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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2026/2523

of 9 November 2026

amending Annexes IV, V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the entries for South Africa, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain animals and products of animal origin

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') ([1]), and in particular Article 230(1), Article 232(1), point (b) and Article 232(3), point (b) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EU) 2016/429 provides that consignments of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin from third countries or territories are only to be allowed to enter into the Union if the third countries or territories concerned are listed in accordance with Article 230(1) of that Regulation.

(2) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 ([2]) lays down the animal health requirements that consignments of certain species and categories of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin, from third countries, territories, or zones thereof, or compartments thereof in the case of aquaculture animals, must comply with in order to enter the Union.

(3) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 ([3]) lays down the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof, from which the entry into the Union of the species and categories of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin, falling within the scope of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692, is permitted. Those lists and certain general rules concerning those lists are set out in Annexes I to XXII to that Implementing Regulation.

(4) Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 sets out the list of third countries or territories, or zones thereof, authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of equine animals. Zone ZA-1 in South Africa, restricted to the Metropolitan area of Cape Town in the Western Cape province of that third country, is listed in the table in Part 1 of that Annex and described in Part 2 of that Annex.

([1]) OJ L 84, 31.3.2016, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/429/oj.

([2]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/692 of 30 January 2020 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards rules for entry into the Union, and the movement and handling after entry of consignments of certain animals, germinal products and products of animal origin (OJ L 174, 3.6.2020, p. 379, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2020/692/oj).

([3]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 of 24 March 2021 laying down the lists of third countries, territories or zones thereof from which the entry into the Union of animals, germinal products and products of animal origin is permitted in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 114, 31.3.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2021/404/oj).

(5) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/1170 ([4]) amended Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 in order, inter alia, to re-authorise entry into the Union of consignments of registered horses from the zone ZA-1 in South Africa under specific conditions regarding additional risk-mitigating measures for African horse sickness (AHS). One of the specific conditions, described in Part 3, point 4(c), of that Annex, is an immediate suspension of entry into the Union of registered horses from zone ZA-1 in the case of a confirmed case of AHS in the controlled area lasting until its re-authorisation by the European Commission.

(6) On 29 October 2026, South Africa has reported to the Commission an outbreak of AHS within the controlled area, in the Western Cape province of South Africa. In view of the special conditions laid down in Part 3 of Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 and taking into account the animal health situation in South Africa, it is appropriate to suspend the entry into the Union of consignments of registered horses from zone ZA-1 in South Africa in order to protect the animal health status of the Union, taking into account the date when the AHS outbreak was confirmed. Therefore, the entry for South Africa in the table set out in Part 1 of Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 should be amended accordingly.

(7) Annexes V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 set out the lists of third countries, territories, or zones thereof, authorised for the entry into the Union, respectively, of consignments of poultry and germinal products of poultry, and of fresh meat of poultry and game birds.

(8) Canada has notified the Commission of three new outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in poultry in the province of Alberta, which were confirmed on 20 October 2026 and 30 October 2026 by laboratory analysis (RT-PCR).

(9) The United Kingdom has notified the Commission of a new outbreak of HPAI in poultry in the council area of Scottish borders, in Scotland, which was confirmed on 2 November 2026 by laboratory analysis (RT-PCR).

(10) The United States has notified the Commission of four new outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in the states of California, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, which were confirmed between 23 October 2026 and 29 October 2026 by laboratory analysis (RT-PCR).

(11) Following those recent outbreaks of HPAI, the veterinary authorities of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States notified the establishment of restricted zones of at least 10 km around the affected establishments and the implementation of a stamping-out policy to control the presence of HPAI and limit the spread of that disease.

(12) Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States have submitted further information to the Commission on the epidemiological situation on their respective territories and the measures that were taken to prevent the further spread of HPAI following those recent HPAI outbreaks.

(13) The information provided by Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States has been evaluated by the Commission. In view of the animal health situation in the areas under restrictions established by the veterinary authorities of Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, it is appropriate to suspend the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry and germinal products of poultry, and of fresh meat of poultry and game birds from the areas concerned by the new outbreaks in those third countries in order to protect the animal health status of the Union, taking into account the dates when the outbreaks were confirmed. Therefore, the entries for Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States in the tables set out in Section B of Part 1 and in Part 2 of Annex V, and the table set out in Section B of Part 1 of Annex XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 should be amended accordingly.

([4]) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1170 of 23 April 2024 amending Annexes IV, VIII, XIII, XIV and XV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 as regards the lists of third countries or territories, or zones thereof, authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of certain animals and products of animal origin, and correcting Annex XIV thereto as regards the list of third countries or territories, or zones thereof, authorised for the entry into the Union of consignments of fresh meat of poultry and game birds (OJ L, 2024/1170, 30.4.2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/1170/oj).

(14) In addition, Canada has provided updated information to the Commission in relation to the epidemiological situation on its territory as regards an earlier outbreak of HPAI that gave rise to the suspension of the entry into the Union of consignments of poultry and germinal products of poultry, and of fresh meat of poultry and game birds, as set out in the table in Section B of Part 1 of Annex V, and in the table in Section B of Part 1 of Annex XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404.

(15) Canada has informed the Commission that, following that earlier outbreak of HPAI, it had implemented a stamping out policy in order to control and limit the spread of that disease, and it had also completed the requisite cleaning and disinfection following the implementation of the stamping out policy in the infected poultry establishments.

(16) The Commission has evaluated the information submitted by Canada in that regard and considers that it has provided appropriate guarantees that the animal health situation that had given rise to the suspension of the entry of consignments of poultry and germinal products of poultry, and of fresh meat of poultry and game birds into the Union from the affected zone, as set out in the table in Section B of Part 1 of Annex V, and in the table in Section B of Part 1 of Annex XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404, no longer represents a threat to animal or public health in the Union, and that, consequently, the entry into the Union of those consignments from the affected zone of Canada, from which entry into the Union had been suspended, should be re-authorised. Therefore, the entries for Canada in those tables in those Annexes should be amended accordingly.

(17) Taking into account the AHS outbreak in South Africa and the HPAI outbreaks in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States and in order to avoid any unnecessary disruption in trade with Canada, the amendments to be made to Annexes IV, V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 by this Regulation should take effect as a matter of urgency.

(18) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Annexes IV, V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 are amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 9 November 2026.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX

Annexes IV, V and XIV to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/404 are amended as follows:

(1) in Annex IV, in Part 1, the entry for South Africa is replaced by the following:

‘**ZA** South Africa	ZA-1	F	Registered horses	EQUI-X	AHS-ZA		27.10.2026’	

(2) Annex V is amended as follows:

(a) in Part 1, Section B is amended as follows:

(i) in the entry for Canada, the row for the zone CA-2.340 is replaced by the following:

‘**CA** Canada	CA-2.340	BPP, BPR, DOC, DOR, SP, SR, POU-LT20, HEP, HER, HE-LT20	N, P1		21.9.2026	1.11.2026’

(ii) in the entry for Canada, the following rows for the zones CA-2.353, CA-2.354 and CA-2.355 are added after the row for the zone CA-2.352:

‘**CA** Canada	CA-2.353	BPP, BPR, DOC, DOR, SP, SR, POU-LT20, HEP, HER, HE-LT20	N, P1		20.10.2026	
	CA-2.354		N, P1		20.10.2026	
	CA-2.355		N, P1		30.10.2026’	

(iii) in the entry for the United Kingdom, the row for the zone GB-2.473 is added after the row for the zone GB-2.472:

‘**GB** United Kingdom	GB-2.473	BPP, BPR, DOC, DOR, SP, SR, POU-LT20, HEP, HER, HE-LT20	N, P1		2.11.2026’	

(iv) in the entry for the United States, the following rows for the zones US-2.1433 to US-2.1436 are added after the row for the zone US-2.1432:

‘**US** United States	US-2.1433	BPP, BPR, DOC, DOR, SP, SR, POU-LT20, HEP, HER, HE-LT20	N, P1		23.10.2026	
	US-2.1434		N, P1		27.10.2026	
	US-2.1435		N, P1		28.10.2026	
	US-2.1436		N, P1		29.10.2026’	

(b) Part 2 is amended as follows:

(i) in the entry for Canada, the following descriptions of the zones CA-2.353, CA-2.354 and CA-2.355 are added after the row for the zone CA-2.352:

‘Canada	CA-2.353	Alberta – Latitude 56.88, Longitude -117.7 The municipalities involved are: 3km PZ: Manning and Northern Lights 10km SZ: Manning, Notikewin, and Northern Lights

	CA-2.354	Alberta – Latitude 50.78, Longitude -113.99 The municipalities involved are: 3km PZ: Foothills and Okotoks 10km SZ: Aldersyde, De Winton, Foothills and Okotoks
	CA-2.355	Alberta – Latitude 52.63, Longitude -114.05 The municipalities involved are: 3km PZ: Rimbey and Ponoka 10km SZ: Rimbey, Parkland Beach and Ponoka'

(ii) in the entry for the United Kingdom, the following description of the zone GB-2.473 is added after the description of the zone GB-2.472:

'United Kingdom	GB-2.473	near Biggar, Scottish Borders, Scotland, GB the area contained with a circle of a radius of 10 km, centred on WGS84 dec, coordinates Lat: N55.62 and Long: W3.45'

(iii) in the entry for the United States, the following descriptions of the zones US-2.1433 to US-2.1436 are added after the description of the zone US-2.1432:

'United States	US-2.1433	State of Wisconsin Barron 14 Barron County: A circular zone of a 10 km radius starting with North point (GPS coordinates: 91.8214134°W 45.5107516°N)
	US-2.1434	State of Minnesota Morrison 15 Morrison County: A circular zone of a 10 km radius starting with North point (GPS coordinates: 94.5958515°W 45.9406784°N)
	US-2.1435	State of California Stanislaus 20 Stanislaus County: A circular zone of a 10 km radius starting with North point (GPS coordinates: 121.0128999°W 37.6282064°N)
	US-2.1436	State of Iowa Sac 07 Sac County: A circular zone of a 10 km radius starting with North point (GPS coordinates: 94.9141769°W 42.5619261°N)'

(3) in Annex XIV, in Part 1, Section B is amended as follows:

(a) in the entry for Canada, the row for the zone CA-2.340 is replaced by the following:

'**CA** Canada	CA-2.340	POU, RAT	N, P1		21.9.2026	1.11.2026
		GBM	P1		21.9.2026	1.11.2026'

(b) in the entry for Canada, the following rows for the zones CA-2.353, CA-2.354 and CA-2.355 are added after the row for the zone CA-2.352:

'**CA** Canada	CA-2.353	POU, RAT	N, P1		20.10.2026	
		GBM	P1		20.10.2026	
	CA-2.354	POU, RAT	N, P1		20.10.2026	
		GBM	P1		20.10.2026	
	CA-2.355	POU, RAT	N, P1		30.10.2026	
		GBM	P1		30.10.2026'	

(c) in the entry for the United Kingdom, the following row for the zone GB-2.473 is added after the row for the zone GB-2.472:

‘**GB** United Kingdom	GB-2.473	POU, RAT	N, P1		2.11.2026	
		GBM	P1		2.11.2026’	

(d) in the entry for the United States, the following rows for the zones US-2.1433 to US-2.1436 are added after the row for the zone US-2.1432:

‘**US** United States	US-2.1433	POU, RAT	N, P1		23.10.2026	
		GBM	P1		23.10.2026	
	US-2.1434	POU, RAT	N, P1		27.10.2026	
		GBM	P1		27.10.2026	
	US-2.1435	POU, RAT	N, P1		28.10.2026	
		GBM	P1		28.10.2026	
	US-2.1436	POU, RAT	N, P1		29.10.2026	
		GBM	P1		29.10.2026’	