



Directorate Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development  
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**Reference:** 13/1/1/19/2/1/11 and 13/1/1/18/2/1/11

## ATTENTION ALL IMPORTERS

### IMPORTATION RESTRICTION NOTICE:

### **RE: IMPORTATION OF LIVE POULTRY, MEAT AND OTHER POULTRY PRODUCTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS TO SOUTH AFRICA: HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN THE NETHERLANDS**

Dear Importer,

An outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has occurred in the Netherlands according to the WOA report IN\_170438 dated 18 November 2024.

It is our policy not to import any poultry or products thereof from countries where Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza occurs in poultry.

The Directorate Animal Health of South Africa is therefore placing trade restrictions on the import of live poultry, meat and other products derived from poultry from the **Netherlands** into South Africa. In terms of the trade restrictions the following products are banned from entering South Africa:

1. Live poultry
2. Eggs
3. Fresh (including frozen) poultry meat

**The trade restrictions exclude day-old chicks from Avian influenza-free compartments.**

No new veterinary import permits will be issued for any products mentioned under points 1-3. Unused permits will be cancelled and importers have to return those permits.

Heat processed poultry products for which the importer has obtained a valid veterinary import permit are exempted from this ban.



**The following cut-off dates will be applied:**

Consignments containing products packed in their final packaging\* **03 NOVEMBER, 2024** from the **Netherlands**, will be rejected and returned to the **Netherlands** or destroyed at the cost of the importer. This is the cut-off date because the WOAHA report IN\_170438 indicates the “start date” of the HPAI event as **17 NOVEMBER 2024**. This is because the incubation period of Avian Influenza is 14 days according to the WOAHA Terrestrial Animal Health Code.


Please note that a reefer container will be regarded as a consignment, and will be handled as an entity. We will not allow cartons (eg. in the case of poultry meat) to be sorted according to date of production.

AND

Consignments accompanied by veterinary health certificates with an official signature dated after 18 November 2024 will be rejected and returned to the Netherlands or destroyed at the cost of the importer. This is because the official would not have been able to certify country freedom of HPAI after the Netherlands reported the outbreak.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards

  
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**DR MPHOMAJA**  
**DIRECTOR ANIMAL HEALTH**  
**DATE: 11 December 2024**

\* Final packaging means cartons permanently closed and labelled with facility identification, slaughter date and final packing date. This excludes repacked product.

