STATE OF MARYLAND

ORDER OF:	*	**Order No.: AH 02-2024**
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE	*	**Authority:** **Agric. Art., §§ 3-301 et seq.**
To Prevent the Spread of Contagious and Infectious Diseases in the State of Maryland	*	**Annotated Code of Maryland**
	*	**Effective Date: April 30, 2024**

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AMENDED ORDER OF THE SECRETARY
GOVERNING THE MOVEMENT OF LACTATING DAIRY CATTLE
INTO THE STATE OF MARYLAND

WHEREAS, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a highly contagious and infectious foreign animal disease;

WHEREAS, HPAI has been detected in cattle in several states, including Texas, Michigan, Kansas, Idaho, and New Mexico;

WHEREAS, the movement of lactating dairy cattle infected with or exposed to HPAI into this State threatens the health of the domestic animals in this State; and

WHEREAS, to protect the health of dairy cattle and other domestic animals in this State from HPAI, the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that it is necessary to take prompt action pertaining to the movement of lactating dairy cattle into this State.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Agriculture Article, §§ 3-101 *et seq.,* Annotated Code of Maryland, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture ("MDA"), on this 30TH day of April, 2024, hereby **ORDERS:**

A. Terms Defined. For the purposes of this Order, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

(1) "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" means a highly contagious and infectious foreign animal disease caused by viruses in the family Orthomyxoviridae, genus Influenzavirus A (H5N1), and includes Bovine Influenza A.

(2) "Certificate of Veterinary Inspection" ("CVI") means an official health certificate

made on an official form issued and approved by the chief Animal Health official of the state of origin or the U.S. Department of Agriculture ("USDA"). CVIs shall be prepared by accredited veterinarians that are approved by the recognized Animal Health official of the state of origin.

(3) "Department" means the Maryland Department of Agriculture or MDA.

(4) "Department Approval" means a written statement that the Department issues to the cattle importer indicating the State Veterinarian's approval to move lactating dairy cattle into Maryland from another state (such approval may have quarantine, inspection or testing requirements once the dairy cattle are allowed into the State as a condition of approval).

(5) "Lactating dairy cattle" means any cow that is producing milk, regardless of the volume of milk produced. This does not include dairy calves, pregnant heifers, or dairy cows that are 'dry' or no longer producing milk.

B. General Prohibition regarding movement of lactating dairy cattle.

A person may not import, ship, or otherwise move lactating dairy cattle into the State of Maryland, unless the importation requirements of Section C of this Order are satisfied.

C. Importation requirements governing the movement of lactating dairy cattle into Maryland.

(1) A person may not import, ship, or otherwise move lactating dairy cattle into Maryland from another state or territory of the United States unless the lactating dairy cattle are accompanied by a CVI or an approved health certificate or permit that:

(a) Has been prepared and signed within seven (7) days of transport by:

(i) A veterinarian in the employ of the State of origin;

(ii) A veterinarian in the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service; or

(iii) An accredited veterinarian or licensed veterinary graduate approved by the recognized animal health official of the State of origin;

(b) Is attached to the waybill or in the possession of the driver of the vehicle or the person in charge of the cattle;

(c) Contains the name and address of the consignor and the consignee;

(d) Contains an accurate description or identification of the cattle;

(e) Gives appropriate dates and descriptions, by name, of current disease tests specifically required by the State of Maryland, including documentation of the requisite HPAI testing;

(f) Gives the health status of the herd of origin, including its HPAI status; and

(g) Contains the following statement:

"All animals identified on this Certificate of Veterinary Inspection have been inspected and do not originate from a premises with a confirmed detection of HPAI in cattle (H5N1) or that

is currently under investigation as a suspect premises."

(2) To mitigate potential transmission of HPAI in lactating dairy cattle to susceptible livestock in Maryland, the CVI is void after seven days from issuance.

(3) The person importing, shipping, or otherwise moving lactating dairy cattle into Maryland shall submit a copy of the CVI to the State Veterinarian within seven (7) days of movement. The State Veterinarian's address is: Maryland Department of Agriculture, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401 (email: animalhealth.mda@maryland.gov).

D. Duration. This Order takes effect immediately and shall be effective through August 1, 2024, unless revoked earlier by the Secretary.

E. Violations. A person who violates this Order is subject to criminal and administrative penalties as provided under Maryland law. In addition, the Secretary of Agriculture may impose a quarantine order on any dairy cattle found in this State in violation of this Order.

F. Contact Person. If a person affected by this Order has questions, the person may contact the Office of the State Veterinarian at (410) 841-5810.



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