Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100 Quezon City
+63(2) 8928-8741 to 64 and +63(2) 8273-2474

BAGONG PILIPINAS
Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya

DA-CO-USECL-DC20261015-V-00031

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR
No. 55
Series of 2026

SUBJECT : TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD BIRDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING POULTRY MEAT, DAY-OLD CHICKS, EGGS AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM *Minnesota, USA*

WHEREAS, Book IV Chapter 2 Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order no. 292, s. 1987 provides the authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department, to establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government and promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;

WHEREAS, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 (Charter of BAI) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;

WHEREAS, based on the official report submitted by Deputy Administrator and Chief Veterinary Officer, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on 01 September 2026, there were several outbreaks of H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza in the counties of *Wright, Big Stone, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Becker, Ravalli, and Benton* affecting domestic birds confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL), Ames, Iowa;

WHEREAS, the rapid spread of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in the United States of America (USA) in short period of time since its first laboratory detection necessitates a wider coverage of trade restriction to prevent the entry of HPAI virus and protect the health of the local poultry population;

WHEREAS, given the geographical land mass of the USA, there has been a mutual HPAI-related arrangement in 2016 between the veterinary authorities of the USA and the Philippines that a state-wide ban shall only be imposed if there are three (3) or more counties affected with HPAI in one state;

WHEREAS, the abovementioned state has three (3) or more counties affected with HPAI as reflected in their official reports in the WOAH;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.,** Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following

emergency measures for the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products from *Minnesota, United States of America*;

1. Banning the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day old chicks, eggs and semen;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above stated commodities;
3. All approved SPSICs for live domestic and wild birds are also automatically REVOKED;
4. All shipments coming from the mentioned areas of the United States of America that are IN TRANSIT/LOADED/ACCEPTED UNTO PORT on or before the effectivity of this Circular shall be allowed provided that the products were slaughtered/produced on or before 18 August 2026;
5. Shipments which have not complied with the conditions set forth in Item 3 shall be dealt with as per DA DC 14 S. 2025 Article XI, Section 65;
6. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above-stated commodities (with the exception of heat-treated products[1]) into the country by all Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports of entry.

This **CIRCULAR** shall take effect immediately following the completion of its publication in the Official website of the Department of Agriculture and upon its filing of three (3) copies thereof with the Office of the National Administrative Register at the University of the Philippines Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City.

Done this 26th day of October 2026.

FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary

[1] Heat-Treated product are acceptable following Chapter 10.4 of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code of 2024 provided that in addition to the Veterinary Health Certificate (VHC), the competent authority will include in the certification the following:

1. Temperature and duration of heating or pasteurization of products; and
2. There is no commingling of raw materials with any other materials of animal origin