agriculture
Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT **11 JULY 2025**

Resumption of trade in live poultry and poultry products from Brazil following lifting of import restrictions

The Minister of Agriculture, John Steenhuisen, is pleased to announce that following extensive engagements between South African veterinary authorities and those of Brazil, the import restrictions on live poultry and poultry products from Brazil have been lifted with effect from 4 July 2025.

This follows the confirmation that the outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), first detected on 15 May 2025 in a breeder establishment located in the municipality of Montenegro, state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, has been contained and eradicated. The stamping out measures were applied in accordance with the relevant standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**,** and the affected premises were depopulated and disinfected. The 28-day waiting period after stamping out was observed, with the self-declaration of freedom effective from 18 June 2025**.**

On 4 July 2025, the South African veterinary authority held a bilateral technical meeting with the Brazilian veterinary authority. During this meeting, an agreement was reached on the revised Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC)**,** confirming that Brazil is free of HPAI. Consequently, importers were officially informed, and Veterinary Import Permits (VIPs) were issued from the day of communication. “The positive outcome is a direct result of the dedicated efforts of our officials. With this resolution, imports can resume, which will significantly contribute to enhancing food security for all citizens,” Minister Steenhuisen said.

It needs to be noted that, as a precautionary measure, products packed in their final packaging between 1 May and 18 June 2025 temporarily remain restricted from entry. This is in line with risk mitigation standards to ensure the continued safety of our animal health status and trade partners.

The Department of Agriculture remains vigilant and will continue to monitor the situation. The lifting of the suspension may be reviewed should new information emerge indicating the outbreak spreading to other areas within Brazil**.**

Minister Steenhuisen emphasised that this development underlines the department’s commitment to science-based decision making and the importance of maintaining open, transparent and technically sound channels of communication between trading partners.

For further updates and verified information, please follow our official communication platforms.

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