

Animal Health Requirements for poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the Republic of Bulgaria

Animal Health Requirements for poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as “the exported poultry meat etc.”) are applied as follows.

(Definitions)

“Poultry”

means chicken, quail, pheasant, emu, ostrich, guinea fowl, turkey and birds classified into order Anseriformes (such as duck and goose).

“Poultry meat etc.”

means meat, bone, fat, blood, skin, tendon and viscera of poultry and their products.

“Highly pathogenic avian influenza (referred to as HPAI)”

means infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of high pathogenicity as defined in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

“Low pathogenic avian influenza (referred to as LPAI)”

means infection of poultry caused by an avian influenza virus of H5 and H7 subtypes other than HPAI virus.

“Notifiable Avian Influenza (referred to as NAI)”

means HPAI and LPAI as defined above.

“Fowl cholera”

means infection of poultry caused by a bacterium, *Pasteurella multocida* with acute septicemia.

“Outbreak”

means identification of the pathogens of the disease, detection of specific antigens of the pathogens of the disease, detection of specific ribonucleic acid of the pathogens of the disease in domestic poultry. In addition, in case of NAI, detection of antibodies is also regarded as an outbreak unless it is found to be a seropositive case.

“Seropositive case”

means the case from which only the specific antibodies of NAI was detected without clinical symptoms and an immediate epidemiological investigation as well as all the necessary laboratory tests to rule out an outbreak (the test to isolate the pathogen, the test to detect the specific antigens and the specific antibodies.) are conducted, and either

- (a) the result is pending; or
- (b) it is confirmed that the outbreak is ruled out.

“Country of origin”

means country or area where raw materials of the exported poultry meat etc. were produced.

Country of origin must be on the list of the countries and areas which are recognized as free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) by the Japanese animal health authority (hereinafter referred to as “the third free countries”). Please refer to the latest list of the third free countries from the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

“Infected area”

(1) Regarding HPAI

means a region (the first administrative unit of the Republic of Bulgaria) where an outbreak of HPAI is confirmed and a region where the protection zone established based on the EU directive 2005/94/EC reaches. Those regions are regarded as infected areas until the Japanese animal health authority confirms that the regions are free from HPAI even after the protection zone is lifted.

(2) Regarding LPAI

means a region where an outbreak of LPAI is confirmed. The region is regarded as an infected area until the Japanese animal health authority confirms that the regions are free from LPAI.

“Restricted area”

means a region where the surveillance and/or restricted zone established based on the EU directive 2005/94/EC due to an outbreak of HPAI reaches.

“Seropositive area”

means a region where a seropositive case was detected.

“Free area”

means regions in the Republic of Bulgaria other than infected area, restricted area and seropositive area and countries and areas included in the third free countries.

“The Japanese animal health authority”

means Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of the Japanese Government.

“The competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria”

means the Bulgarian Food Safety Agency

1. General requirements

(1) NAI and Newcastle Disease must be designated as notifiable diseases in the Republic of Bulgaria.

(2) In case an outbreak or a suspicious outbreak is detected, that must be notified to the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria without delay.

2. Requirements regarding NAI

(1) If an outbreak of NAI is detected or the specific antibody of NAI is detected, the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authority and suspend the export of poultry meat etc. to Japan.

(2) The surveillance program for NAI based on the OIE Code is implemented by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria.

- (3) Vaccination against NAI is prohibited in the Republic of Bulgaria, except for the vaccination of rare birds in zoos under official supervision of the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria.

3. Requirements regarding origin of poultry

- (1) The poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. must be kept and raised in an area (at least in the radius of 50 km from the premises of origin) where there has been free from Newcastle Disease for at least 90 days before slaughter or since the hatching of the poultry.
- (2) There have been no clinical cases of Fowl Cholera and outbreak of other important poultry diseases, designated by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria as notifiable diseases, in the premises of origin of the poultry, from which the exported poultry meat etc. originates for at least 90 days before slaughter or since the hatching of the poultry.

4. Requirements regarding HPAI

- (1) The Republic of Bulgaria has been free from HPAI for at least 90 days before the day of shipment of the exported poultry meat etc.
- (2) However, in case the following a), b), c) and d) are confirmed by the Japanese animal health authority based on the information provided by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria, the exportation of poultry meat that are derived from the free area and satisfy the following e) and f) is possible despite the HPAI outbreak in the Republic of Bulgaria.

This provision is not applied in case the Japanese animal health authority assesses that the HPAI outbreak in the Republic of Bulgaria spreads between farms and expands to the neighboring regions of the infected area.

- a) The outbreak was detected without delay by early notification from the affected farm or surveillance;
- b) Appropriate containment measures including movement restriction, stamping out and disinfection are fully implemented at the affected farm;
- c) Epidemiologically related premises of the affected farm have been identified and appropriate control measures such as movement restriction on the premises and establishment of protection and surveillance zones around the premises are implemented. In case an outbreak of NAI is detected at the epidemiologically related premises, the region where the premises are located becomes an infected area;
- d) The protection and surveillance zone (plus restricted zone if any) around the affected farm are established based on the contingency plan against NAI outbreak in the Republic of Bulgaria. Appropriate containment measures such as movement restriction and surveillance for NAI for farms within the zones are implemented;
- e) The live poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. originates from free areas and has been transported into the poultry slaughtering facilities only via free areas;
- or
- If they pass through the infected areas before being carried into slaughterhouses, appropriate vehicles in terms of animal health which do not allow contamination of pathogens of poultry infectious diseases during the transport must be used. In

addition, the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria must ensure that the poultry were directly sent from the origin of them to the slaughterhouses in the vehicle which was not opened on the way.

- f) Before the shipment to Japan, the exported poultry meat etc. were stored in clean and secure wrapping or container and transported in a safe and sanitary manner from the animal health point of view, in order to avoid the contamination with any pathogens of animal infectious diseases.
- (3) The exportation of poultry meat etc. derived from the restricted area can be resumed when the Japanese animal health authority confirms that 90 days have passed since the completion of cleaning and disinfection at the affected farm around which the surveillance and/or restricted zone that caused the restricted area was established.

5. Requirements regarding LPAI

- (1) The Republic of Bulgaria has been free from LPAI for at least 90 days before the day of shipment of the exported poultry meat etc.
- (2) However, in case the following a), b), c) and d) are confirmed by the Japanese animal health authority based on the information provided by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria, the exportation of poultry meat that are derived from the free area and satisfy the following e) and f) is possible despite the LPAI outbreak in the Republic of Bulgaria.
 - a) The outbreak was detected without delay by early notification from the affected farm or surveillance;
 - b) Appropriate containment measures including movement restriction, stamping out and disinfection are fully implemented at the affected farm;
 - c) Epidemiologically related premises of the affected farm have been identified and appropriate control measures such as movement restriction on the premises and establishment of restricted areas around the premises are implemented. In case an outbreak of NAI is detected at the epidemiologically related premises, the region where the premises are located becomes an infected area;
 - d) The restricted area in accordance with the EU directive 2005/94/EC around the affected farm is established based on the contingency plan against NAI outbreak in the Republic of Bulgaria. Appropriate containment measures such as movement restriction and surveillance for NAI for farms within the areas are implemented;
 - e) The live poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. originates from free areas and has been transported into the poultry slaughtering facilities only via free areas;
or
If they pass through the infected areas before being carried into slaughterhouses, appropriate vehicles in terms of animal health which do not allow contamination of pathogens of poultry infectious diseases during the transport must be used. In addition, the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria must ensure that the poultry were directly sent from the origin of them to the slaughterhouses in the vehicle which was not opened on the way.
 - f) Before the shipment to Japan, the exported poultry meat etc. were stored in clean and secure wrapping or container and transported in a safe and sanitary manner from the animal health point of view, in order to avoid the contamination with any pathogens of animal infectious diseases.

6. Requirements regarding seropositive case

- (1) If the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria confirms a seropositive case, the date of confirmation and the seropositive area where the seropositive case was identified must be notified to the Japanese animal health authority immediately.
- (2) The Japanese animal health authority may suspend the import of the exported poultry meat etc. from a seropositive area when they recognize the confirmation of the seropositive case in the Republic of Bulgaria.
- (3) The exportation of poultry meat etc. derived from the seropositive area can be resumed when the Japanese animal health authority confirms that 90 days have passed since the confirmation of the seropositive case or sooner if the Japanese animal health authority admits after consultation with the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria that an adequate epidemiological investigation has shown that the detection was only of isolated seropositive antibodies and not an active infection of avian influenza.

7. Requirements regarding the establishments for production

- (1) The establishments for production of the exported poultry meat etc. (including slaughtering, processing and storage facilities. Hereinafter referred to as "the establishments") must be authorized by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria as the ones where sanitary inspections are conducted periodically by the government veterinary inspector or the animal health inspector appointed by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria (hereinafter referred to as "the inspector").
- (2) The competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria must notify the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address and registration number of the establishments prior to the exportation from the establishments to Japan.
- (3) The Japanese animal health authority may conduct on-site inspections of the establishments, if necessary. When the Japanese animal health authority recognizes that the inspected establishment does not meet the requirements stipulated in this document, the shipment of the poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan from the said establishment may be suspended.

8. Requirements for processing

- (1) The poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. must be confirmed free from any poultry infectious diseases as a consequence of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by the inspector.
- (2) The exported poultry meat etc. must be handled and stored in such a way as to prevent contamination with pathogens of any animal infectious disease prior to shipment to Japan.
- (3) The exported poultry meat etc. must be packed in safe and hygienic materials and the packed meat etc. must be contained in clean container boxes, with the name and the approval number of the processing plant on the surface of the boxes.

9. Requirements for transportation

- (1) The exported poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be transported directly to Japan, or
- (2) The poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be transported to Japan through the third countries in a hermetic container sealed by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria with a seal that can be obviously differentiated from that of the third countries.

10. Inspection Certificate

The competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria must issue inspection certificate for all the exported poultry meat etc., stating the following items in detail in English:

- (1) Statements regarding 1-(1), 2-(2), 2-(3), 3, 4-(1) or (2), 5-(1) or (2), 7-(1) and 8-(1) and 8-(2);
- (2) Country of origin
- (3) Region of origin of poultry used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc.
- (4) Name, address and registration number of slaughterhouse, processing plant and storage facility.
- (5) Date of slaughter, cutting, processing and packing.
- (6) Name of the port of shipment.
- (7) Date and place of issuance of the inspection certificate, and name and official title of the signer
- (8) Seal number (if sealed)

In case the Republic of Bulgaria is not the country of origin of the exported poultry meat etc., an original or a copy of inspection certificate satisfying all the conditions mentioned above, issued by the government authority of the country of origin, must be attached to the inspection certificate issued by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria. When the live poultry or raw material (poultry meat) used for the production of the exported poultry meat etc. which are directly imported to the Republic of Bulgaria from the EU member states included in the third free countries in accordance with the EU legislation are used, the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria may replace the inspection certificate issued by the government authority of the country of origin by issuing the certificate fulfilling the requirements of Annex1.1 or 1.2.

Annex1

The animal health authorities of the Republic of Bulgaria must be responsible for issuing an additional inspection certificate stating the following items in English:

1. Additional requirements in case that poultry used for the production of poultry meat to be exported to Japan is derived from the EU member states or an area included in the third free countries;
 - (1) Country / Area where the poultry is originated (herein after referred as “the Country/area”)
 - (2) “The country / area” has been free from NAI for at least 90 days before the day of shipment of the poultry to the Republic of Bulgaria.
 - (3) The poultry used for the production of poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be kept and raised in an area (at least in the radius of 50 km from the premises of origin) where there has been free from Newcastle Disease for at least 90 days before the day of shipment of the poultry to the Republic of Bulgaria or since the hatching of the poultry.
 - (4) There have been no clinical cases of Fowl Cholera and outbreak of other important poultry diseases, designated by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria as notifiable diseases, in the premises of origin of the poultry, from which the exported poultry meat etc. originates for at least 90 days before the day of shipment of the poultry to the Republic of Bulgaria or since the hatching of the poultry.
 - (5) The poultry used for the production of poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be confirmed free from any poultry infectious diseases as a consequence of import inspection conducted by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria.
 - (6) The poultry used for the production of poultry meat to be exported to Japan must be transported from the premises of origin in “the country/area” to the destination premises in the Republic of Bulgaria only via NAI free areas (the third free countries) in “the country/area” and the Republic of Bulgaria.
Or
If they pass through the infected areas from the premises of origin in “the country/area” to the destination premises in the Republic of Bulgaria, they must be transported by appropriate vehicles in terms of animal health which do not allow contamination of pathogens of any avian infectious diseases. The competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria must ensure that the poultry were directly transported from the premises of origin the destination premises in the vehicle which was not opened on the way.
2. Additional requirements in case that raw material (poultry meat) used for the production of poultry meat to be exported to Japan is derived from the EU member states or an area included in the third free countries;
 - (1) Country / Area of origin
 - (2) The country / area of origin has been free from NAI for at least 90 days before the day of shipment of the raw material to be exported to the Republic of Bulgaria.
 - (3) The poultry used for the production of the raw material of poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be kept and raised in an area (at least in the radius of 50 km from the premises of origin) where there has been free from Newcastle Disease for at least 90 days before slaughter or since the hatching of the poultry.

- (4) There have been no clinical cases of Fowl Cholera and outbreak of other important poultry diseases, designated by the competent authority of the Republic of Bulgaria as notifiable diseases, in the premises of origin of the poultry, from which the raw material of poultry meat etc. originates for at least 90 days before slaughter or since the hatching of the poultry.
- (5) The establishments for production have to be authorized by the government authorities of the country of origin, in which sanitary inspections are usually conducted for processed poultry by a government inspector of country of origin or an animal health inspector appointed by the government authorities of country of origin and for which sanitary measures are taken.
- (6) The poultry used for the production of raw material for poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan must be confirmed free from any poultry infectious diseases as a consequence of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by the inspector of the country of origin.

Additional animal health requirements for the meat products using natural casings to be exported to Japan from the Republic of Bulgaria

In case the natural casings are derived from cattle, sheep and goat;

- 1 The casings are derived from animal which was born and raised in the countries other than the countries listed in the link below.

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/bse.html>

- 2 In case the casings for the production of meat products to be exported are originated in the EU, it has to be confirmed that the casings are derived from animals which were free from any animal infectious diseases as a consequence of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by official inspectors of national government of EU member states.

In case the casings for the production of meat products to be exported are imported from outside the EU, the casings must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the official inspectors of national government of EU member states or confirmation of the health certificates issued by the originating government.

- 3 Casings have been handled only at the facilities approved (hereinafter referred to as “approved casing facilities”) by the national government of the Republic of Bulgaria as the ones which handle only casings prescribed in item 1 and 2. (In case the casings are imported from the third countries, this provision must apply to the meat processing facilities in the exporting countries.)

- 4 The animal health authorities of the Republic of Bulgaria must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, address, registration number of the approved casing facilities in advance.

- 5 The animal health authorities of the Republic of Bulgaria must issue inspection certificates for the meat products using casings to be exported to Japan, stating the following items in English:

1) Item 1 and 2

2) The kind of casings (natural), country of origin (The country where the animal used for the production of casings were born and raised) and animal species of origin

3) Name, address and registration number of approved casing facilities

In case the natural casings derived from pig;

- 1 In case the casings for the production of exported meat products are originated in the EU, it has to be confirmed that the casings are derived from animals which were free from any animal infectious diseases as a consequence of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by official inspectors of national government of EU member states.

In case the casings for the production of exported meat products are imported from outside the EU, the casings must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the official inspectors of national government of EU member states or confirmation of the health certificates issued by the originating government.

- 2 The animal health authorities of the Republic of Bulgaria must issue inspection certificates for the exported meat products using casings to Japan, stating the following items in English:
 - 1) Item 1
 - 2) The kind of casings (natural), country of origin (The country where the animal used for the production of casings were born and raised)