EU Feathers Restrictions Revised and Extended

EU restrictions on the importation of feathers from South Africa have now been extended until 31 December 2005 by Commission Decision 2005/469/EC (OJ L 165, 25.6.2005, p. 31). This ban runs in conjunction with the feather restrictions from nine Asian countries, now including North Korea, until 30 September 2005.


For reference the revised list of affected countries is:
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Laos
- Malaysia
- North Korea
- Pakistan
- The People’s Republic of China including the territory of Hong Kong
- South Africa (until 31 December 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

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