



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/19

5 June 2024

OUTBREAK OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN AUSTRALIA

Purpose

1. To inform you of an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in Australia and the imposition of import restrictions.

Background

2. The Competent Authority in Australia confirmed an outbreak of HPAI on 22 May 2024.
3. In accordance with assimilated EU legislation, Australia is currently listed for the importation into Great Britain of the following products:
 - RAT – ratite meat
 - DOR – day-old ratites
 - BPR – breeding and productive ratites
 - HER – hatching eggs of ratites
 - POU – poultry meat
 - DOC – day-old chicks
 - BPP – breeding and productive poultry
 - HEP – hatching eggs of poultry
 - SRP – slaughter poultry and poultry for restocking game supplies
 - LT20 – single consignments of less than 20 units of poultry other than ratites, hatching eggs and day-old chicks thereof.

These approvals are set out in the [Poultry and Poultry Products](#) list.

4. Australia is listed for poultry meat (POU) and poultry meat products, eggs (E) and egg products (EP). However, Australia does not have the necessary approved residue control plans to permit export of these commodities to GB.

5. Australia is also listed for live poultry (DOC, BPP, SRP and LT20) and poultry hatching eggs (HEP). However, Australia does not have an approved Salmonella Control Plan to permit export of these commodities to GB.
6. We do not currently have a regionalisation agreement with Australia. As such, Australia has been delisted for the ratite commodities listed above (RAT, DOR, BPR and HER), with a closing date of 22 May 2024 inserted in column 6A of the respective entries. This means such commodities produced on or after this date are not permitted for import.
7. The importation of consignments of the above products that were produced from ratites slaughtered before 22 May 2024 can be permitted for import.
8. Australia is also approved for specified pathogen-free eggs (SPF). However, the certificates for these products include assurances to address the risk of introduction of HPAI, so they are not delisted commodities. These commodities can continue to be permitted for import into GB if compliant with the requirements laid down in the GB import certificates.
9. For animal by-products, please refer to the specific requirements for the country listing in the relevant Import Information Note and in the GB import certificate to assess compliance.
10. Meat products of ratites must already be subject to heat treatment 'D' (70°C throughout the meat), as set out in column 8 of the [Meat Products](#) list. As this treatment is considered effective against HPAI, there has been no change to Australia's listings for meat products.
11. We will keep you informed of developments.

Action for OVSs

12. To note the above information.

Contact point for enquiries

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Imports and EU Trade Team