

February 3, 1992

VETERINARY SERVICES NOTICE

Subject: Imported Poultry Eggs Preserved With Lye

To: Directors, VS Regions
Area Veterinarians in Charge, VS
Veterinary Medical Officers, PPQ
Import-Export Products Staff

This Notice provides the requirements for the importation of duck or chicken eggs preserved with lye solution (sodium hydroxide). These eggs are referred to as "1,000 year old eggs" or "Peedan eggs." According to the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, if these eggs are properly processed, with a pH value of 10 or greater in the egg content, Salmonella enteritidis, phage type 4 (SEpt4), and velogenic viscerotropic Newcastle disease (VVND) etiologic agents will be inactivated. Therefore, the importation of "Peedan eggs" presents minimal risk of introducing these two diseases into the United States.

In accordance with Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR), Section 94.6 (d)(4), importation of "Peedan eggs" will require that a U.S. Department of Agriculture import permit accompany each shipment to the United States. Restrictions imposed by the import permit require:

1. Certification by the National Government Veterinary Services of the country of origin stating that:
 - a. The flock from which the eggs originated was inspected and found to be clinically free of VVND.
 - b. The eggs have been processed in a manner resulting in the egg content having pH value of not less than 10.
 - c. All eggs in each shipment are clean and free of foreign material. The eggs were washed on the premises of origin to remove foreign material from the surface of the shells.
2. All packing materials in each shipment, including the egg cases must be new and clean and do not contain soil, hay, straw, or other fodder.
3. All egg cases in each shipment must be marked with the identity of the flock of origin.
4. All eggs in each shipment must be packed in the identified egg cases on the premises of origin.
5. Each case in each shipment must be sealed with a government seal by the National Government Veterinary Services. The seal numbers must be listed on the shipping documents.

Directors, VS et al.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service will reserve the right to selectively test the "Peedan eggs." Lots of "Peedan eggs" will be rejected if sample eggs have a pH value of less than 10.

The importation requirements for salted duck or chicken eggs which have not been subjected to NaOH treatment have not been changed. These eggs will be eligible for importation only if each shipment is accompanied by a foreign official veterinary certificate which complies with all requirements contained in 9 CFR, Section 94.6 (d)(1).

/s/

Lonnie J. King
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services