



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

NOV 27 2007

Dr. William Anderson, Director
Meat Programs Division
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
8 Colonnade Road
Ottawa, Ontario K1A0Y9

Dear Dr. Anderson:

This letter is to advise you that on Wednesday, November 28, 2007, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will resume normal levels of product examinations of exported Canadian meat and poultry products, and pasteurized egg products at import houses in the United States. Additionally, FSIS will resume normal levels of testing for *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella* in ready-to-eat products. FSIS will continue testing of raw ground beef, raw beef manufacturing trim, boxed beef, and subprimals normally sent for grinding for *E. coli* O157:H7. Testing for *E. coli* O157:H7 will proceed at levels to be determined after completion of an analysis of eligible imported beef products from all equivalent countries.

As you know, increased product exams and testing of products from Canada have been in place since November 9, 2007. The measures were a reflection of our concern about the Canadian inspection system based on audit findings of May 1-June 6, 2007, and the circumstances related to the unsafe practices employed by Ranchers Beef, Ltd., Establishment 630.

This month we completed two audits in Canada. One audit reviewed investigative actions by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency of unsafe practices of Ranchers Beef, and recall events associated with that establishment. A second audit conducted a follow-up review of seven Canadian establishments that were either delisted or received Notices of Intent to Delist (NOID) during FSIS' May 1-June 6, 2007, audit of Canada's inspection system, and reviewed beef slaughter establishments similar to Ranchers Beef with regard to start-up and operations. The audits indicated the unsafe practices in Ranchers Beef were not employed by other establishments, and that corrective actions were in place in the seven establishments identified in the audit earlier this year. Additionally, the increased testing has not revealed any problems with Canadian products exported to the United States.

The information from the audits and the increased testing have led us to make the decision to return to normal levels of product examinations and testing.

Thank you for your cooperation during this period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dr. Wm J", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. William James
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of International Affairs
FSIS, USDA