

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

**Trader Notice MH No. 03/2022**

**To: All operators of DAFM-approved meat establishments**

**Subject: Revised health certificate for exports of frozen poultrymeat and poultrymeat products to Singapore**

The Department has agreed revised certification arrangements for exporting raw frozen poultrymeat, processed and canned poultrymeat products to Singapore.

**Background**

In October and December 2021, the Singaporean authorities imposed temporary restrictions on Irish poultrymeat imports with raw material sourced from various surveillance zones in Counties Cavan and Monaghan following avian influenza (AI) outbreaks in those areas. These import restrictions were lifted with effect from 28.02.2022.<sup>1</sup>

The Singapore Food Agency recently revised its import conditions to better align them with OIE recommendations on international trading standards for meat and meat products. Consequently, the existing poultrymeat export certificate (VHC) has been updated to reflect those changes. It replaces the meat inspection certificate in operation since last year - see Trader Notice MH 10/2021.

**Scope**

The revised meat inspection certificate updates health attestations on AI outbreaks by:

- differentiating between the treatment of and disease notifications for high and low pathogenicity AI;
- providing for zoning solutions in areas with ongoing disease outbreaks;
- specifying a shorter recovery period for regaining disease-free status after an outbreak occurrence;
- allowing the importation of heat-treated product originating from an affected zone. Therefore, the bespoke VHC for heat-treated products announced in TN MH 10/2021 is now redundant; and
- including a further health attestation for exported canned poultrymeat. Retort (canned) processed meat products must be heat-treated to commercial sterility in hermetically-sealed containers and shelf stable at ambient temperatures.

A specimen copy of the updated VHC, which is effective immediately, is published concurrently with this notice.

**Role of food business operator proposing to export poultrymeat to Singapore**

Any enterprise wishing to export poultrymeat or poultrymeat products to Singapore must advise the responsible Department Veterinary Inspector in advance and draw up an SOP showing how the certification criteria for exporting poultrymeat to Singapore will be met.

**Veterinary Health Certificate**

Copies of the new certificates, printed on secure stationery, will be made available to certifying officers on request through the usual channels.

Trader Notices MH 08/2016, MH 08/2018, MH 08/2020 and MH 10/2021 are hereby updated accordingly.

Meat Market Access Section  
[meatmarketaccess@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:meatmarketaccess@agriculture.gov.ie)

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<sup>1</sup> The restricted zones specified were: Castleblayney, Emyvale & Latton in Co. Monaghan and Butler's Bridge in Co. Cavan.