

In an announcement received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the issues listed below are conveyed.

In line with the decisions of the Ministry of Health Science Board, until information about the source and epidemiology of COVID-19 outbreak becomes clear, except for the actions in process, within the scope of Article 4, clause 1, subparagraph (d) and Article 25, clause 3 of Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed Law No. 5996, commercial or passenger accompanied entry of exotic animals and invertebrates, amphibians, dog, cat, ferret, ornamental fish, reptile, rodent, domestic rabbit and all birds from all countries has been suspended regardless of purpose.

During the process, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry primarily in the context of customs legislation requested re-evaluation by Ministry of Health Scientific Board in line with the latest scientific developments on import of products including some pets, on condition that they are identified as “accompanied by passenger”, all kinds of parasitoid factors and predators to be used for agrarian and experimental purposes and all kinds of experimental animal and butterfly species and products to be used for feed purposes without heat treatment.

In line with the proposal from Ministry of Health Scientific Board dated 30.04.2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry decided upon issues mentioned below.

Pets such as dogs, cats, birds and ornamental fish with health cards which are kept at home and not for commercial purposes, can travel as long as accompanied by the owner, when returning from abroad these animals should be isolated for 14 days with the owner.

The reason that COVID-19 has been derived from SARS-CoV-2 the agent in the group of zoonotic viruses, the origin animal and intermediate host of which is not yet fully clarified and the assessment that exotic animals may be either the origin or the intermediate host still continues, in the commercial context the implementation of the decision to suspend entry and exit of exotic animals, invertebrates, amphibians, dogs, cats, ferrets, reptiles, rodents, rabbits, birds continues during the pandemic.

For scientific research in our country (vaccine development, drug development, antiserum development), import of experimental animals is permitted provided that they are kept in laboratory conditions and in a controlled environment.

Import of parasitoid factors and predators and butterfly species for pesticides are permitted.

The procedure of heat process of at least 30 minutes in 70 C degrees applied to the imported products of animal food will continue during the pandemic.

Import of dried or frozen, land and water invertebrates (insect eggs, artemia eggs) or feeder fish such as sardine used in the feeding of tuna fish to be used in the feeding of aquatic animals and beneficial insects, is allowed without heat process.

Live or frozen seafood such as lobster, crab, crayfish, shrimp used in human consumption and other animal products is to be permitted but in the preparation process general hygiene measures to prevent contamination from outside should be taken, protective equipment should be used and before and after any contact with food hand hygiene should be administered.