

highly contagious disease of wild and domestic swine that can spread rapidly with extremely high rates of morbidity and mortality. A list of regions where ASF exists or is reasonably believed to exist is maintained on the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>. This list is referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) of the regulations.

Section 94.8(a)(3) of the regulations states that APHIS will add a region to the list referenced in § 94.8(a)(2) upon determining ASF exists in the region or having reason to believe the disease exists in the region, based on reports APHIS receives of outbreaks of the disease from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH),¹ or from other sources the Administrator determines to be reliable, or upon determining that there is reason to believe the disease exists in the region. Section 94.8(a)(1) of the regulations specifies the criteria on which the Administrator bases the reason to believe ASF exists in a region. Section 94.8(b) prohibits the importation of pork and pork products from regions listed in accordance with § 94.8 except if processed and treated in accordance with the provisions specified in that section or consigned to an APHIS-approved establishment for further processing. Section 96.2 restricts the importation of swine casings that originated in or were processed in a region where ASF exists, as listed under § 94.8(a).

On February 9, 2023, the veterinary authorities of Singapore reported to WOAH the occurrence of ASF in that country. In response to that report, on February 16, 2023, APHIS added Singapore to the list of regions where ASF exists or the Administrator has reason to believe that ASF exists, in compliance with § 94.8(a)(3). This notice serves as an official record and public notification of that action.

As a result, pork and pork products from Singapore, including casings, are subject to APHIS import restrictions designed to mitigate the risk of ASF introduction into the United States.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of

¹ The World Organization for Animal Health internationally follows a British English spelling of "organisation" in its name; also, it was formerly the Office International des Epizooties, or OIE, but on May 28, 2022, the Organization announced that the acronym was changed from OIE to WOAH.

Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, 7781–7786, and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of November 2023.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–26234 Filed 11–28–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2023–0047]

Addition of Bolivia to the List of Regions Affected With Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public that we added Bolivia to the list of regions that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service considers to be affected with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). This action follows our imposition of HPAI-related restrictions on the importation of avian commodities originating from or transiting Bolivia as a result of the confirmation of HPAI in that country.

DATES: Bolivia was added to the list of regions APHIS considers to be affected with HPAI, effective on February 2, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. La'Toya Lane, Regionalization Evaluation Services, Strategy and Policy, VS, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737; phone: (301) 550–1671; email: AskRegionalization@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The regulations in 9 CFR part 94 (referred to below as the regulations) govern the importation of certain animals and animal products into the United States to prevent the introduction of various animal diseases, including Newcastle disease and highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The regulations prohibit or restrict the importation of live poultry, poultry meat, and other poultry products from regions where these diseases are considered to exist.

Section 94.6 of the regulations contains requirements governing the importation into the United States of carcasses, meat, parts or products of

carcasses, and eggs (other than hatching eggs) of poultry, game birds, or other birds from regions of the world where HPAI exists or is reasonably believed to exist. HPAI is an extremely infectious and potentially fatal form of avian influenza in birds and poultry that, once established, can spread rapidly from flock to flock. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains a list of restricted regions it considers to be affected with HPAI of any subtype on the APHIS website at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-and-animal-product-import-information/animal-health-status-of-regions/>.

APHIS receives notice of HPAI outbreaks from veterinary officials of the exporting country, from the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH)¹ or from other sources the Administrator determines to be reliable.

On January 31, 2023, the veterinary authorities of Bolivia reported to WOAH an HPAI occurrence in that country. On February 2, 2023, after confirming that HPAI occurred in commercial birds or poultry, APHIS added Bolivia to the list of regions where HPAI exists. On that same day, APHIS issued an import alert notifying stakeholders that APHIS imposed restrictions on the importation of poultry, commercial birds, ratites, avian hatching eggs, unprocessed avian products and byproducts, and certain fresh poultry commodities from Bolivia to mitigate risk of HPAI introduction into the United States.

With the publication of this notice, we are informing the public that we added Bolivia to the list of regions APHIS considers to be affected with HPAI of any subtype, effective February 2, 2023. This notice serves as an official record and public notification of this action.

Congressional Review Act

Pursuant to the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs designated this action as not a major rule, as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, 7781–7786, and 8301–8317; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.4.

¹ The World Organization for Animal Health internationally follows a British English spelling of "organization" in its name; also, it was formerly the Office International des Epizooties, or OIE, but on May 28, 2022, the Organization announced that the acronym was changed from OIE to WOAH.

Done in Washington, DC, this 24th day of November 2023.

Michael Watson,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–26228 Filed 11–28–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

[Docket Number: 231121–0276]

Business Diversity Principles

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for information.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is seeking public input on the draft Business Diversity Principles (BDP), which describe best practices related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in the private sector, and on the impact of DEIA initiatives.

DATES: Comments must be received by January 5, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To respond to this Request for Information (RFI), please submit electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal.

1. Go to www.regulations.gov and enter DOC–2023–0003 in the search field,

2. Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and

3. Enter or attach your comments.

Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Brandee Anderson, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary, at 202–880–4006 or banderson@doc.gov. Please direct media inquiries to Valerie Keys in the Office of Public Affairs at 202–802–8166 or vkeys@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 21, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government. On February 16, 2023, President Biden signed Executive Order 14091, Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government. Under these Executive Orders, the Biden-Harris Administration outlined an “ambitious, whole-of-government approach to racial equity and support for underserved communities” that “continuously embed[s] equity into all aspects of

Federal decision-making.” Additionally, E.O. 14091 declared that “the Federal Government shall continue to pursue ambitious goals to build a strong, fair, and inclusive workforce and economy” and “invest in communities where Federal policies have historically impeded equal opportunity—both rural and urban—in ways that mitigate economic displacement, expand access to capital . . . and build community wealth.” Equitable participation in our Nation’s economy provides a path to economic prosperity and intergenerational wealth for Americans in underserved communities and ensures that the economy benefits from the talent and potential across the country. The Department of Commerce is committed to implementing Executive Orders 13985 and 14091 and is developing the Business Diversity Principles (BDP) Initiative as part of its 2022–2026 Strategic Plan goal of promoting inclusive capitalism and equitable economic growth for all Americans. The BDP Initiative aims to foster a more equitable economic landscape by encouraging businesses to learn from each other’s successes and adopt best practices and strategies that help promote economic growth in underserved communities through diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) initiatives. This Initiative seeks to recognize the range of private sector efforts that focus on DEIA, including but not limited to human resources, workforce development and supplier diversity efforts. In recognition of the wide array of terms used to describe these efforts, the Department will collectively refer to these private sector initiatives that seek to advance equitable economic development under the umbrella term “Business Diversity.”

Research shows that these initiatives are essential to the competitiveness of the Nation’s businesses and overall American economy.¹ The Business Diversity Principles Initiative is an opportunity for the Department to: (i) advance equity and support for underserved communities, and (ii) invest in the Nation’s infrastructure, emerging and critical technology fields, and workforce development. The Department of Commerce’s mission is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity for all communities. The Business Diversity Principles advance this mission by enabling the private sector to gain cross-

industry insights, expand existing efforts, and embed Business Diversity across their business operations.

The Initiative seeks to help private sector institutions build on their commitments to equity and economic development by providing a set of best practices (the “Business Diversity Principles”) and other tools for operationalizing Business Diversity. The Department of Commerce intends for the Business Diversity Principles to serve as the first step in a longer term effort to convene private sector Business Diversity leaders, amplify existing efforts, and inspire additional, voluntary Business Diversity efforts. In addition to developing the Business Diversity Principles, this RFI will help the Department shape the next phase of the Initiative, which may include other public engagement opportunities.

Goals of This Request for Information

This RFI invites the public to inform the content of the Business Diversity Principles, share success stories and best practices related to Business Diversity, and comment on the impact of DEIA initiatives. Comments are invited from all interested parties, including private sector employers, workers, Business Diversity subject matter experts, educational leaders, civil rights advocates, and any other relevant stakeholders. The goal of this RFI is to gather input that will be used to refine the Business Diversity Principles and refine the next phases of the Initiative, and develop resources to help the private sector bolster, enhance and expand its Business Diversity efforts.

The Department of Commerce seeks input on the below draft Business Diversity Principles as well as the impact of Business Diversity initiatives.

■ **Feedback on Draft Business Diversity Principles**—The Department developed the draft Principles based on input from the private sector and subject matter experts, in addition to secondary research on private sector best practices related to Business Diversity. The draft Principles center on the following six pillars: (1) executive leadership, (2) organizational strategy, (3) workforce development, (4) human resources, (5) community investment, and (6) business opportunities. The Department is interested in hearing from members of the public on the draft Principles.

■ **Existing Business Diversity Efforts**—The Nation’s economic competitiveness depends on a highly skilled, diverse workforce capable of meeting companies’ current and future needs. Private sector Business Diversity efforts seek to ensure that all workers, suppliers, and communities are

¹ McKinsey & Company, “Diversity Wins: How Inclusion Matters,” (May 19, 2020), <https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/diversity-and-inclusion/diversity-wins-how-inclusion-matters>.