

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice No MH 05/2023

To: All Food Business Operators at Approved Meat Establishments
Subject: Resumption of trade and revisions to Agreement of Composite VHC for Export of Butter Basted Whole Turkeys to the Republic of South Africa

Background

Original agreement was reached with the South African authorities on a composite Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC) for the export of butter basted whole turkeys from Ireland to South Africa in October 2019. The South African authorities have made further revisions to the eligibility of poultry products for export.

Eligibility

Ireland must be currently free from HPAI to export eligible poultry product to South Africa and eligible poultry products will only be accepted where the production date is on or after 21 December 2022.

All turkey meat exports to South Africa must originate from poultry that were hatched and reared in the Republic of Ireland and slaughtered in the Republic of Ireland. The revised agreed VHC **excludes** poultrymeat hatched reared or slaughtered in Northern Ireland. The meat must be handled/cut/packed at an abattoir and cutting plant which has been advised by DAFM to the National Executive Officer of South Africa who approves and lists the plants.

In relation to the dairy aspect of the VHC, the main conditions for the dairy product are unchanged and are as follows:

- The dairy product must be manufactured from cow's milk obtained from holdings under official sanitary control in the Republic of Ireland

AND/OR

- The dairy and/or dairy-based products were legally imported into the exporting country, from a country authorised for Republic of South Africa¹).
- The dairy and/or dairy-based products were processed at an establishment/facility officially approved for export by the Competent Authority of the Republic of Ireland, **AND/OR** the competent authority in a country authorised by Republic of South Africa¹).

- The dairy product must not contain any products derived from animals other than dairy or dairy-based products.

Veterinary Health Certificate

Copies of the VHC will be made available to Veterinary Inspectors at the eligible plants, on request, through the usual channels.

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

Role of Plant Management

If plant management wish to supply the South African market, they must advise the Veterinary Inspector in advance and draw up / amend a Standard Operating Procedure, in consultation with the Veterinary Inspector. The SOP must contain the criteria necessary for certification of the product for South Africa.

This trader notice updates MH 18/2019. Trader notice number MH 08/2020 is also updated in so far as the South African ban on fresh poultrymeat refers.

Meat Market Access
09 May 2023

In relation to dairy / dairy based products

¹. Authorised countries include: Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Canada, USA, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Mozambique, Singapore, Latvia, Saudi Arabia (only UHT milk and milk powder), Kenya, Malaysia, Thailand, Norway, Switzerland, Ukraine and European Union member states (only facilities registered for trade within the Union and complying with all the relevant European Union Directives)