



World Organisation
for Animal Health



WOAH Standards Facilitating Safe International Trade Commodity: Poultry Meat

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Facilitating Safe Trade in Poultry Meat: The Experience of Mozambique

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MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE
AND LIVESTOCK
DEVELOPMENT



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1. MOZAMBIQUE POULTRY SECTOR: WHY SAFE TRADE MATTERS

A growing domestic industry still operates within a regional and international supply system.

≈135,000 t

National chicken production in
2024

99,200 t

Chicken produced Jan–Sep
2025

21,800 t

Chicken imported Jan–Sep
2025

<20%

Share of domestic market
supplied by imported
chicken (2025)

FOOD SECURITY

Poultry meat is one of
Mozambique's most
accessible animal proteins.
Supply disruptions quickly
affect availability and
consumer prices.

DOMESTIC GROWTH

Government policy is
pushing toward greater
self-sufficiency, local feed
production, processing
capacity and stronger
poultry value chains.

TRADE REALITY

Imports remain important
for balancing supply.
Veterinary measures
therefore need to protect
national flocks without
creating unnecessary
barriers.

2. MOZAMBIQUE: THE PUBLIC-SECTOR PERSPECTIVE



The Veterinary Authority connects animal health protection, public health assurance, and market access across the poultry value chain.

PROTECT

Manage animal-health risks

- Epidemiological surveillance & early warning
- Prevention and control of Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease
- Movement controls for poultry and poultry products
- Emergency sanitary measures
- Veterinary border controls

ASSURE

Provide credible veterinary guarantees

- Verify country, zone or compartment health status
- Establish risk-based import conditions
- Official inspection and laboratory support
- Traceability and compliance verification
- International veterinary certification

FACILITATE

Enable safe & predictable trade

- Authorize trade under defined sanitary conditions
- Differentiate risk by commodity, origin & processing
- Apply proportionate, science-based measures
- Engage exporting Veterinary Authorities
- Review restrictions as epidemiological conditions evolve

Core principle

ARTICLE 21 • DECREE No. 26/2009

The Veterinary Authority's role is not simply to restrict trade when disease occurs, but to determine the sanitary conditions under which trade can continue safely.



3. MOZAMBIQUE'S POULTRY TRADE REALITY

Mozambique is connected to regional and international poultry supply chains. Safe trade requires the Veterinary Authority to assess each commodity according to its specific disease-transmission pathway.

DAY-OLD CHICKS

Live animal pathway
Source flock status • surveillance • certification

HATCHING EGGS

Production pathway
Breeder health • hatchery biosecurity • traceability

TABLE EGGS

Food commodity pathway
Different exposure routes from live poultry

POULTRY MEAT

Fresh/frozen carcasses

PROCESSED PRODUCTS

Origin • slaughter • processing • cold chain
Cuts
Processing can substantially modify risk

FEED & INPUTS

Production inputs
Biosecurity and contamination pathways

THE REGULATORY CHALLENGE

Disease risk is not identical across these commodities.

DISEASE EVENT



COMMODITY



RISK
PATHWAY



MITIGATION



SANITARY
CONDITIONS



SAFE TRADE

MOZAMBIQUE'S KEY LESSON | Different commodities → different pathways → different risks → proportionate sanitary measures



4. THE LEGAL BASIS FOR SAFE POULTRY MEAT TRADE

Decree No. 26/2009 of 17 August — Animal Health Regulation.

LEGAL PURPOSE

Provides the basis for animal-disease prevention and control, epidemiological surveillance, protection of public health, and protection of domestic and export markets.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

Empowers the Veterinary Authority to establish import conditions, require sanitary certification, inspect consignments, and apply sanitary measures where necessary.

TRADE-FACILITATION ROLE

Transforms scientific risk-management decisions into enforceable sanitary conditions that can be verified by both trading partners.

IMPORT
REQUEST



IMPORT LICENCE



SANITARY
REQUIREMENTS



INT'L VETERINARY
CERTIFICATE



BORDER
VERIFICATION



Laboratory Test
DECISION

The import permit is a risk-management instrument—not merely an administrative authorisation.

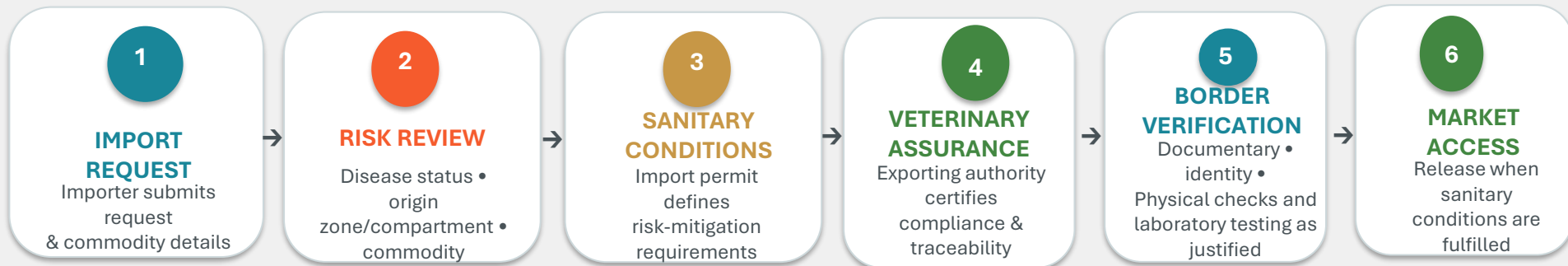
LEGAL PRINCIPLE | Identified sanitary risk → enforceable import conditions → official certification → verified market access.



5. FACILITATING SAFE TRADE IN POULTRY MEAT

FROM IMPORT REQUEST TO SAFE MARKET ACCESS

Trade facilitation starts before the poultry-meat consignment reaches Mozambique's border.



INFORMATION REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE DECISION

Country of origin • type and quantity of product • entry point • means of transport • destination • purpose — together with the sanitary and epidemiological information relevant to the commodity.

MOZAMBIQUE'S TRADE-FACILITATION PRINCIPLE

The objective is not to eliminate all trade risk, but to identify, manage and verify sanitary risk so that compliant poultry meat can move safely and predictably.



6. DISEASE STATUS IS IMPORTANT — BUT COMMODITY RISK IS MORE IMPORTANT

A disease event in an exporting country does not make every poultry commodity epidemiologically equivalent.

LIVE POULTRY

Direct live-animal disease pathway

HATCHING EGGS

Source-flock and hatchery pathway

RAW POULTRY MEAT

Origin, slaughter and product pathway

PROCESSED POULTRY MEAT

Processing may substantially modify relevant risk

WHEN AVIAN INFLUENZA IS REPORTED, MOZAMBIQUE SHOULD ASK:

Where is the disease?

What is the commodity?

What processing occurred?

Can it be traced?

What guarantees are certified?

“Our decision should be linked to the risk pathway of the commodity—not merely to the name of the disease.”



7. MOZAMBIQUE'S 2023 HPAI EXPERIENCE: THE REALITY BEHIND THE POLICY

A real outbreak connected trade measures, surveillance, traceability and domestic disease control.

REGIONAL TRIGGER

- H7N6 HPAI reported in South Africa
- Mozambique suspended imports of live domestic and wild birds and poultry products from South Africa
- National surveillance was intensified

DOMESTIC DETECTION

- 13 October 2023: suspected avian influenza notified on a commercial layer farm
- Morrumbene District, Inhambane Province
- Laboratory testing confirmed H7N6 HPAI
- Affected farm: about 45,000 birds

OFFICIAL RESPONSE

- Movement restrictions
- Culling of affected birds
- Destruction of contaminated material and eggs
- Cleaning and disinfection
- Epidemiological investigation
- Official WOAHP notification on 17 October 2023



8. LESSON FROM H7N6: IMPORT CONTROLS CANNOT SUBSTITUTE DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE

Safe trade requires multiple, mutually reinforcing layers of veterinary assurance.

WHAT HAPPENED

Mozambique had already restricted imports from South Africa when HPAI was subsequently detected domestically.

The outbreak investigation found that 45,000 live birds had entered the affected farm in three batches from an establishment certified free of avian influenza in South Africa.

EXPORTING-COUNTRY
SURVEILLANCE

BIOSECURITY

CERTIFICATION

TRACEABILITY

IMPORT
CONDITIONS

RAPID
RESPONSE

DOMESTIC
SURVEILLANCE

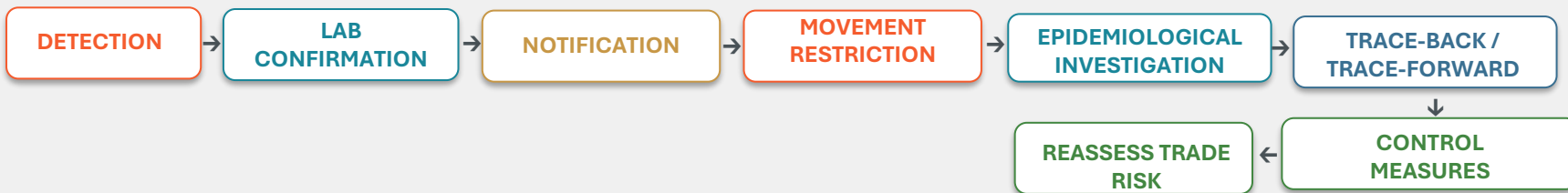
KEY INTERPRETATION

This should not be framed as a failure of certification. It demonstrates why no single control can carry the entire system.



9. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A DISEASE IS DETECTED?

Mozambique's response model combines emergency powers with progressive reassessment of trade risk.



DAY 1: MANAGE UNCERTAINTY

When information is incomplete and the potential consequence is high, temporary stronger restrictions may be justified.

Legal authority to act rapidly protects the national flock while surveillance and investigation generate better evidence.

THEN: REASSESS PROPORTIONALITY

As the affected area, commodity pathway, traceability and mitigation measures become clearer, the sanitary measure should be reviewed.

A restriction justified at the beginning of an emergency should not remain broader than the evidence requires.

CORE PRINCIPLE | Emergency protection and trade facilitation are not opposites: the measure should evolve as the evidence improves.



10. MOZAMBIQUE'S 2025 H9N2 EXPERIENCE: EARLY DETECTION & TRACEABILITY

Correct identification of the hazard is essential before deciding the sanitary response.

FIELD SIGNAL

- August 2025
- Broiler flock with elevated mortality
- Live animals and Carcasses submitted to the Central Veterinary Laboratory

The event began with routine field detection and diagnostic investigation—not with a trade decision.

LABORATORY CLARIFICATION

- Samples positive for Influenza A
- H5 and H7 excluded
- Subsequent work characterised the virus as H9N2

Laboratory evidence changed the understanding of the hazard and therefore the appropriate response.

TRADE LESSON

H9N2 is epidemiologically different from HPAI H5/H7.

The response should therefore reflect the specific hazard, epidemiological situation, commodity pathway and actual risk—not simply the words “avian influenza”.

“Not every avian influenza detection justifies the same trade measure. Correct identification of the hazard matters.”



11. TRADE FACILITATION MEANS MATCHING THE MEASURE TO THE RISK

More precise evidence should lead to more precise sanitary measures.

HIGH UNCERTAINTY / HIGH RISK

Temporary stronger restrictions may be justified while evidence is gathered.

DEFINED AFFECTED AREA

Move toward geographically targeted measures where the epidemiology supports this.

LOWER-RISK COMMODITY / EFFECTIVE MITIGATION

Apply commodity-specific sanitary conditions rather than blanket restrictions.

ADEQUATE ZONING / COMPARTMENTALISATION

Potential continuation of trade from unaffected populations where credible guarantees exist.



12. VETERINARY CERTIFICATION: THE BRIDGE BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND THE EXPORTING COUNTRY

Official certification converts confidence in a foreign production system into an auditable sanitary assurance.

MOZAMBIQUE

Defines the sanitary conditions for entry through the import authorisation.

Mozambique cannot inspect every farm, slaughterhouse and control system in the exporting country at its border.

INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY CERTIFICATE

OFFICIAL ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE

Supported by:
Surveillance • Laboratory systems • Approved establishments • Official controls • Traceability

EXPORTING VETERINARY AUTHORITY

Certifies that the consignment meets Mozambique's import requirements.

The certificate must be backed by competent Veterinary Services and evidence from the production and control system.

“The certificate is not merely a piece of paper. It is the formal expression of confidence between two Veterinary Authorities.”



13. BORDER CONTROL: VERIFY RISK, DO NOT CREATE UNNECESSARY DELAY

The border confirms compliance with sanitary guarantees already established before shipment.

DOCUMENTARY CHECK

Import authorisation, veterinary certificate and supporting documents.

1

IDENTITY CHECK

Confirm that the consignment corresponds to the certified commodity, origin, and lot.

2

PHYSICAL CHECK

Inspect the product and transport conditions where appropriate.

3

RISK-BASED ADDITIONAL CONTROL

Sampling or testing when justified by risk—not mechanically for every consignment.

4

STRONG PRE-BORDER ASSURANCE + TARGETED BORDER VERIFICATION = FASTER, SAFER TRADE



14. TRACEABILITY ENABLES TARGETED MEASURES

The better Mozambique can locate the risk, the less it needs to restrict unaffected trade.

COUNTRY /
ZONE



ESTABLISHMENT



PRODUCTION
LOT



VETERINARY
CERTIFICATE



IMPORTER



DISTRIBUTION

WITHOUT ADEQUATE TRACEABILITY

Authorities may be unable to distinguish exposed from unaffected products.

The result can be broader restrictions affecting multiple consignments, establishments or origins.

WITH STRONG TRACEABILITY

Action can focus on the specific consignment, batch, establishment or zone associated with the risk.

This protects animal health while reducing unnecessary disruption of compliant trade.

“Better traceability means more precise disease control and less unnecessary disruption of trade.”



15. ZONING & COMPARTMENTALISATION: THE NEXT STEP

An area for Mozambique to strengthen and operationalise—not yet a fully mature routine poultry-trade system.

ZONING — GEOGRAPHIC APPROACH

Focus sanitary measures on a defined affected geographical area rather than treating an entire exporting country as epidemiologically identical.

Requires:

- credible surveillance
- movement controls
- clear boundaries
- transparent information
- Veterinary Authority oversight

COMPARTMENTALISATION — MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Particularly relevant to vertically integrated poultry systems where establishments share common biosecurity, surveillance, records, and management.

Potentially supports continuity of trade from populations with demonstrable sanitary guarantees.

OUTBREAK → DEFINE THE RISK → TARGET THE MEASURE → PRESERVE UNAFFECTED TRADE WHERE JUSTIFIED

“Zoning and compartmentalisation can transform an outbreak from a national trade problem into a manageable epidemiological problem.”



16. LEGAL & REGULATORY AREAS MOZAMBIQUE CAN STRENGTHEN

The existing framework provides authority; the next evolution is more risk-based, commodity-specific and digitally supported.

**COMMODITY-SPECIFIC
RISK MEASURES**

ZONING

COMPARTMENTALISATION

**POULTRY PROCESSING
STANDARDS**

E-CERTIFICATION

TRACEABILITY

**RAPID REASSESSMENT OF
EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS**

LEGAL DIRECTION

Use the Animal Health Regulation's existing powers for import licensing, certification, disease control and enforcement while progressively modernising the framework to support precise, evidence-based trade decisions.

“Our legal framework gives us authority; the next evolution is to make that authority increasingly risk-based, commodity-specific and digitally supported.”



17. REGIONAL COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL

Poultry commodities and disease risks move across Southern Africa; Veterinary Authorities therefore need compatible systems.

DISEASE NOTIFICATION

Rapid,
transparent
epidemiological
information

VETERINARY CERTIFICATES

Compatible and
trusted sanitary
assurances

LABORATORY INFORMATION

Timely evidence to
support decisions

ZONING & RISK ASSESSMENT

Common
understanding of
risk-based measures

BORDER PROCEDURES

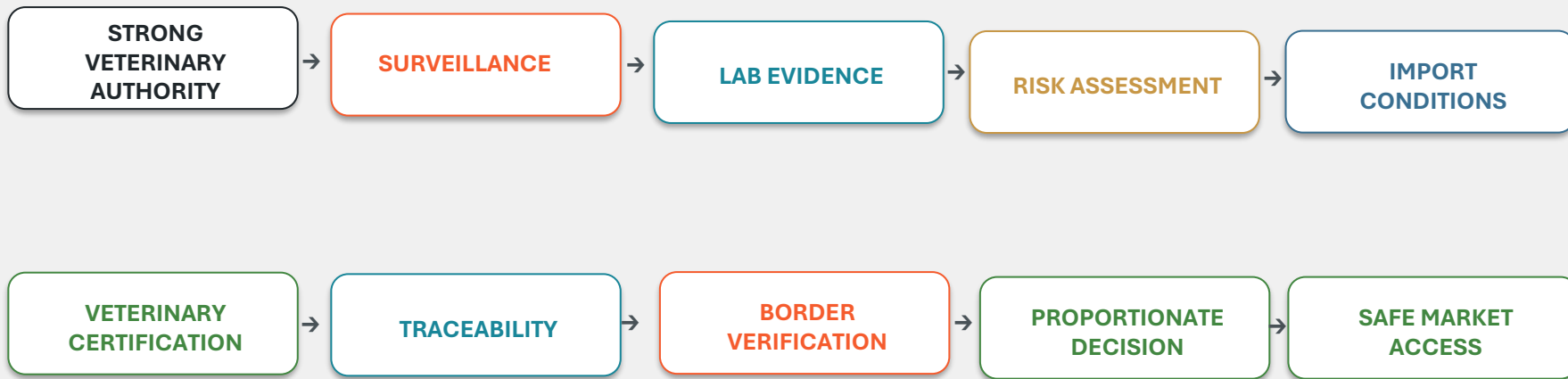
Predictable,
proportionate
verification

**REGIONAL TRUST BETWEEN VETERINARY AUTHORITIES = A TRADE-FACILITATION
MEASURE**



18. THE MOZAMBIQUE MODEL FOR POULTRY MEAT TRADE FACILITATION

Safe trade is produced by the entire veterinary system—not by a single inspection at the border.



Each component reinforces the others: weak surveillance weakens risk assessment; weak traceability broadens restrictions; weak certification reduces confidence.

“Safe poultry-meat trade is not created at the border. The entire veterinary system behind the border creates it.”



FINAL LESSON FROM MOZAMBIQUE

Protect health, preserve confidence and restore trade as soon as the evidence permits.

“Mozambique’s experience shows that the role of the Veterinary Authority is not simply to stop trade when disease occurs. It is to understand the risk, establish scientifically justified conditions, obtain credible veterinary assurances, verify compliance and allow safe trade to continue—or resume—as soon as the evidence permits.”

**SCIENCE-BASED
MEASURES**

**CREDIBLE
VETERINARY
SERVICES**

TRANSPARENCY

PROPORTIONALITY

SAFE TRADE • MARKET CONFIDENCE • FOOD SECURITY • REGIONAL COOPERATION

MOZAMBIQUE | Protect what is at risk. Facilitate what can be traded safely.

Obrigado Thank You

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