



18 December 2023

(23-8658)

Page: 1/2

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: Spanish

**DECISION DECLARING THE TERRITORY OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES
TO BE AN AREA FREE FROM AVIAN INFLUENZA A, SUBTYPE H5N1**

COMMUNICATION FROM MEXICO

The following communication, received on 28 November 2023, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

1. Pursuant to Article 6 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures on the subject of regional conditions, including pest- or disease-free areas and areas of low pest or disease prevalence, and in keeping with the principle of transparency, we hereby notify the "Decision declaring the territory of the United Mexican States to be an area free from avian influenza A, subtype H5N1", which was published in the Official Journal of the Federation on 4 October 2023 and entered into effect the following day.
2. The territory of the United Mexican States has been declared an area free from avian influenza A, subtype H5N1. In order to guarantee that the territory of the United Mexican States remains free from avian influenza A, subtype H5N1, it is necessary to maintain epidemiological surveillance, prevention, diagnostic and traceability measures, measures for the control of the movement, transport, transit, marketing and importation of poultry and poultry products and by-products and measures in industrialized production units, back yards and concerning wild birds, in accordance with Articles 6 (subparagraph I), 24, 68, 77, 89, 160 and 161 of the Federal Law on Animal Health, Articles 41, 50, 51, 66 and 87 of the Decision announcing the campaign and animal health measures for the diagnosis, prevention, control and eradication of notifiable avian influenza in areas of the United Mexican States where this disease is present and other applicable legal provisions.
3. The authority responsible for the Decision is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, acting through the National Agri-Food Health, Safety and Quality Service.
4. Section 10, Chapter 10.4, Article 10.4.6. of the World Organisation for Animal Health Terrestrial Animal Health Code establishes that if infection with high pathogenicity avian influenza virus has occurred in poultry in a free country, the free status may be regained after a minimum period of 28 days after a stamping-out policy has been completed and provided that surveillance has been carried out during that period and has demonstrated the absence of infection.
5. The declaration of the United Mexican States as free from avian influenza A, subtype H5N1, facilitates the marketing of live poultry and poultry products and by-products originating in the country.
6. WTO Members are hereby informed that this Decision is to be used as a reference in commercial dealings in live poultry and poultry products and by-products originating in the United Mexican States.
7. This communication is being submitted for purposes of transparency and in order to provide Members with further information on the current regulatory process in Mexico.

8. The document is available at:

https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5703833&fecha=04/10/2023#gsc.tab=0.
