

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Vietnam Publishes Circular Amending and Supplementing Existing Regulations Concerning the Quarantine of Terrestrial Animals and their Products

Country: Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Dairy and Products

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Report Highlights:

This report provides an unofficial translation of Vietnam’s Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) Circular 04/2024 dated April 1, 2024. This Circular amends and supplements existing Circulars concerning the quarantine of terrestrial animals and their products, and it will enter into force on May 16, 2024. Key amendments encompass testing for Salmonella spp. and E. coli O157:H7 in animal products, additional tests for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease virus in bird and poultry products, a new process for testing and sampling during quarantine inspection of animal product shipments, elimination of quarantine and quality inspection provisions for animal feed and aqua feed of animal origin before customs clearance, and updated provisions on ruminant DNA testing and inspection of animal-derived meal for feed production to mitigate Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk.

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY

Summary

In a previous report (GAIN report [VM2024-0002](#)), Post emphasized significant proposed changes to the currently effective Circulars pertaining to terrestrial animal quarantine. After recent public consultations on the draft Circular and despite pressure from Post and other trading partners to reconsider *Salmonella* and generic *E.coli* testing requirements; and align with international standards, guidelines, and recommendations; MARD has opted to retain *Salmonella* testing. Additionally, MARD will conduct testing for a specific pathogenic strain, *E.coli* O157:H7 for animal products. Please be aware that Vietnam's National Technical Regulation 8-3:2012/BYT stipulates a zero--tolerance policy for *Salmonella* in meat and poultry products and this policy is still in effect. According to MARD, the inclusion of *Salmonella* and *E.coli* testing requirements in the Circular is a response to the local livestock industry's request for uniform control measures to be applied to both imported and domestic meat and poultry products.

On April 1, 2024, MARD issued Circular 04/2024 amending and supplementing Circular No. 25/2016 (as amended and supplemented by Circular No. 35/2018 and Circular No. 09/2022) related to the quarantine of terrestrial animals and animal products. Vietnam notified a draft version of this Circular to the World Trade Organization (WTO) through the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) on January 30, 2024, as G/SPS/N/VNM/153. However, the Circular was not officially published by Vietnam until April 25, 2024. Circular 04 will go into effect on May 16, 2024. This report provides an UNOFFICIAL translation of the Circular.

Below are notable amendments and supplements to the existing terrestrial animal quarantine related Circulars.

- Imported frozen/chilled/ preliminarily processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of animals in the high-risk category being buffaloes, cows, goats, sheep, deer, swine, poultry and birds will be subject to testing for *Salmonella* spp. and *E. coli* O157:H7. Post has been informed of industry concerns over Vietnam's stringent *Salmonella* spp. testing requirements in meat and poultry products, as well as U.S. regulatory authorities' concern with testing for *E. coli* O157:H7 in raw, intact beef meat products and raw non-beef meat products;
- Unprocessed bird's nests shall be subject to testing for Newcastle disease virus while fresh poultry eggs shall be subject to testing requirements for HPAI and Newcastle disease virus; (as specified in Article 2, Clause 17 of Circular 04);

Please see further details in the table below with changes marked in red (bolded) by Post for ease of reference.

- Added processes for testing and sampling to facilitate quarantine inspection of shipments containing terrestrial animal products (see details in Appendix XIV of Circular 04);
- Removal of the provision on quarantine inspection and quality inspection of animal feed and aqua feed of animal origin prior to customs clearance.
- Updated provisions on the ruminant DNA testing requirements as follows: based on the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) disease situation in the exporting country and in accordance with the Resolutions of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH/OIE) regarding recognition

of animal disease status of the exporting country, the Department of Animal Health (DAH) shall provide guidance on inspecting and testing for ruminant DNA in animal derived meal imported to produce animal feed (see Article 2 Clause 18 of Circular 04).

	Product Type	Pathogens subject to testing
I. High-risk category	1. Frozen/chilled/preliminarily processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of bovine cattle, goats, sheep, deer .	Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD), Brucellosis, Salmonella spp., E.coli (O157:H7)
	2. Frozen/chilled/preliminarily processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of swine.	FMD, African Swine Fever (ASF); Salmonella spp., E.coli (O157:H7)
	3. Frozen/chilled/preliminarily processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of poultry and birds.	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Newcastle disease; Salmonella spp., E.coli (O157:H7)
	4. Frozen/chilled/preliminarily processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of other animals that are not specified at ordinal numbers of 1, 2, and 3 of the high-risk category.	Quarantine criteria according to the agreement between Vietnam and the exporting country
	5. Raw milk.	FMD, Brucellosis
	6. Fresh poultry eggs.	HPAI, Newcastle disease; <i>Salmonella</i> spp.
	7. Unprocessed bird's nest.	HPAI, Newcastle disease
II. Low-risk category	1. Processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of bovine cattle, goats, sheep.	FMD
	2. Processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of swine.	FMD, ASF
	3. Processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of poultry and birds.	HPAI, Newcastle disease
	4. Processed meat, offal, byproducts, and meat products of other animals that are not specified at ordinal numbers of 1, 2, and 3 of the low-risk category.	Quarantine criteria as per the agreement between Vietnam and the exporting country
	5. Processed milk and milk products.	<i>Salmonella</i> spp.
	6. Processed eggs and egg products.	<i>Salmonella</i> spp.

Post notes that industry may have some implementation concerns regarding stringent testing which could potentially result in increased time and costs. Post continues to monitor the implementation of this Circular and recommends that relevant stakeholders undertake their own review of the Circular. Should U.S. exporters have any questions regarding this Circular, please contact aghamoi@usda.gov

The full text of the Circular in Vietnamese is available at:
<https://datafiles.chinhphu.vn/cpp/files/vbpq/2024/4/04-bnnptnt.signed.pdf>

Attachments:

[Unofficial translation of Circular 04 2024 TT-BNNPTNT EN.doc](#)