

## Process for Imposing/Lifting of a Temporary Ban related to the Import of meat and Poultry meat and Their Products into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

The objective of this document is to explain the following procedures:

- Imposing a temporary ban on meat and poultry meat and their products intended for exportation to KSA from countries, zones or compartments reported to have outbreaks of epidemic diseases threatening human and/or animal health, or reported to have chemical or physical contamination which compromises the safety of meat and poultry meat and their products.
- Lifting a temporary ban imposed by KSA on countries reported to have outbreaks of epidemic diseases threatening human, and/or animal health, or reported to have chemical or physical contamination which compromises the safety of meat and poultry meat and their products. The ban is lifted under the condition that the necessary control measures have been taken or that the country in question has become free from the underlying disease or contamination.

### First: temporary ban imposing:

As per SPS agreement, Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA) shall impose a temporary ban on the import of meat and poultry meat and their products in case of a presence of risk threatening human and/or animal health in KSA.

### Second: temporary ban lifting:

#### Requirements:

A temporary ban on the import of meat and poultry meat and their products from countries, zones or compartments shall be lifted by SFDA, if the following requirements are met:

- A report from a recognized international organization such as OIE, FAO, or WHO, confirming that the risk is under control or there are no longer reasons to sustain the ban.
- A health status report from the competent control authority in the concerned country supported by all documents which confirm that the risk is under control or the reasons for the ban are not present any longer including the official notification submitted by the concerned country to the WTO/SPS committee.

### Temporary ban lifting process:

#### First: application:

The competent control authority in the exporting country applies to SFDA for lifting the temporary ban imposed (the request shall be addressed to the Vice President for Food Sector). The request to lift the ban is sent through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the kingdom. It must confirm that the risk is under control or that reasons for the ban are no longer present enclosing the following documents:

1. A report from OIE, FAO, or WHO, confirming that the risk is under control or that the reasons for the ban are not present any longer.
2. A detailed report from the competent control authority in the concerned country, indicating the measures taken to control the risk or confirming the absence of the reasons for the ban, and inclosing the relevant official notification submitted to the WTO/SPS committee.
3. The precautionary and control measures maintained to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases as per OIE list, or prevent chemical and physical contaminations affecting the safety of meat and poultry meat and their products.
4. A list of all labs and accredited laboratorial methods applied to detect epidemiological pathogens and physical/chemical contaminants.
5. The epidemiological report prepared by the competent control authority in the exporting country as well as a risk assessment (if available) incorporating risk control recommendations.

**Second: application review:**

The request for lifting the ban will be reviewed primarily by SFDA. If all the requirements are met, SFDA shall coordinate with the competent control authority in the concerned country to arrange an SFDA technical team visit (whenever deemed appropriate), provided that the following are included in the visit program:

- a. Visiting the competent control authority(s) in the exporting country to observe the following:
  1. The animal health status and the governmental precautionary measures taken to control or prevent epidemiological diseases.
  2. The veterinary inspection and surveillance programs implemented in the country.
  3. The animal slaughter controls, and the control procedures for preparing, processing, storing and handling meat and poultry meat.
  4. The technical rules and regulations for animal feeds used for meat and poultry meat intended for export to KSA.
  5. Accredited laboratorial methods (in specialized labs) used for detecting epidemiological pathogens or chemical and physical contaminants which compromise the safety of meat and poultry meat and their products.



- b. Visiting some farms and facilities which export their products abroad to have good understanding about the farming practices maintained for livestock and poultry.
- c. Visiting some accredited veterinary quarantines to observe the quarantine systems applied in the country.

**Third: Report preparing:**

The technical team, upon their return from the visit, shall write a comprehensive report which shall include non-compliances (if any). When the report is completed, the non-compliances (if any) reported will be submitted to the competent control authority in the concerned country.

**Fourth: Corrective actions**

The competent control authority of the concerned country shall do the following:

1. Ensuring that all the non-compliances indicated by the technical team are corrected.
2. Preparing an official report stating the corrective measures taken, supported by the necessary documents.

**Fifth: lifting the temporary ban:**

Within a period of ten days, the SFDA shall review the report submitted by the competent control authority. In case all the technical requirements and health conditions for exporting to KSA are met by the concerned country, the decision to lift the ban will be considered by SFDA.

**General Provisions:**

1. The SFDA has the right to request the competent control authority in the exporting country to sign the minutes concerning the technical requirements and health conditions which must be maintained in meat and poultry meat and their products consignments destined for exportation to KSA.
2. As for countries with which Saudi Arabia has no trade exchange agreements, the SFDA has the right to impose or lift a temporary bans on the basis of available information from official international organizations. In case any one of these countries wish to exchange trade with Saudi Arabia, all the terms and conditions stated in this document shall apply.