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To: District Managers

From: Karen Stuck
             Assistant Administrator
             Office of International Affairs

Subject: Export Notice 2004-3, Suspension of CFIA Pre-verification Procedure for U.S. Meat and Poultry Shipments Intended for Export to Canada

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has informed FSIS that the pre-verification procedure indicated in the Documentation sections of the Red Meat and Poultry Export Requirements for Canada and outlined in detail in the "Export Procedures for Export of U.S. Product to Canada" document may be periodically suspended due to possible strike action in Canada. The time and duration of suspension of the pre-verification procedure may vary.

Effective immediately, U.S. exporters of meat and poultry and meat and poultry products should call 613-228-4562 to determine the status of the pre-verification procedure before submitting FSIS Forms 9135-3 and 9135-3A export certificates to the CFIA Import Control Office for pre-clearance.

1. If the recorded message indicates that the Import Control Office is open, fax the certificate(s) and shipment information according to the established procedure.

2. If the recorded message indicates that the Import Control Office is closed, the certificate should not be submitted for pre-verification. In this case, the completed, signed FSIS certificate(s) and shipment information should be submitted to the Canadian importer by the U.S. exporter prior to the arrival of the product at the Canadian port of entry. CFIA will continue to authorize entry of these shipments to Canada, without the pre-verification of documents.

The other information in the "Export Procedures for Export of U.S. Product to Canada" including the instructions for completing FSIS Form 9135-3 and the procedures for reinspection in Canada remain in effect.

Additional information about the status of the pre-verification procedures will be provided as it becomes available.