



LIFTING THE BAN ON LIVE DUCK IMPORTS FROM PERAK

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) will lift the ban on the import of live ducks from Perak from 1 Jan 2005.

2 AVA has worked closely with Malaysia's Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) to establish two bird flu free zones in Perak, encompassing the major duck production areas. With these bird flu free zones in place, duck imports from Perak can resume without compromising public and animal health. This is similar to the approach adopted for establishing Johore and Malacca as a disease-free zone, for poultry and egg imports from these areas to resume in September 2004.

3 In recent weeks, AVA officers have made several inspection visits to Perak and are satisfied with the control measures implemented by the Malaysian authorities to secure the two disease-free zones in Perak.

4 The control measures that have been implemented include the following:

- (i) DVS ensures that AVA-accredited farms maintain strict biosecurity measures such as disinfection of vehicles, equipment and personnel.
- (ii) Malaysia has set up strict controls at major checkpoints on Perak's border with Thailand and Kelantan to prevent illegal movement of livestock or livestock products.
- (iii) Malaysia is strictly controlling the movement of livestock or livestock products within Perak through permits and disinfection certificates to minimize any possibility of spread of disease.
- (iv) DVS actively conducts intensive surveillance to screen all duck farms within the disease-free zones for bird flu virus.

- (v) Just before export, DVS will carry out surveillance testing for bird flu on each batch of ducks at the AVA-accredited export farms. DVS will also issue export permits and health certificates to certify freedom from disease for each export consignment.

5 In addition to the above measures, AVA officers will inspect and sample the ducks for testing when they arrive at the Tuas Checkpoint and at the slaughterhouses. The many layers of checks will help to minimize the risk of infected consignments entering Singapore undetected.

6 Perak supplied 90% of ducks consumed in Singapore prior to ban. With the lifting of the ban, 36 AVA-accredited duck farms in Perak will be able to export to Singapore. In view of the time needed to complete pre-export bird flu testing at source and for the industry to get organized, the first consignments of ducks from Perak can be expected to arrive in Singapore by 3 Jan 05, at the earliest.

7 The resumption of imports from Perak will only apply to commercial consignments from the accredited farms in the disease-free zones. Members of the public are reminded that the ban on individuals bringing in poultry and poultry products from Malaysia still remains. This is a necessary precautionary measure to ensure that only poultry and poultry products from AVA-accredited sources in the bird flu free zones are allowed to enter Singapore.

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