Reference number: 2025.0294.497

Notice

establishing emergency measures for the introduction of animals from certain areas into Austrian holdings to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease

Pursuant to Section 27 (1) p.a. of the Animal Health Act 2024, Federal Law Gazette I No. 53/2024, pursuant to Article 258 in conjunction with Article 257 (1) (c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, the following is hereby decreed:

§ 1.

This notice applies to operators of holdings that import consignments of animals listed for foot-and-mouth disease in accordance with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1882, if these animals were kept in the areas listed in the Annex within a period of 21 days prior to their introduction, as well as to transporters who transport such animals.

§ 2.

(1) Transport operators may only bring animals within the meaning of § 1 into Austria if they are accompanied by proof of freedom from antibodies and antigen against the foot-and-mouth disease virus. This proof must not be older than 72 hours.

(2) Operators of establishments where animals within the meaning of § 1 are to be kept or slaughtered may only bring these animals into the establishment if they can present proof of freedom from antibodies and antigen against the foot-and-mouth disease virus. This proof must not be older than 72 hours.

(3) Operators of establishments where animals within the meaning of § 1 are kept but not slaughtered must keep these animals in quarantine, completely isolated from other animals, for a period of 7 days.

(4) Proof of freedom from antibodies and antigen against the foot-and-mouth disease virus must be presented to the authorities at any time upon request.

(5) Transport operators may only transport animals within the meaning of Section 1 during this movement from the holding of origin to the Austrian holding of destination without taking them to a holding within the meaning of Article 4(49) of Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

§ 3.

(1) If animals as defined in § 1 are brought into an Austrian slaughterhouse for slaughter and a structurally separate quarantine barn is available, the slaughterhouse operator must separate the animals as defined in § 1 from all other animals until slaughter and subsequently slaughter the animals separately.

(2) If no corresponding quarantine barn is available, no other animals may be brought into the slaughterhouse from the time animals as defined in § 1 are brought into the slaughterhouse until cleaning and disinfection has been completed.

(3) The slaughterhouse operator must, in any case, clean and disinfect the slaughterhouse facilities and the waiting/quarantine barn after the slaughter of these animals. The slaughterhouse operator must document the cleaning and disinfection and present this documentation to the authorities upon request.

(4) Slaughterhouse operators may only slaughter animals as defined in Section 1 if an official veterinarian was present during the delivery and unloading of the animals from the means of transport to the establishment, and the animals have undergone a clinical examination.

Section 4.

(1) Transport operators transporting animals as defined in Section 1 must clean and disinfect the means of transport used for this purpose after transport.

(2) The transport operator must document the cleaning and disinfection and present this documentation to the authorities upon request.

(3) The transport operator must ensure that the means of transport used is returned to the Member State of origin without any stopover.

§ 5.

Official bodies shall at any time order transporters who transport animals as defined in § 1 and intend to bring them to a holding in Austria, but who cannot provide proof of freedom from antibodies and antigens against the foot-and-mouth disease virus, to return to their country of origin.

§ 6.

This announcement shall apply without prejudice to the provisions of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Emergency Measures Ordinance, Federal Law Gazette II No. 55/2025, last amended by the Ordinance, Federal Law Gazette II No. 66/2025, as amended.

§ 7.

(1) This announcement shall enter into force upon publication in the Official Consumer and Veterinary News.

(2) The proclamation establishing emergency measures for the introduction of animals from certain areas for slaughter into Austrian slaughterhouses to prevent the introduction of foot-and-mouth disease, published in AVN No. 2025/12-4, shall cease to be in force upon the entry into force of this proclamation.

Vienna, 16 April 2025

For the Federal Minister

Dr. Ulrich Herzog