

IDFL NEWS FLASH No. 31 (4 February 2004 - 9:30 pm)

AVIAN FLU and DOWN & FEATHER PRODUCTS (Update No. 2)

Rumors continue swirling around the down and feather industry about the impact of avian flu.

1. Have Asian down & feather products been banned by the USA government?

There is **NO** official confirmation from any USA agency of a general ban. However, APHIS (Animal Plant Health Inspection Services) of USDA has indicated that any down and feather products must be "sterilized" before arriving in the USA. Raw products must be "pre-washed" or "pre-dusted" using acceptable sterilization methods. Bulk washed down must have been processed according the Pennsylvania sterilization methods. A NCIE permit to import the down and feathers might be required. This permit form will certify the method of sterilization.

Finished products should have a valid Pennsylvania Sterilization Permit Number for the plant which processed the down. Contact IDFL or CIQ Xiaoshan if you do not yet have this permit.

2. What is the status on the China hold for export of down & feather products?

Since 30 January 2004 the national government has instructed 2-3 provinces per day to place a temporary hold on exports of down and feather products. Zhejiang province (the largest exporter of down and feather products) received instructions on 2 February 2004 to temporarily ban exports.

The following 10 provinces have suspected or confirmed avian flu: Anhui, Guangdong, Guangxi, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Shanghai, Xinjiang, Yunnan and Zhejiang. The flu has now been reported in 300 geese in Zhejiang.

SOME GOOD NEWS !!!!

After careful communication in Beijing, the AQSIQ (Beijing headquarters of CIQ) has agreed to restart export of washed down products and finished goods. (UNWASHED down and feathers are still banned from export.) A new document will be issued in a few days after negotiation with China Customs Agency.

3. What is the status of the EU ban on Asia imports of feather & down products?

As of 3 February 2004 at 6:00 pm some imports of down and feather products into EU countries are stopped. EDFA has stated that the focus is on raw material. Bulk washed down requires a veterinary certificate and no mention is made of finished goods. The exact details of the embargo are not available until the document is translated into all European languages.

4. Will the avian flu crisis affect down and feather prices?

YES, prices appear to be increasing in the short term as a result of both fear and manipulative action. This could be aggravated if large numbers of Asian flocks are slaughtered for preventative reasons or if governments act impulsively and recklessly in either banning imports or exports.

5. Can avian flu be transmitted via down and feather products?

NO, please see document "**Safety and Cleanliness of Down and Feather Products.**"

Chinese sources and WHO report that high temperatures can kill the virus. (A few minutes at 70° C.)

European virologists agree that the standard feather sterilization at 120°C for 30 minutes will destroy any virus (verbal response from medical labs in both Germany and Switzerland). Some experts are also stating that the long transport of washed goods would never allow the virus to survive even at normal temperatures.

International Down and Feather Testing Laboratory and Institute (IDFL) www.idfl.com

IDFL MAIN OFFICE

1455 South 1100 East
Salt Lake City, UTAH 84105 USA

Tel: 001 801 467 7611

Fax: 001 801 467 7711

email: info@idfl.com

IDFL EUROPE

Kaesereistr. 17
CH-8505 Pfyn SWITZERLAND

Tel: 0041 52 765 1574

Fax: 0041 52 770 1574

email: suomax@idfl.com

IDFL/CIQ CHINA

Tonghui Mid-Road 118, Xiaoshan
Hangzhou, Zhejiang 311208 CHINA

Tel: + 86 571 8273 3653

Fax: + 86 571 8273 3654

email: zjfdl@163.net