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Turkey

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Turkey Notifies Draft Regulation on Transshipment of Animal Product

Report Categories:

Policy and Program Announcements

Agricultural Situation

Livestock and Products

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and
Standards - Narrative

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Report Highlights:

On March 4, 2015, Turkey published a draft communique (tebliğ) to harmonize with the European Union Commission Implementing Decision 2011/215/EU on the regulatory control for the transshipment of animal products. The government of Turkey (GOT) notified the communique to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on March 9, 2015, as G/SPS/N/TUR/56. The GOT will accept public comments until May 8, 2015.

General Information:

Turkey published a draft communique to harmonize with the EU Commission Decision 2011/2015/EU on the rules regarding the transshipment of animal products at the veterinary border inspection post.

This communique applies to shipments of animal products that will be transferred from vessel to vessel or from aircraft to aircraft within the same port or airport. The draft was published on March 4, 2015, and the Government of Turkey is accepting public comments to the draft until May 8, 2015. The GOT notified the communique to the WTO on March 9, 2015, as G/SPS/N/TUR/56.

The communique's proposed date of adoption is June 30, 2015, and the proposed date of entry into force is June 30, 2016.

The purpose of the legislation is to determine the rules for animal products that are intended for import and transit to the other countries. The legislation defines minimum and maximum durations for animal products to remain in Turkey for transit before they are treated as an import. The legislation also determines "the person responsible for the load" is determined (as defined in 97/78/EC), who shall notify the veterinary border inspection post of the transshipment's arrival by a means of communication determined by the border post. The notification shall include;

- The estimated date and time for the unloading of the consignment;
- The final border inspection post (when the consignment is intended for import);
- The final country of destination (when the consignment is intended for transshipment);
- The location of the consignment within the customs area; and
- The estimated date and time for loading the consignment on the conveyance (airplane, vessel, etc.) for transshipment.

The legislation requires consignments to be held at the veterinary border inspection post prior to transshipment for 12 hours for air traffic, or 7 days for sea traffic. The maximum duration a transshipment may remain in Turkey without being treated as an import is 48 hours for airports and 20 days for the sea ports. All consignments shall be subjected to the documentary check. If there is any suspicion, the consignment shall be subjected to identity and physical checks.

The person responsible for the consignment shall inform the veterinary border inspection post if the consignment is to be transshipped within the same customs area of the port or airport; from an aircraft to another aircraft; or from one vessel to another vessel, directly or within the minimum time limit.

However, if the veterinary border inspection post has any suspicion, the consignment shall be subject to documentary checks. The minimum duration that a consignment must remain at the port prior for a transshipment is 12 hours for airports and 7 days for sea ports. The 7 days duration at the sea ports can be extended to 14 days if:

- The products are not to be transshipped a second time within the country;
- The products are to be transferred from one vessel to another within the same customs area of the port.

If the consignment exceeds the maximum duration, the consignment shall be subject to identity and physical inspection.

