



**NOTIFICATION OF REPLIES TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON  
IMPORT LICENSING PROCEDURES FROM GHANA**

REPLIES FROM GHANA TO THE QUESTIONS FROM THE UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 3 April 2019, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Ghana.

1. What is the purpose of requiring permits for the importation of poultry?

**Reply:** The main considerations for requiring an import permit are consumer protection and prevention of introduction of transboundary animal disease.

2. What is the purpose of the statistical information?

**Reply:** To enable us perform import risk assessment and develop zoo sanitary requirements

Is this in addition to any customs declaration forms that may be also required?

**Reply:** Yes.

3. What is the period of validity for the import permits?

**Reply:** 3 months.

4. What fees are associated with the import permits?

**Reply:** The fees associated with the permits are: annual importer registration and inspection of consignments.

5. Are there any additional restrictions placed on poultry importers by the Government of Ghana, such as e.g. weight restrictions?

**Reply:** Yes, on some commodities such as chicken feet.

6. Are additional permits from other ministries required for poultry importers?

**Reply:** Yes.

According to the MFA, "The approval to import, the issuance of the interim and the final import permits, will depend on the animal health situation in the country of origin of the products."

1. What is meant by "animal health situation in the country of origin of the products?"

**Reply:** It means the animal disease situation in the country of origin. In other words, whether the animals are sick or healthy? Are there any transboundary animal disease(s) outbreak or conditions that affect international trade?

What process does the Director of Veterinary Services use to determine the health situation in the country of origin?

**Reply:** The Director of Veterinary Services uses a range of information available from the World Animal Health Information System (WAHID) Web site of World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) to determine the health situation in the country of origin

Can Ghana provide, in detail, how health inspections are carried out before the issuance of a final import permit?

**Reply:** Final import permit is also referred to as Release Permit. Upon arrival of the imported cargo at the point of entry, border veterinary control and inspection activities are undertaken as follows:

- (a) Documentary Check: The inspector verifies for the origin and health guarantees on the veterinary health certificate accompanying the consignment. In addition, the inspector verifies that the Veterinary health certificate:
    - refers to only one consignment;
    - is signed by official veterinarian;
    - is signed and endorsed with the country's official stamp;
    - have both signature and the stamp must be in different colours than the one used for the printed certificate;
    - the Consignment is coming from an approved country and establishment.
  - (b) Identity Check: The inspector verifies that the information declared on the veterinary health certificate is in agreement with the goods presented, the country and their establishment of origin. Containerized products are also verified for the seals fixed by the official veterinarian.
  - (c) Physical Check: The inspector conducts organoleptic and simple chemical tests on the state of the products, the conditions and means of transport especially the cold chain which can adversely affect product quality. Inspector then takes samples for analysis to confirm the quality of products.
2. When importers are denied a final import permit, are they given the reason why their import permits were denied?

**Reply:** Yes, importers denied final import permit (also called Release Permit) are given reasons for denial.

Does a process of appeals exist following the denial of the import permit?

**Reply:** All applicants have the right to appeal to the denial authority, though there are no written procedures.

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