

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: January 28, 2026

Report Number: VM2026-0001

Report Name: Vietnam Issues Circular 01 on Quarantine Regulation for Terrestrial Animals and Animal Products

Country: Vietnam

Post: Hanoi

Report Category: Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Poultry and Products

Prepared By: Nga Bui

Approved By: Ralph Bean

Report Highlights:

Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) has issued Circular No. 01/2026/TT-BNNMT on Quarantine Regulations of Terrestrial Animals and Animal Products, which entered into force on January 1, 2026. The Circular consolidates and replaces multiple prior regulations, establishing a unified regulatory framework governing quarantine inspection of terrestrial animals and animal products in domestic as well as international trade. Circular 01 introduces a more risk-based and streamlined inspection regime, while adding targeted control measures - most notably ruminant DNA testing requirements for animal protein meals - to strengthen animal health oversight. This report provides an unofficial English translation of the Circular and highlights key provisions relevant to exporters and industry stakeholders.

Summary

On October 10, 2025, Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) notified the WTO of a draft Circular on quarantine inspection of terrestrial animals and animal products (G/SPS/N/VNM/172). This report updates and replaces Post's earlier analysis of that draft in GAIN Report [VM2025-0049](#), reflecting its final adoption as Circular No. 01/2026/TT-BNNMT, which entered into force on January 1, 2026.

Structure and Scope

The Circular spans 125 pages in Vietnamese and is organized into four chapters, 30 articles, and 14 Appendices. It consolidates and replaces five existing Circulars (Nos. [25/2016](#), [35/2018](#), [09/2022](#), [04/2024](#), and [28/2025](#)), while introducing several substantive amendments.

- Chapter I: General provisions (scope, definitions, and applicable lists)
- Chapter II: Quarantine procedures for domestic movement; import and export; special regimes (bonded warehouses and transit); fairs and exhibitions; diagnostic specimens; and standardized forms and certificates
- Chapter III: Marking and coding of animals; sealing of transport vehicles and containers
- Chapter IV: Implementation responsibilities, transitional provisions, entry into force, and repeal of prior regulations

Summary of Key Provisions

Circular 01 establishes a consolidated legal framework for quarantine inspection of terrestrial animals and animal products in Vietnam. The new framework emphasizes risk-based inspection and administrative clarity, while strengthening disease prevention measures.

1. Improved Efficiency and Transparency in Import Procedures

- Reduced Processing Time:
The timeframe for registration of import quarantine inspection has been reduced from five working days to four (Article 11.1.b).
- Clearer Timelines for Health Certificates:
Border quarantine authorities must issue quarantine inspection certificates (commonly referred to as "import permits") within five working days following inspection, provided the dossier is complete and valid and veterinary hygiene requirements are met (Article 12.3.d).

These changes are intended to streamline clearance procedures and improve predictability for importers.

2. Risk-Based Sampling and Testing Requirements

Circular 01 introduces a risk-based approach to sampling and disease-causing agent testing, reducing unnecessary testing and associated compliance costs.

a. Live Animals (Appendix XII, Section I.2)

- Sampling is based on an estimated disease prevalence rate of five percent, considering the disease status of the exporting country.
- No sampling is required when animals originate from countries recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) as disease-free, or when the Export Health Certificate confirms disease-free or vaccinated status.
- Where Export Health Certificates confirm disease testing, sampling is conducted at an estimated prevalence rate of 10 percent.

Vietnamese authorities retain discretion to adjust testing requirements based on evolving disease risks, detection of emerging diseases, or clinical signs observed during border inspection.

b. Animal Products Intended for Food Use (Annex XII, Section II.1)

- Exemptions:
Both high-risk and low-risk animal products originating from WOAH-recognized disease-free countries or territories are exempt from sampling (Appendix XII, Section II.1.b).
- Unchanged Pathogen Controls:
Strict testing requirements for *Salmonella* spp. and *E. coli* O157:H7 remain in effect. After three consecutive compliant shipments, sampling frequency is reduced to one out of every three shipments. Any non-compliance triggers a return to full sampling (Appendix XII, II.1.b1). These requirements may continue to pose challenges for certain exporters.

c. New Ruminant DNA Testing Requirements for Animal Protein Meals (Appendix XII, Section II.2.c)

One of the most significant changes in Circular 01 is the introduction of mandatory ruminant DNA testing for protein meals derived from terrestrial and aquatic animals used in the manufacture of animal and aquaculture feed. The measure aims to prevent prohibited ruminant materials from entering feed supply chains and to mitigate risks associated with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

In accordance with Article 2, Point 5 of Circular No. 01, raw materials intended for animal and aquaculture feed requiring inspection for contamination with ruminant-derived products (DNA) are considered high-risk animal products.

Ruminant DNA (BSE-related) testing frequencies based on BSE risk status (Section II.2.c1)

- Negligible BSE-Risk Countries/Regions:
 - One out of every five shipments is randomly selected for testing.

- If ruminant DNA is detected in any shipment, the next three consecutive shipments must undergo 100 percent testing.
- Sampling reverts to the one-in-five frequency only after three consecutive compliant results.
- All Other Origins (Controlled or Undetermined BSE Risk) (Section II.2.c2)
 - One out of every three shipments is tested.
 - Any positive result triggers 100 percent testing of the next three shipments.
 - Sampling returns to the one-in-three rate only after three compliant shipments.
- Consignments subject to DNA testing must be held at the border until compliant results are received (Section II.2.d).

Movement to storage (where DNA testing is not required): (Section II.2.dd)

- Upon request, consignments may be moved to an approved warehouse after sampling and inspection, under a transport certificate; goods may not be marketed until compliant quarantine results are issued.

This zero-tolerance approach reinforces Vietnam's existing prohibitions on ruminant contamination. A positive test may result in shipment rejection or re-export and intensified scrutiny of subsequent consignments from the same source.

Appendix XIV of Circular 1 provides detailed procedures for inspection and sampling of terrestrial animal product consignments, including sampling principles, methods, and handling of samples. However, it does not specify laboratory testing timelines, the procedures Vietnamese competent authorities will follow in handling shipments that test positive or the existence of formal appeal mechanisms for adverse test results, potentially creating uncertainty for businesses.

Exporters of animal protein meals from BSE-negligible risk countries, including the United States, will be subject to intermittent testing, even where prior bilateral arrangements had reduced routine testing. Suppliers should ensure strict segregation and contamination controls in production to avoid costly disruptions.

Exporters should familiarize themselves with these changes. While procedural efficiencies offer tangible benefits, compliance with the new testing and control requirements will be essential. Close coordination with Vietnamese importers and authorities will be critical to ensuring smooth implementation under the updated quarantine framework.

Trade contacts have raised concerns about the newly implemented ruminant DNA testing requirements which may lead to increased compliance costs and longer clearance times for shipments of animal protein meals. Post will continue to monitor the situation and engage with Vietnamese authorities as appropriate to support transparent and predictable implementation. For questions or further assistance, U.S. exporters may contact FAS/Hanoi at aghanoi@usda.gov.

Circular 01 (in Vietnamese) can be accessed here:

<https://mae.gov.vn/noidung/Lists/VBQPPL/Attachments/727/1-2026-TT-BNNMT.pdf>

Attachments:

[Circular 01 on Quarantine Regulation for Terrestrial Animals and Animal Products - Unofficial translation.docx](#)