EU Feathers Restrictions – South Africa Ban Lifted

The EU restrictions on the importation of feathers from South Africa have now been lifted on confirmation that the virus has now been eliminated from that country, per Decision 2005/799/EC (OJ L 301, 18.11.2005, p. 20)

For reference the revised list of affected countries (until 30 September 2006, unless stated otherwise) is:
- Cambodia
- China including the territory of Hong Kong
- Croatia (no deadline defined, per Decision 2005/749/EC, OJ L 280, 25.10.2005, p. 23)
- Indonesia
- Kazakhstan
- Laos
- Malaysia
- Mongolia (by derogation, importation may still be authorised by the Member States)
- North Korea
- Pakistan
- Thailand
- Vietnam

These restrictions are that:
- Unprocessed feathers and parts of feathers cannot be imported from these countries (except for other parts of Russia, which require a health certificate, per the model in Annex I of 2005/693/EC).
- 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. Although it is still 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