

General Information:

Türkiye serves as a major transshipment hub and transit point to Central Asia and the Middle East because of the country's central location. Although most transshipments go to neighboring countries, such as Iraq and Syria, Türkiye's role as a transit point for vessels destined for the Caucuses and Central Asia is increasing.

Türkiye restricts transshipment of poultry products from states where commercial cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) have occurred. However, exceptions exist for vessels carrying restricted product to transit through Turkish territorial waters or make port calls to discharge unrestricted cargo. Vessels carrying restricted poultry products may make port calls to offload unrelated cargo. Additionally, restricted poultry products are allowed to be transferred directly from one vessel to another within the customs area of the same port for the purpose of redispach without further stop inside the country. Vessels carrying restricted poultry products may remain at port for up to 14 days.

Customs officials will inspect the on-board manifest when vessels arrive at port. Restricted poultry product is exempt from any further inspection as long as it is not offloaded or is directly transferred to another vessel. However, if a public or animal health risk exists, or when irregularities are suspected, additional physical checks may be carried out by Turkish border veterinary officers. For this reason, each transit shipment should be accompanied by the original health certificates and corresponding paperwork.

Questions regarding Turkish transit and transshipment requirements may be sent to the Office of Agricultural Affairs in Ankara, Türkiye at AgAnkara@usda.gov.