

IDFL NEWS FLASH No. 32 (5 February 2004 - 10:00 pm)

AVIAN FLU and DOWN & FEATHER PRODUCTS (Update No. 3)

1. USA Bans Import of Birds from Southeast Asia (Sterilized Down & Feathers Exempt from Ban)

In a news release dated Wednesday February 4, 2004, USDA Secretary Ann M. Veneman and HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced a ban on importation of birds from eight Southeast Asian countries.

The ban applies to birds and bird products from the following countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, the People's Republic of China (including Hong Kong), South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. **It excludes bird products processed to render them non-infectious. Processed avian products from the countries must have an import permit and government certification of treatment.**

For complete announcement see —> www.usda.gov/Newsroom/0065.04.html

2. What permits are required?

An import permit is required by the Importer (This is the individual who will receive and be responsible for the imported material.) This form is available on-line:

click here for form —> <https://web01.aphis.usda.gov/VS-PITS3.nsf/PITSAPP?OpenForm>

The 2nd required document is likely the government certification of the sterilization process from the exporting country and/or veterinary certificate (IDFL is still determining the details of this requirement).

3. How does this apply to various product types?

Finished products It is not 100% clear how finished products are viewed by USDA. To be safe an Import Permit should be prepared. All finished products should have a valid Pennsylvania Sterilization Permit Number for the Asian plant which processed the down. This will indicate that down filling have been sterilized. Contact IDFL or CIQ Xiaoshan if you do not yet have this permit.

Bulk washed down An Import Permit should be prepared. If products are “sterilized” according to the Pennsylvania accepted sterilization method, the exporting government should certify this. If alternative sterilization methods are used they must be documented by government certificate.

“Raw” feathers/down Raw products are a problem. Most raw products today are “pre-washed” and/or “pre-dusted”. To be allowed into the USA, raw products must be “processed to render them non-infectious.” This sterilization process must be described and certified in both documents.

4. SOME GOOD NEWS – China restarts export of down & feather products?

See IDFL NEWS FLASH 31 (4 Feb 2004) for details. Click here ----> www.idfl.com

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

We have not seen any official EU document. EDFA has stated that the focus is on raw material. Bulk down requires a veterinary certificate and no mention is made of finished goods. We are waiting for details.

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

YES, prices appear to be increasing. See previous newsletters and the IDFL website —> www.idfl.com
Thank you – Pam and Ron Phipps for adding many articles to our website archive.

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

NO, please see document “**Safety and Cleanliness of Down and Feather Products.**” & previous newsletters

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