

# HPAI: Removal of restrictions on imports from Argentina and Moldova

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## EU lifts restrictions on imports of poultry products from Argentina and Moldova

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2026/278](#) of 6 February 2026 amending Annexes XIV and XV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for Argentina and Moldova in the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of fresh meat of poultry and game birds and meat products from poultry

### Update

The European Union (EU) has lifted its import restrictions on poultry and game bird meat and products from Argentina and Moldova related to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The restrictions were introduced in September 2025. Both countries have now demonstrated that these products no longer represent a threat to animal health in the EU.

### Impacted products

Poultry and game bird meat and products

### What is changing?

Due to an outbreak of HPAI, Argentina and Moldova faced restrictions introduced in September 2025 on exports to the EU of poultry and game bird meat and products.

This Regulation lifts those restrictions.

- Argentina can now export fresh meat from poultry and game birds and their products.
- Moldova's regionalisation has been lifted. Moldova can now export from its whole territory.

For both countries, no risk-mitigating treatment is required for poultry products.

## Why?

In October 2025, Argentina and Moldova both provided information demonstrating that there was no longer any risk associated with HPAI. The European Commission has concluded that these countries can be relisted for the products concerned as they do not represent a risk to animal health.

## Timeline

The Regulation applies from **1 March 2026**.

## Recommended Actions

Monitoring and preventing the spread of diseases is key for exports. Exporters should follow the [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#) of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), which gives the rules on prevention, monitoring, and control for each disease. It is important that competent authorities and operators work together to monitor animal health and keep diseases under control. The EU regularly audits its partner countries as well as the EU Member States, and publishes [Health and Food Audits and Analysis](#) – for more information, see [2026 food audit programme: non-EU countries targeted for controls](#).

## Background

The EU Animal Health Law (Regulation [2016/429](#)) establishes principles and rules for the prevention and control of certain diseases in animals kept by humans (including farm animals, fish, and aquaculture), wild animals, and animal products.

Delegated Regulation [2020/692](#) supplements the Animal Health Law regarding animal health requirements for exports to the EU. Non-EU countries (or part of their territories) wishing to export animal products to the EU must comply with the EU animal health requirements.

These countries or regions must be listed in Regulation [2021/404](#) for each commodity to be exported to the EU. The list is regularly updated, for example in the event of an outbreak of a notifiable disease, or if there is an improvement in the animal health situation in a country. (See [Lists of non-EU countries for public health and animal health – explained](#).)

## Resources

Online resources from the European Commission:

- EU entry conditions
- Non-EU countries authorised establishments
- Access2Markets: Exporting from the EU, importing into the EU – all you need to know

World Organisation for Animal Health: [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#)

The procedure for non-EU countries to apply for listing is described at the end of the following factsheets:

- European Union import conditions for poultry and poultry products
- EU import conditions for fresh meat and meat products

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2021/404](#) laying down the lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) [2020/692](#) as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin

## Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) [2026/278](#) as regards the entries for Argentina and Moldova in the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of fresh meat of poultry and game birds and meat products from poultry

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