

**DVS response on Avian Influenza H7N9 outbreak – temporary suspension on Import of poultry and poultry products including feather/down issue raised by Chinese Taipei  
WTO-SPS Committee Meeting, Geneva 2013**

- DVS would like to reiterate that there is neither ban nor restriction has been imposed on the importation of poultry and poultry products including feather/down from Chinese Taipei. However if shall there be a risk by what ever mean or chance of introducing avian influenza to the country through an importation, DVS will temporarily suspend the import whilst a process of risk assessment is conducting.
- When there is an epidemic of avian influenza H7N9 in China, there are also cases of outbreak of avian influenza such as H7N7, H7N3, H7N2, H7N1, H5N3, H5N2 and H5N1 in other Asian countries and some part of countries throughout the world as reported by the OIE in 2012 to 2013. In view of the risk of introducing avian influenza to the country, DVS had carried out a risk analysis process on the epidemiological patterns of different strain of avian influenza.
- As a pre-emptive measure, a temporary suspension on the importation of poultry and poultry products has been imposed and this applied to all infected or avian influenza risk countries. The consideration of lifting the suspension will be dependent on the least or no risk of introducing avian influenza through the importation activity based on the risk assessment conducted according to type/category of commodity, mitigation process taken to minimize the risk and technical information on disease surveillance and control programme carried out by the country.
- As for the case of importation of feather/down from Chinese Taipei, DVS had recently finalized the risk assessment on the matter and based on technical information and mitigation process as such as sterilization (120 C @ 40 minutes) and fumigation with formaldehyde (22-27 C @ 17 hours), the temporary suspension is now been lifted.

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