EU Feathers Restrictions Revised and Extended

The EU restrictions on the importation of feathers have now been extended until 30 September 2005 for eight remaining Asian countries (restrictions have been for Japan and South Korea) and until 30 June 2005 for South Africa. These amendments have been made by Commission Decisions 2005/194/EC (OJ L 63, 10.3.2005, p. 25) for the Asian countries and 2005/210/EC (OJ L 68, 15.3.2005, p. 43) for South Africa. The initial EU restrictions were published on 7 February 2004 and imposed restrictions on the importation of feathers from the original nine Asian countries under Commission Decision 2004/122/EC (OJ L 36, 7.2.2004, p. 59), with the original restrictions for South Africa covered by 2004/614/EC (OJ L 275, 25.8.2004, p. 20).

For reference the revised list of affected countries is:
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Pakistan
- The People's Republic of China including the territory of Hong Kong
- South Africa (until 30 June 2005)
- Thailand
- Vietnam

These restrictions are that:
- Unprocessed feathers and parts of feathers cannot be imported.
- Processed feathers or parts of feathers shall be accompanied by a commercial document stating that the processed feathers or parts have been treated with a steam current or by some other method ensuring that no pathogens are transmitted. (This commercial document does NOT have to be signed by the official veterinarian in the country of origin.)

Except that the following types of processed feathers do not require this certification:
- Processed decorative feathers
- Processed feathers carried by travellers for their private use
- Consignments of processed feathers sent to private individuals for non-industrial purposes. Feathers imported from other countries or as part of a finished product (e.g. fillings for cushions, pillows, duvets etc) are not covered by this restriction. Though with the current avian influenza outbreak it is advisable to seek confirmation of their origin and the treatment processes applied. Ensuring that these are adequate to eliminate any traces of the virus.

Should you have any queries on the above news, please contact Ms. Denise Chan at Tel: (852) 2173-8770 / Fax to (852) 2785-8570 / Email: enquiry@intertek.com

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