

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Vietnam Releases Draft Circular Proposing Amendments to Existing Circulars Related to the Quarantine of Terrestrial Animals and Terrestrial Animal Products

Country: Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On January 30, 2024, Vietnam notified a draft Circular concerning the quarantine of terrestrial animals and their products to the World Trade Organization (WTO). The comment deadline is February 23, 2024. Notable amendments include testing for *Salmonella* spp. and *E. coli* in imported livestock products, additional tests for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Newcastle disease virus in poultry products, new process for testing and sampling during quarantine inspection of animal product shipments, removal of quarantine and quality inspection provision for animal feed and aqua feed of animal origin prior to customs clearance, and updated ruminant DNA testing requirements for animal protein meal. This report provides an UNOFFICIAL translation of the draft Circular.

Summary

On January 30, 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) officially informed the WTO about a draft Circular regarding amendments to existing Circulars on the quarantine of terrestrial animals and terrestrial animal products, as outlined in document G/SPS/N/VNM/153. This notification presents an opportunity for Vietnam's trading partners and stakeholders to provide feedback and comments on the proposed draft. It is important to note that the comment period will only be open for 23 days from the date of notification, with the deadline for submitting public comments set for February 23, 2024. MARD aims to publish the revised Circular on March 1, 2024, and intends for it to come into effect on May 15, 2024. This report provides an UNOFFICIAL translation of the draft Circular.

The notified draft Circular encompasses several noteworthy amendments, including:

- Imported frozen/chilled/preprocessed meat and poultry products intended for human consumption will be subject to testing for Salmonella spp. and E. Coli. 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. As per the drafting agency (MARD/Department of Animal Health), the inclusion of Salmonella and E. Coli testing requirements in the draft 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.
- Additional testing requirements for HPAI and Newcastle disease virus for fresh poultry eggs and unprocessed bird nests.
- Incorporating the authority of the Department of Animal Health (DAH) to determine whether or not testing for ruminant DNA in animal protein meal imported as animal feed ingredients. This testing will be based on the BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) status in exporting countries, in accordance with the Resolutions of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH/OIE).
- Added procedure for testing and sampling to facilitate quarantine inspection of shipments containing terrestrial animal products.
- Removal of the provision on quarantine inspection and quality inspection of animal feed and aqua feed of animal origin prior to customs clearance.

The draft Circular proposing amendments to existing Circulars on the quarantine of terrestrial animals and their products (in Vietnamese) can be assessed here

<http://www.spsvietnam.gov.vn/Data/File/Notice/8905/Draft%20of%20Circular%20on%20regulation%20of%20quarantine%20of%20terrestrial%20animals.pdf>

Post will continue to monitor the progress of the draft Circular and recommends that relevant stakeholders undertake their own review of the document. If exporters have inquiries regarding the draft Circular, please reach out to aghanoi@fas.usda.gov.

Attachments:

[UNOFFICIAL Translation of the Draft Circular -VNM153.doc](#)