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Voluntary Public

Date: 12/24/2014

GAIN Report Number: RS1499

Russian Federation

Post: Moscow

Russia Introduced Two New US Poultry Bans

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On December 4, 2014, Russia's Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) announced temporary restrictions for imports of US poultry, poultry by-products, and prepared products from poultry as of December 5, 2014, citing detections of harmful and banned substances in poultry products imported from the U.S. Additionally, on December 17, 2014, VPSS issued field instructions to its regional offices, introducing temporary restrictions as of December 18, 2014, on imports of non-heat-treated U.S. poultry and related goods, as well as imports of live poultry and hatching eggs from Washington State, due to HPAI detection in Washington State.

As of the date of publication of this report, these measures have not been notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

General Information:

On December 4, 2014, Russia's Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS) announced temporary restrictions for imports of US poultry, poultry by-products, and prepared products from poultry as of December 5, 2014, citing detections of harmful and banned substances in poultry products imported from the U.S. Field instructions introducing the measure were issued on December 3, 2014.

Additionally, on December 17, 2014, VPSS issued field instructions to its regional offices, introducing temporary restrictions as of December 18, 2014, on imports of non-heat-treated U.S. poultry and related goods, as well as imports of live poultry and hatching eggs from Washington State, due to HPAI detection in Washington State.

The VPSS announcement and field instructions can be found as follows:

- [VPSS announcement of December 5, 2014, temporary restrictions,](#)
- [VPSS field instructions of December 3, 2014,](#)
- [VPSS field instructions of December 17, 2014.](#)

Unofficial translations of the above documents can be found below.

As of the date of publication of this report, these measures have not been notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION:

About the Introduction by Rosselkhoznadzor of Temporary Restrictions on Imports of US Poultry Products

December 4, 2014

Nikolay Vlasov, Deputy Head of Rosselkhoznadzor, sent a letter to Ms. Jane Doherty, International Coordination Executive at the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS,) which, in particular, says that due to the increase in the number of cases when poultry products that are dangerous in sanitary and veterinary terms were imported to Russia from the U.S., Rosselkhoznadzor, in June 2014 requested that FSIS, within its competence, enhance the control over livestock products, including poultry, exported to Russia, to ensure their compliance with the requirements of the Customs Union and the Russian Federation.

As the letter further states, it should be noted that residues of prohibited and dangerous substances continue to be detected in the U.S. poultry products, including antibiotics of tetracycline group, which is a gross violation of the requirements and standards of the Customs Union, revealing that there is a lack of control on the part of the US Veterinary Service. In addition, Rosselkhoznadzor noted the common practice when the US Veterinary Service fails to provide materials on the corrective actions related to the significant number of the revealed violations of the requirements of the Customs Union and the Russian Federation, which were notified by Rosselkhoznadzor to FSIS in a timely manner. Thus, letters about 54 violations were sent during the current year alone, and only 3 responses were received. Additionally, the system of control over food safety at the US poultry establishments saw changes in October 2014, which, according to Rosselkhoznadzor experts, may lead to a substantial decrease in the food safety level of the US poultry products. The US Veterinary Service failed to inform Rosselkhoznadzor about the coming changes in advance.

Taking into account all these circumstances, and in order to ensure the food safety of poultry products delivered to the Russian market, Rosselkhoznadzor shall, as of December 5, 2014, impose temporary restrictions on the import of poultry and poultry byproducts, as well as prepared poultry products from the US establishments to the territory of the Russian Federation. In order to resolve the situation, Rosselkhoznadzor proposes to hold negotiations and consultations with the U.S. side on the margins of the International Agricultural Exhibition “Green Week” in Berlin in January 2015.

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

BEGIN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION:

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FEDERAL SERVICE
FOR VETERINARY AND
PHYTOSANITARY
SURVEILLANCE
(Rosselkhoznadzor)**

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To Heads of Territorial Divisions of
Rosselkhoznadzor

(according to the list)

Cc: to the Federal Customs Service of the
Russian Federation

December 3, 2014 No. FS-EN-8/23996

In response to _____ dated _____

The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision informs that as of December 5, 2014, temporary restrictions are introduced for the imports of poultry and poultry by-products, as well as prepared poultry products from the US establishments to the Russian Federation.

Please make the stated information is known to the heads of the veterinary authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as well as all interested organizations and persons involved in foreign economic activities.

Deputy Head

E.A. Nepoklonov

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

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**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
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fax: (495) 607-5111. phone.: (499) 975-4347

E-mail: info@svfk.mcx.ru

<http://www.fsvps.ru>

December 17, 2014 No. FS-NV-8/25052

In response to _____ dated _____

¹ To Heads of Territorial Divisions of
Rosselkhoznadzor

(according to the list)

Cc: to the Federal Customs Service of the
Russian Federation

The Federal Service for Veterinary and Phytosanitary Supervision informs that due to the appearance of highly pathogenic Avian Influenza in the territory of the State of Washington of the United States of America, temporary restrictions are imposed, starting December 18, 2014, on the export to the Russian Federation of the following products:

- From the whole territory of the U.S.A. – poultry meat and all kinds of poultry products that were not heat-treated (no less than 70 Centigrade), feeds and feed additives for birds (except for feed additives of chemical and microbiological synthesis), as well as used equipment for keeping, slaughtering and cutting birds, down and feather;
- From the territory of the State of Washington of the United States of America – live birds and hatching eggs, poultry meat and all kinds of poultry products that were not heat-treated (no less than 70 Centigrade), feeds and feed additives for birds (except for feed additives of chemical and microbiological synthesis), as well as used equipment for keeping, slaughtering and cutting birds, down and feather.

In this connection, for shipments of live birds and hatching eggs, the following note should be added “except for the State of Washington of the United States of America” to the point related to freedom from Avian Influenza in the relevant veterinary certificates.

The note may be either made by hand or typed, and should be certified by the seal and signature of the official veterinarian who issued the certificate.

Please make the stated information is known to the heads of the veterinary authorities of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, as well as interested organizations.

Acting Head

N.A. Vlasov

END UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.