

IED 4/2

17 Dec 2003

To All Bird Importers

Dear Sir/Madam

SUSPENSION ON IMPORT OF BIRDS FROM SOUTH KOREA

AVA has received information that there is an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in South Korea. The South Korean authorities are currently investigating the outbreak.

2 HPAI is a highly infectious and contagious disease caused by a Type A influenza virus, and can affect both wild birds and domestic fowl. It is usually a generalised disease, associated with fowl plague, where domestic fowl may die very quickly with minimal signs of depression, inappetance and ruffled feathers. In other avian species, its ability to cause disease varies. There are also strains of HPAI, which are transmissible to humans and cause disease.

3 In view of the economic and public health impact of HPAI, if introduced into Singapore, AVA will take a precautionary measure by imposing a temporary and immediate suspension on import of birds into Singapore from South Korea.

Issued by: Animal, Meat & Seafood Regulatory Branch
Import & Export Division
Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority