I. PURPOSE

A. This notice provides FSIS Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) instructions for including a special certification statement in the remarks section of the Certification for Export of Meat and Poultry Products to Canada (FSIS Form 9135-3) or on an FSIS Letterhead Certificate for raw poultry or raw poultry product exported to Canada. This special statement is required when certifying raw poultry or raw poultry products for export to Canada to indicate the product is free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

B. APHIS has set up control zones around farms to test for HPAI. APHIS will make a determination on whether a flock in these zones can move to slaughter. PHVs receive a VS-127 from APHIS or a written certification or permit issued to the owner and operator of the establishment from a state veterinarian/accredited veterinarian by APHIS that the flocks can move to slaughter and are released from the quarantine. In this case, flocks can be slaughtered but the product is not allowed to be exported to Canada.

II. BACKGROUND

The Export Library for Canada was recently updated with a new animal health requirement regarding HPAI. PHVs are to now certify that product is free of HPAI before that product can be exported to Canada. The HPAI restrictions fall into two categories: 1) restriction of product from an entire state and 2) restriction of product from certain geographic control zones within states. If the entire state is restricted, no raw poultry or poultry products originating from flocks anywhere in that state are eligible for export to Canada. If control zones have been established within a state, no raw poultry and poultry products originating from flocks coming from within the control zones are eligible for export to Canada.

III. VERIFYING STATE ELIGIBILITY

A. PHVs are to consult the Export Library for a list of states from which raw poultry and poultry products are prohibited from entering Canada. Ineligible states are found under the heading Poultry Export Requirements for Canada, Eligible/Ineligible Poultry Products, Section B. Ineligible Product. PHVs are to check the Export Library before certifying each load because it is subject to frequent changes throughout the day.
B. If the raw poultry or poultry product originated from flocks coming from a restricted state as listed in the Export Library, raw product from those birds is not allowed to be certified for export to Canada. If the product originated from flocks coming from a control zone within a state as listed in the Export Library, those products also are not allowed to be certified for export to Canada.

C. If the establishment is within a restricted state or restricted control zone within a state, PHVs are to obtain documentation from establishments that the raw poultry and raw poultry products originated from flocks not coming from the restricted states or control zones within states.

D. A special certification statement must be added to the remarks section of the Certification for Export of Meat and Poultry Products to Canada (FSIS Form 9135-3) or provided through a FSIS Letterhead Certificate when certifying raw poultry or raw poultry products for export to Canada. The statement and the Letterhead Certificate are available in the Export Library under the heading Documentation Requirements. The statement is as follows:

Certification Statement: "I, the undersigned, salaried veterinarian of either the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) or the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS), after due inquiry and to the best of my knowledge, do hereby certify that the poultry or bird products/by-products within the certificate number (insert number here) were derived from poultry or birds which have not been in contact with any animal or animal product or animal by-product from a country, region or zone that was not recognized by CFIA as free of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza."

E. PHVs should also consider ways that the raw poultry or poultry products could have come into contact with live poultry, raw poultry products or poultry by-products originating from a restricted state or control zone or from quarantine within a state based on their knowledge of the establishment’s operations. For example, PHVs should consider the following kinds of questions:

1. Did the establishment slaughter or process poultry from a restricted state or control zone or from quarantine before slaughtering or processing the poultry to be exported to Canada?

2. What measures did the establishment take to prevent comingling between the raw poultry to be exported to Canada and raw poultry products originating from a restricted state or control zone or from quarantine?

3. Has the establishment demonstrated chain of custody for transport of live birds to the slaughter establishment? and

4. Any further processed raw products made with the products from restricted zones are ineligible for export to Canada?

F. When issuing a replacement (in lieu of) certificate for raw poultry or raw poultry products destined for export to Canada, all certificate number associated with the product are to be listed in the remarks section of Certification for Export of Meat and Poultry Products to Canada (FSIS Form 9135-3).

IV. QUESTIONS

Refer export questions regarding this notice or any export question to the Import Export Coordination and Policy Development Staff (IECPDS) through askFSIS, by emailing the question to ImportExport@fsis.usda.gov, or by telephone at 1-202-720-0082. When submitting an askFSIS question, use the Submit a Question tab and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter Notice 19-15
Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible;
Product Field: Select Exports from the drop-down menu;
Category Field: Select Export Certificates from the drop-down menu;
Policy Arena: Select International (Import/Export) from the drop-down menu; and

When all fields are complete, press Continue and at the next screen press Finish Submitting Question.

NOTE: Refer to FSIS Directive 5620.1, Using askFSIS, for additional information on submitting questions.

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