



## **AVA LIFTS SUSPENSION OF POULTRY IMPORTS FROM US, NETHERLANDS**

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) will lift the suspension of import of birds and poultry products from the Netherlands and the USA (except for the state of Texas) with effect from 22 June 2004. AVA will also allow the import of ornamental birds from Taiwan to resume.

2 Bird and poultry imports from Taiwan and USA were suspended immediately following the outbreak of Avian Influenza (commonly known as bird flu) in these countries early this year. In the case of the Netherlands, although there was no outbreak of bird flu, poultry import was suspended after the Dutch authorities detected evidence of bird flu virus in their surveillance of the poultry farms.

3 In lifting the suspensions of import from these affected countries, AVA has assessed and is satisfied that they have in place effective surveillance programmes for detecting bird flu as well as effective systems for containing and eradicating any outbreaks. The authorities in these countries have also confirmed that all bird flu outbreaks in their countries except in Texas have since been eradicated, and no further outbreaks have occurred.

4 Singapore imports 103,000 tons of chicken meat a year, mainly from Brazil. In 2003, Singapore imported 17,500 tons of chicken meat from USA and 450 tons of poultry products from the Netherlands. Taiwan exports only ornamental birds to Singapore.

5 AVA assures Singapore residents that the poultry and poultry products sold locally are safe for consumption. AVA has a stringent accreditation and surveillance system to ensure that food brought into Singapore, including poultry and poultry products, is safe. AVA will immediately ban regions affected by bird flu from exporting birds, poultry and poultry products to Singapore.

6 Singapore herself is free from bird flu. AVA has taken all the necessary precautionary measures to prevent the disease from entering Singapore. There are strict controls at points of entry where samples are taken from every imported live bird consignment. The local poultry farms are bio-secured and bird-proofed. There is also close surveillance at the farms. In addition, wild birds present in Singapore are tested, and so far no bird flu virus have been found in these birds.

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