



IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION OF IMPORT OF POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Following reports of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the People's Republic of China (PRC), AVA has instituted an immediate import suspension of poultry and poultry products from the country.

2 Live birds from the PRC are also suspended from import into Singapore with immediate effect.

Canned and processed poultry products

3 Canned and heat processed poultry products are excluded from the suspension as the bird flu affects only live birds. All processed and prepacked food undergoes a heat treatment and pressurised canning process. The heating process destroys disease- and spoilage-causing microorganisms that may be present. These may include bacteria, yeast, mold, viruses and parasites. The sealing process during pressure canning prevents recontamination.

Import and consumption figures

4 In 2003, Singapore imported about 6,900 tonnes of chicken meat and meat products and 1,068 tonnes of duck meat and meat products from the PRC. **This represents only 3.5% of chicken and 7% of duck consumed in Singapore.**

Sources of poultry supply

5 Singapore has multiple sources of poultry supply to ensure that any shortfall in supply due to disease outbreaks can be quickly met. Countries approved to import poultry to Singapore include Brazil, Germany, Malaysia, Netherlands and the USA.

Poultry and poultry products safe for consumption

6 Bird Flu is not known to be transmitted to people through consumption of meat and eggs. AVA would like to reassure the public that poultry and poultry products in Singapore are safe for consumption.

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