

4 December 2013

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 44
Series of 2013

SUBJECT: **TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD BIRDS INCLUDING DAY OLD CHICKS, EGGS AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM The Village of St-Annen, Province of Groningen, the Netherlands**

WHEREAS, based on the official report submitted by the Dutch Animal Health Authorities to the European Commission, Health & Consumers Directorate-General, there was an outbreak of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) of the subtype H5 in the village of St-Annen, Province of Groningen, the Netherlands;

WHEREAS, LPAI subtype H5N3 was detected from a free range laying hen holding yard;

WHEREAS, according to the Office International des Epizooties (OIE) Animal Health Information Department and as per Chapter 10.4 on Avian Influenza of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2012), H5 and H7 Avian Influenza in their low pathogenic form in poultry are notifiable diseases;

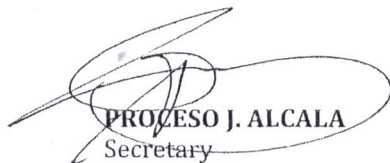
WHEREAS, travellers can possibly bring into the Philippines birds and its products from the village of St-Annen, Province of Groningen, Netherlands;

WHEREAS, to maintain the Avian Influenza freedom in the country and to protect the health of the local poultry population, there is a need to prevent the entry of LPAI virus;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PROCESO J. ALCALA, Secretary of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following emergency measures:

1. Banning the importation of domestic and wild birds, including day old chicks, eggs, and semen from the village of St-Annen, Province of Groningen, Netherlands;¹
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC/SPS) to import the above-stated commodities from the village of St-Annen, Province of Groningen, the Netherlands;
3. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of poultry and poultry products (with the exception on heat-treated products) into the country originating from the village of St-Annen, Province of Groningen, the Netherlands by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports; and
4. Importation of meat products of poultry is subject to the conditions provided in Articles 10.4.19, 10.4.20 and 10.4.26 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2012.²

This ORDER shall take effect immediately.


PROCESO J. ALCALA
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

in replying pls cite this code :
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¹ Heat treated products are acceptable following chapter 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2012) recommending, provided that in addition to the Veterinary Health Certificate, the Competent Authority will include in the certification the following:

1. Temperature and the duration of heating or pasteurization of products; and
2. There is no commingling of raw materials with any other materials of animal origin.

² Presentation of International Veterinary Certificate attesting that the entire consignment of fresh meat comes from poultry free from Notifiable Avian Influenza (NAI) since they were hatched for the past 21 days; which have been slaughtered in an approved abattoir in a country, zone or compartment free from NAI and have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections in accordance with Chapter 6.2. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and have been found free of any signs suggestive of NAI.

