

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Namibia Issues New Requirements for Animal Products In-Transit

Country: South Africa - Republic of

Post: Pretoria

Report Category: Agricultural Situation, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

The Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform appears to have issued a circular with new import and transshipment requirement for animal and animal products into and through Namibia that states that importers must obtain a Namibian Veterinary Import Permit or Namibian Veterinary Import Permit for Conveyance In-Transit for commodities aimed for use in Namibia or in-transit. These new requirements were announced on December 6th with an implementation and enforcement beginning the following day. These new requirements have been shared with local importers but have not been officially communicated to FAS/Pretoria. Post has reached out to confirm the authenticity of the documents and seek clarification, including whether Namibia plans to notify the WTO. The Walvis Bay port in Namibia is an important entry point for U.S. poultry that is destined to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2021 the DRC imported 33,536 tons of U.S. poultry meat and products valued at US\$35 million.

Background

The Namibian Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land reform issued a circular with new import and transshipment requirement for animal and animal products into and through Namibia. The unofficial copy of the circular received by FAS/Pretoria states that prior to importation, importers must obtain a Namibian Veterinary Import Permit or a Veterinary Import Permit for Conveyance In-Transit, for commodities aimed for use in Namibia or In-transit. This import permit must be certified by Official Veterinarians in exporting countries and accompany consignment to Namibia.

The Ministry issued an announcement on the new requirement on December 6, 2022, with implementation date on December 7, 2022. The circular further states that consignment destined to Namibia for importation or In-Transit departing from December 7, 2022, onwards, needs to comply with the new regulation, otherwise entry will be denied.

Impact

Should the Namibian government continue with the implementation of the new procedures, it may affect trade to the Southern African region. Walvis Bay is increasingly viewed as an alternative to the ports in Durban and Dar es Salaam for access to landlocked countries in the region. While limited volumes of U.S. animal products are destined for Namibia, it is an important transshipment point for U.S. poultry that is destined to the DRC. In 2021 the DRC imported 33,536 tons of U.S. poultry meat and products valued at US\$35 Million. Product entering through Namibia also moves to other countries in the region, including South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.

With advancing road systems and rail networks, industry has noted growing interest and opportunity for using Namibia as a transit point. However, this new requirement could complicate existing trade flows and slow the movement of animal products into the region as the procedures are not yet understood.

Consignments that left an exporting country before December 7, 2022, should not be affected by the new requirements. However, new shipments are likely to be impacted. FAS/ Pretoria reached out to the Directorate of Veterinary Services, Department of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform, for further information but has not received a response to date. As USDA cannot yet advise on the appropriate procedure for issuing the required documentation, exporters are encouraged to work closely importers on alternative options for consignments into or through Namibia. FAS/Pretoria will provide further GAIN reporting once clarification has been received.

Attachments:

[NAMIBIA - CIRCULAR V15 of 2022.pdf](#)

[NAMIBIA - VET. PUBLIC NOTICE Vet. Public Notice No. 16 of 2022.pdf](#)