

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Voluntary Public

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Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

Facilitating US Shipments over AI Ban

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Border Facilitation

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Report Highlights:

Based on ATO Hong Kong advocacy, the Hong Kong Government agreed to definitively establish the effective ban date for U.S. poultry product imports subject to an avian influenza ban, whether low or high pathogenic strains, as the date of departure from the U.S., which ensures market access for U.S. poultry products en route to Hong Kong when an outbreak occurs.

General Information:

Currently, following notification of an avian influenza outbreak in the United States, the Hong Kong Government has imposed a county-level import ban on U.S. egg and poultry product exports arriving in Hong Kong from the affected area following the date of notification. Thus, products from the affected area which shipped from the U.S. prior to the outbreak and date of the import ban, so called “pipeline shipments,” faced rejection upon arrival in Hong Kong, resulting in trade losses.

Historically, ATO Hong Kong has successfully intervened on a case by case basis to establish a rational justification to allow the entry of these pipeline shipments. At the same time, ATO continued to advocate for a U.S “date of shipment” trigger as compared to a Hong Kong “date of arrival” trigger for determining market access for U.S. poultry and egg products exports from an AI affected area. As a result of these efforts, the Hong Kong Government recently announced its revised policy to accept the “date of shipment” from the U.S. to determine market access for U.S. poultry and egg products produced in a plant which is located in an area that becomes subject to an AI notification and import ban. Thus, if an outbreak is notified on April 4th, all products shipped before the effective date of an AI-related ban (April 4th) will be allowed entry to Hong Kong. Products shipped on or after the effective date will be refused.