

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** Vietnam Issues Draft Circular to Consolidate and Amend Terrestrial Animal Quarantine Inspection Regulations

**Country:** Vietnam

**Post:** Hanoi

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

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**Report Highlights:**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment of Vietnam has issued a draft Circular titled “Regulations on Quarantine of Terrestrial Animals and Animal Products” for public consultation. The draft, notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on October 10, 2025, consolidates and amends existing regulations governing the quarantine inspection of terrestrial animals and their derived products. Stakeholders are invited to submit comments by December 9, 2025. The Circular is anticipated to be adopted and published in December 2025, with an effective date of January 1, 2026. This report provides an UNOFFICIAL translation of the draft Circular and summarizes key proposed amendments that may impact imports of terrestrial animals and their derived products.

## Summary

On October 10, 2025, the Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE) notified the WTO of a draft Circular (document G/SPS/N/VNM/172) consolidating and amending existing regulations governing the quarantine inspection of terrestrial animals and their derived products. Stakeholders are invited to submit comments by December 9, 2025. The Circular is expected to be finalized and published in December 2025, with an effective date of January 1, 2026.

The draft Circular, comprising 127 pages in Vietnamese, is organized into four chapters, 30 articles, and 14 annexes. It consolidates five existing Circulars - Nos. [25/2016](#), [35/2018](#), [09/2022](#), [04/2024](#), and [28/2025](#) - while introducing several amendments. These changes aim to streamline regulatory requirements, provide clearer guidance for importers, and transition toward a risk-based regulatory framework, while maintaining robust animal and public health safeguards. Below is a summary of the key proposed amendments and their potential implications for importers of terrestrial animals and their derived products, including meat, poultry, and feed as well as feed ingredients. Stakeholders should conduct their own review.

## Key Changes

### 1. Efficiency and Transparency in Import Procedures

- **Reduced Processing Time:** The draft Circular proposes reducing the processing time for import quarantine inspection registration from five working days to four (Article 11.1.b).
- **Clearer Timeframes for Quarantine Inspection Certificates:** Border quarantine authorities would be required to issue quarantine inspection certificates (also known as “import permits”) within five working days of the quarantine inspection, provided the products meet veterinary hygiene requirements (Article 12.3.d).

### 2. Reduced Sampling Requirements for Pathogen Testing

The draft Circular introduces risk-based sampling and testing requirements, reducing redundant testing and compliance costs:

- **For Animals: (Annex XII, I.2)**
  - Sampling is based on the predicted disease prevalence rate of five percent and the disease status of the exporting country.
  - No samples are required if animals come from countries recognized by WOAHP as disease-free, or if the Export Health Certificate confirms the animals are disease-free or vaccinated.
  - If the Export Health Certificate confirms testing for specified diseases, samples are taken at a higher predicted prevalence rate of 10 percent.
  - The Department of Animal Health and Production (DAHP) provides guidance on which diseases require testing, based on the exporting country’s disease situation.
  - If a new disease is detected, the DAHP will report it to MAE for further action.
  - If animals show clinical symptoms, samples are taken for testing as specified in Annex III.

- **For Animal Products Used as Food:** High-and low-risk products originating from WOAHP-recognized disease-free countries and territories are exempt from sampling (Annex XII, II.1.b).
- **For Non-Food Animal Products:** New provisions clarify quarantine inspection procedures for non-food animal products. In cases where sampling is not required, border authorities will conduct document reviews and issue quarantine inspection certificates within one working day. The owner of the goods must be responsible for the imported goods (Annex XII, II.3).

## Potential Concerns

### Simultaneous Quarantine and Food Safety Inspections

The draft Circular introduces simultaneous quarantine and state food safety inspections for imported terrestrial animal products intended for food (Article 13), aiming to align with [Decree No. 15/2018/ND-CP](#) guiding the implementation of the Food Safety Law. This alignment reflects Vietnam's commitment to regulatory consistency and streamlined procedures. However, as Decree 15 is currently under review and revision, future changes may require further amendments to the Circular, creating potential uncertainty for stakeholders and affecting the stability of the new procedures.

Additional concerns regarding implementation include:

- **Integration with the National Single Window (NSW):** The NSW's capacity to process combined quarantine and food safety inspections is unclear. If paper-based submissions are required, this could lead to processing delays and trade disruptions.
- **Impact on Current Procedures:** Currently, imported meat and poultry benefit from reduced food safety inspection regimes (e.g., document checks on up to 5% of annual shipments). It remains uncertain how these existing procedures will be integrated with the new simultaneous inspection requirement.

### 3. Ruminant DNA Testing for Animal Protein Meals

The draft introduces risk-based ruminant DNA testing for terrestrial and aquatic animal protein meals used in livestock and aquaculture feed (Annex XII, II.2.c):

- **Negligible BSE-Risk Countries:** The draft Circular requires that one in every five consignments from negligible BSE-risk countries be tested. However, the draft does not address countries with existing agreements to waive ruminant DNA testing. As a result, these countries would be subject to the new testing frequency, potentially leading to unnecessary costs and delays for shipments that were previously exempt under established agreements. This lack of clarity may create uncertainty for exporters and could undermine the benefits of prior bilateral or multilateral arrangements.
- **Other Countries:** One in every three consignments must be tested.

### 4. Limited Provisions for Appeals or Reviews of Laboratory Test Results

Annex XIV established a requirement that samples for animal disease testing must be analyzed at laboratories registered under Decree 107/2016 and operating within the animal health and production agency. However, the draft does not specify timeframes for conducting tests or provide mechanisms for exporters to appeal unsatisfactory results. This lack of clarity may create operational challenges for exporters.

#### **Additional Notes**

- The draft Circular reflects Vietnam's efforts to align with international practices, but certain provisions may increase costs and delays for exporters, particularly those of meat, poultry, and animal protein meal.
- Strict testing requirements for Salmonella spp. and E. coli O157:H7 remain in place for imported animal products intended for food use. After three consecutive shipments pass testing, sampling is reduced to one randomly selected shipment out of every three, but any non-compliance triggers a return to full sampling. These unchanged requirements may continue to present challenges for exporters (Annex XII, II.1.b1).

Post will continue to monitor developments related to the draft Circular and provide updates as new information becomes available. Stakeholders are encouraged to review the draft Circular and submit comments by December 9, 2025. For questions or further assistance, U.S. exporters may contact FAS/Hanoi at [aghanoi@usda.gov](mailto:aghanoi@usda.gov).

The draft Circular (in Vietnamese) can be assessed here:

[https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2025/SPS/VNM/25\\_06790\\_00\\_x.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2025/SPS/VNM/25_06790_00_x.pdf)

The draft Circular (in English) can be assessed

here: [https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2025/SPS/VNM/25\\_06790\\_00\\_e.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2025/SPS/VNM/25_06790_00_e.pdf)

#### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.