

**OUTBREAKS OF AVIAN DISEASES IN COUNTRIES THAT EXPORT
POULTRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS TO MEXICO**

Communication from Mexico

The following communication, dated 2 March 2004, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Mexico.

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1. Following the outbreaks on 5 and 12 February 2004 of the low-pathogenic H7N2 strain of avian influenza (AI) in the States of Delaware and New Jersey, respectively, in the United States of America (USA), the Government of Mexico, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), has decided to ban tourist and commercial imports of poultry and poultry products and by-products from those States as from the date of the notification of those outbreaks.
 2. In view of the detection on 12 February 2004 of the presence of the low-pathogenic H2N2 strain of the AI virus in the State of Pennsylvania, USA, which has been quarantined by SAGARPA since December 2001 consequent to the detection of the H7N2 strain of the virus, the ban on tourist and commercial imports of poultry and poultry products and by-products from that State has been reaffirmed.
 3. On 23 February 2004, the presence of the highly pathogenic H5N2 strain of the AI virus was found in the State of Texas, USA. This State was already subject to restrictions due to the detection in April 2002 of the presence of the low-pathogenic H5N3 strain. On this occasion, as a precautionary measure, SAGARPA has decided to ban tourist and commercial imports of poultry and poultry products and by-products from the USA, with the exception of products that are heat-processed at a temperature of 60°C for at least 10 minutes. This ban also applies to raw products intended for heat processing.
 4. Following the detection on 19 February 2004 of the presence of the low-pathogenic H7N2 strain of the AI virus in the Province of British Columbia in Canada, a ban was placed on tourist and commercial imports of poultry and poultry products and by-products from the affected Canadian Province.
 5. These decisions were notified immediately to the competent authorities of the affected countries and are now being implemented by the General Directorate of Animal and Plant Health Inspection of SAGARPA.
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