

Inedible Fishmeal Exports to Canada

As of July 12, 2007*, the effective date of implementation of Canada's enhanced feed ban, U.S. origin fishmeal is only allowed entry into Canada with an import permit (issued to the Canadian importer) and an official animal health/export certificate endorsed by a full-time salaried USDA (APHIS VS), or NOAA veterinarian.

*The interim provisions that allowed U.S. origin fishmeal entry into Canada under a temporary import permit issued by CFIA that did not require completion of the BSE questionnaire and accompaniment of each shipment with an official government animal health/export certificate expired on October 1, 2007. As of October 1, 2007, U.S. origin fishmeal is only enterable into Canada upon meeting Canada's full regulatory requirements under the provisions of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) enhanced feed ban.

New Process

For U.S. facilities to continue exporting fishmeal to Canada under the regulatory provisions of Canada's enhanced feed ban, the following process must be accomplished.

1. Complete the CFIA "Facility Questionnaire – Importation from the USA of Products of Rendering Plants." The questionnaire can be obtained from the Canadian importer. It can also be downloaded from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) International Animal Products Regulations (IREGs) or obtained from the VS Area Offices or the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
2. Request a verification inspection and endorsement of the Facility Questionnaire by NOAA if the facility is under NOAA supervision or APHIS VS, if the facility is not under NOAA supervision. If the inspection will be done by APHIS VS, contact the VS Area Office responsible for the State where the facility is located.
3. If the inspection is completed and the Facility Questionnaire is endorsed by a non-veterinary NOAA inspector, request counter-endorsement of the Facility Questionnaire by the VS Area Office that will be endorsing animal health/export certificates for the product. [Please note that CFIA requires endorsement of the Facility Questionnaire by an official government veterinarian.]
4. Provide the original, signed, dated and officially endorsed Facility Questionnaire to the Canadian importer. This document must be submitted to CFIA by the Canadian importer together with an application for an import permit. The VS Area Office (and NOAA if applicable) will maintain a copy of the completed Facility questionnaire. Official copies of the current, endorsed Facility Questionnaire can be provided to subsequent Canadian importers, as needed (provided the Questionnaire is current and the information still valid). NOTE: Since CFIA issues import permits from four different offices, the exporting

facility may need to provide an original (signature/seal) of the Facility Questionnaire to subsequent Canadian importers if they will be applying through different offices.

5. Obtain a copy of the import permit from the Canadian importer.
6. Prepare the animal health/export certificate(s) for endorsement in accordance with the issued permit and CFIA's requirements for rendered meals. [See also "CFIA's Requirements for Bulk, Rendered, Dry Inedible Products from USA"]
7. Present a copy of the applicable import permit to NOAA (if the facility is under NOAA supervision and a NOAA veterinarian is available to endorse the official health certification) or the VS Area Office with each request for an animal health/export certificate. To avoid delays in endorsement or refusal of entry, ensure that the import permit is current and that the information on the animal health/export certificate matches the accompanying import permit.
8. Prepare the renderer's statement in accordance with CFIA's requirements. [see certification requirements below]
9. Ensure that each shipment of fishmeal is accompanied by the import permit allowing entry of the product, together with an ORIGINAL export certificate endorsed and issued either by a NOAA veterinarian or by APHIS VS, and the supporting renderer's statement.

Facility and Product Requirements

To be eligible to manufacture fishmeal for export to Canada, the facility must be dedicated (i.e., the facility does not receive, store, or process any ruminants and things derived from ruminants).

To be eligible for export to Canada, the product must have been prepared, processed, stored, and otherwise handled in a manner to avoid contamination with any of the following ruminant* tissues, which are considered to be specified risk materials (SRM):

- a. The skull, including the brain, trigeminal ganglia and eyes, the spinal cord and the vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia from all bovine animals aged 30 months or older; and
- b. The small intestines and tonsils from bovine animals of all ages.

The moisture content of the product must not exceed 12%.

*ruminant is defined as an animal of the subfamily *Bovinae* and *Caprinae* and includes cattle, buffalo, bison, sheep and goats, and their exotic relatives. Ruminants and things derived from them of Canadian origin or from a Category 1 (negligible BSE risk) country are exempted from this prohibition and are permitted within the establishment.

Certification Requirements [NOTE: These are the requirements as provided by CFIA to APHIS VS. Certification requirements, as specified on a current, valid Canadian import permit, will supersede this information.]

Official Veterinary Certification (either by NOAA or APHIS VS)

The following statements are required either on a certificate issued by NOAA (endorsed by a veterinarian) or on the VS 16-4, Health Certificate-Export Certificate-Animal Products, in the ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS section:

1. The [name of products] covered by this export certificate and import permit number [indicate import permit number] were only produced at [indicate name and address of the producer as identified in the import permit] and were only exported to Canada from [indicate name and address of the producer/exporter as identified in the import permit].
2. The producing/exporting facility(ies) DOES NOT receive, store, or process any ruminants and things derived from them, and the product has been prepared, processed, stored, and otherwise handled in a manner to avoid contamination with any of the following ruminant tissues, which are considered to be specified risk materials (SRM):
 - a. the skull, including the brain, trigeminal ganglia and eyes, the spinal cord and the vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia from all bovine animals aged 30 months or older; and
 - b. the small intestine and tonsils from bovine animals of all ages.
3. The moisture content of the product is less than 12 percent.

Renderer's Statement

The renderer (manufacturer) must provide a statement which includes the name and address of the rendering facility that produced the product and the date (or range of dates) of production. The renderer (manufacturer) must also state that 1) the moisture content of the product is less than 12%; 2) the rendering facility does not handle prohibited material*; 3) the product does not contain any prohibited material as defined by Section 162 of CFIA's Health of Animal Regulations; and 4) the product may be used in the manufacture of feed for ruminants.

*Prohibited materials are ruminants and ruminant tissues derived from ruminants, including SRMs as listed in 2a and b under "official veterinary certification."