



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
Quezon City 1100, Philippines

January 17, 2018

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 04
Series of 2018

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD BIRDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING POULTRY MEAT, DAY OLD CHICKS, EGGS AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM SAUDI ARABIA

WHEREAS, Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order No. 292 provides the authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department, to establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government and promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;

WHEREAS, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 (Charter of BAI) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;

WHEREAS, based on the official reports submitted by Dr Ali Al Doweriej, Director General of Veterinary Health and Monitoring Department, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on December 22, 2017 and January 2, 2018, that there were outbreaks of H5N8 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus in Riyadh, Al Kharj and Al Mazahmyia in Saudi Arabia affecting birds;

WHEREAS, there is a need to prevent the entry of HPAI virus to protect the health of the local poultry population;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following emergency measures for the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products from Saudi Arabia:

1. Banning the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day old chicks, eggs, and semen;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodities;
3. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above stated commodities (with the exception on heat treated products) into the country by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports.
4. Frozen poultry meat with slaughter/process date of 21 days prior to the HPAI outbreaks are allowed to enter the country subject to veterinary quarantine rules and regulations.¹
5. Importation of meat products of poultry is subject to the conditions provided in article 10.4.20 and 10.4.26 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, 2017.²

This ORDER shall take effect immediately.

EMMANUEL F. PIÑOL
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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¹ Applicable to poultry products from accredited establishments/countries already in transit upon the issuance of ban.
² Heat treated products are acceptable following chapter 10.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2017) 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.