



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Directorate Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
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**Reference:** 13/1/1/19/2/1/12

## **ATTENTION ALL IMPORTERS,**

### **IMPORTATION RESTRICTION NOTICE**

#### **RE: IMPORTATION OF LIVE POULTRY, BIRDS, MEAT AND OTHER PRODUCTS FROM BELGIUM TO SOUTH AFRICA: HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA OUTBREAK IN BELGIUM**

A Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak has occurred in poultry in Belgium (OIE Alert Notice dated 19 June 2017)

It is our policy not to import any poultry / birds or products thereof from countries where Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza occurs in domestic poultry.

The Directorate Animal Health of South Africa has decided to put trade restrictions in place on the import of live poultry, birds, meat and other products derived from poultry and birds from Belgium into South Africa. In terms of the trade restrictions the following products are banned from entering South Africa:

1. Live poultry, pigeons and other birds
2. Eggs (excluding SPF eggs)
3. Fresh (including frozen) poultry meat

No new veterinary import permits will be issued for any products mentioned under points 1-3. Unused permits will be cancelled and importers have to return those permits.

Heat processed poultry products for which the importer has obtained a valid veterinary import permit are exempted from this ban.

In case of **pet** birds, the importer may apply for an exemption from the ban to the Director: Animal Health. Such applications will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**The following cut-off dates will be applied:**

A. Consignments containing products packed in their final packaging\* on or after 21 May 2017, will be rejected and returned to Belgium or destroyed at the cost of the importer.

This is because the OIE alert of 19 June 2017 reports the "start date" of the event as 10 June 2017 and the incubation period of AI is 21 days according to the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

AND


B. Consignments accompanied by veterinary health certificates with an official signature dated *after* the 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (the date of the OIE Alert) will be rejected and returned to Belgium or destroyed at the cost of the importer.

This is because the official would not have been able to certify country freedom of Belgium after Belgium had notified the OIE of the outbreak.

Please note that a reefer container will be regarded as a consignment, and will be handled as an entity. We will not allow cartons (eg. in the case of poultry meat) to be sorted according to date of production.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Kind regards

  
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**DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH**  
Date: 2017-06-20

\* Final packaging means cartons permanently closed and labelled with facility identification, slaughter date and final packing date. This excludes repacked product.