



OUTBREAKS OF FOWL CHOLERA AFFECTING CHICKEN FARMS IN THAILAND

There have been recent reports of disease outbreaks affecting chicken farms in Thailand. These reports indicated that the outbreaks have caused high mortalities of chickens in several central provinces in Thailand and that the authorities have proceeded to contain the disease by slaughter and movement prohibition. The Thai Authority has stated that the disease is fowl cholera (a bacterial disease caused by *Pasteurella multocida*).

2 In view of the fowl cholera outbreaks in Thailand, **AVA is taking precautionary measures to protect the local animal industry**. Singapore is free from fowl cholera. Fowl cholera, if introduced into Singapore can have a devastating effect on our chicken farms.

3 To prevent the disease from entering Singapore, AVA has suspended imports of all live birds, day-old chicks, whole frozen poultry and poultry offals from Thailand.

4 The imports of poultry cuts and parts from Thailand continue to be allowed.

5 Singapore imported about 15,000 tonnes (value \$54 million) of chicken meat from Thailand in 2003. More than 99% of the chicken meat are chicken parts or processed chicken parts and will not be affected by the suspension.

6 Singapore imports 103,000 tonnes of chicken meat a year, mainly from Brazil (53% of total chicken meat), USA (17%) and Thailand (14.5%). In addition, 120,000 live chickens are imported daily from Malaysia for slaughter here.

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MEDIA RELEASE