and undergo a required 30-day quarantine in one of the three USDA Quarantine Centers below. Contact information for the USDA Quarantine Centers is listed below:

New York Animal Import Center  
230-59 Rockaway Boulevard  
Suite 101  
Jamaica, New York 11413  
Phone: (845) 838-5500  
Fax: (845) 838-5516

Los Angeles Animal Import Center  
USDA, APHIS, VS  
222 Kansas Street  
El Segundo, CA 90245  
(310) 955-3311 (phone)  
(310) 321-0141 (fax)

Miami Animal Import Center  
USDA/APHIS/VS  
6300 NW 36th Street  
Miami, Florida 33122  
Phone: (305) 876-2200  
Fax: (305) 876-2201

For any other questions, please contact a local Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Veterinary Regulatory Support (VRS) Agriculture Quarantine Inspection (AQI), Veterinary Medical Officer (VMO), or PPQ VRS headquarters staff in Riverdale, Maryland at (301) 851-2295.

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