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Thailand

Trade Policy Monitoring

The Thai Government Lifted a Ban on Poultry and Poultry Products from Three U.S. States

2007

Approved by:

Corey Pickelsimer, Agricultural Attaché
U.S. Embassy, Bangkok

Prepared by:

Maysa Kunasirirat, Agricultural Assistant

Report Highlights:

After 24-month period of eradication of Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) incident, the Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives officially notifies the USDA to lift a ban on poultry and poultry products from three U.S. states including California, North Carolina, and Missouri.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Executive Summary

Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has officially asked the Director General of the DLD on May 22, 2007 to lift an import suspension on poultry and poultry products from the three U.S. states, including California, North Carolina, and Missouri. In its reply on June 8, the DLD agreed upon the request under the additional condition that the animal health certificate incorporated with the import shipment must contain the statement “I hereby declare that the goods are derived from origin of animals which is free from Avian Influenza and Newcastle diseases.”

On March 30, 2005, the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC), imposed an import ban on live poultry and uncooked poultry meat from these states after detecting Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) disease in these states in February 2005. Although USDA/FAS expressed the concern that it was not justified and against the OIE guidelines that there should not be any trade disruption for country affected by LPAI, the DLD did not respond in the past two years.



MAY 22 2007

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Washington, DC
20250

Mr. Piram Srichan
Director General
Department of Livestock Development
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Phaya Thai Road
Bangkok 10400
THAILAND

Dear Mr. Srichan:

This letter concerns the import restrictions that the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) announced on March 30, 2005 on poultry and poultry products from the States of California, North Carolina, and Missouri due to low pathogenicity avian influenza (LPAI).


These incidents involved subtypes H4N8 LPAI in California and H3N2 LPAI in North Carolina and Missouri in February 2005. These detections in turkeys occurred as a result of our active serological AI surveillance and monitoring programs. There were no clinical signs, mortality or spread associated with any of these incidents. The three incidents of LPAI were rapidly eliminated. Moreover, these subtypes of LPAI are not known to mutate to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

As you are aware, the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE) requires notification only of H5 and H7 subtypes of LPAI with import suspensions of no more than 90 days. The OIE has indicated that trade bans should not be imposed for non-H5/H7 strains of LPAI. The LPAI incidents in the three States affected by the DLD import suspension all involved non-H5/H7 subtypes of LPAI. In addition, over 24 months have now passed since these LPAI incidents were eliminated.

There is no other country in the world that currently has trade bans on these three States due to any avian influenza (AI) subtype; in particular a non-H5/H7 LPAI strain. We respectfully request that the DLD import suspensions of live poultry and poultry products (cooked and uncooked) from California, North Carolina, and Missouri be lifted expeditiously.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,


John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services



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Department of Livestock Development
Phaya Thai Road, Bangkok 10400
THAILAND
Tel : 66-2-653-4449
Fax : 66-2-653-4900
Email : dl@dld.go.th

๒ June B.E. 2550 (2007)

Mr. John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Marketing and Regulatory Programs
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Stop
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20251

Dear Mr. John R. Clifford

Subject: Import restriction on poultry and poultry products from the States of California, North Carolina, Missouri

Reference is made to your letter dated 22 May, 2007 informing us that the States of California, North Carolina and Missouri were free from LPAI for more than 2 years. The Department of Livestock Development (DLD) had considered information provided by the USDA and from other public sources and concluded that:

1. Resume importation of poultry and poultry products from the States of California, North Carolina and Missouri.
2. Animal health certificate that contain this statement " I hereby declare that the goods are derived from origin of animals which is free from Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease "

With my warmest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Chaveewan Lamsujak
Deputy Director General
Department of Livestock Development
104 Phaya Thai Road

End of Report.