

RCC Agriculture and Food 1 Working Group: Meat Cut Nomenclature Work Plan

Canada Lead: Neil Bouwer, Vice President, Policy and Programs, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)
 U.S. Leads: Phil Derfler, Deputy Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 Robert Keeney, Deputy Administrator, Agriculture Marketing Services, USDA

Deliverable outcome	Creation of a common Canada –U.S. meat cut nomenclature system and establishment of a regulatory alignment approach	
Action items	Action item 1: Create a common approach to meat cut nomenclature.	Action item 2. Establish an ongoing systemic regulatory alignment mechanism/framework
Timeline	Interim Deliverables	
3-6 Months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify regulatory impediments to a common approach 2. Stocktaking of current conflicting nomenclature items in beef, pork, lamb, veal and poultry between US and Canada. 3. Develop options for a common approach (e.g., voluntary standards on both sides, move Canadian standard to third party to maintain with CFIA enforcing, joint Canada-US standard, adopt US standard, etc). 	<p>Develop proposals for a framework outlining an ongoing systemic alignment mechanism to align Canada-United States approaches to meat cut nomenclature</p> <p>This framework will include all the key elements of a systemic alignment mechanism including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - research and development of common naming practices - means to adjust and update nomenclature - ongoing governance and information exchange mechanisms <p>Develop a plan to engage industry stakeholders including/identifying:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) key industry stakeholder groups to be consulted on RCC Action Plan ii) key stakeholder groups with an interest in the meat initiative at large iii) existing fora that could be used for face to face consultation iv) tools to communicate status updates, and solicit input v) key issues requiring targeted consultations vi) development of a forward looking communications calendar vii) schedule that provides Working Group leads opportunity to engage industry stakeholders quarterly or otherwise as agreed

<p>6-12 Months</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate, select preferred option and consult with stakeholders. 2. Establish mechanism to carry out the selected option for agreed products. 3. Develop an implementation plan for selected option, including any regulatory changes, stakeholder outreach, training, etc. 4. Initiate any regulatory changes dictated by the developed approach 5. Conduct stakeholder outreach and training to facilitate implementation of any regulatory change. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analysis of the proposals in the paper, outlining the implementation considerations for the ongoing systemic alignment mechanisms that address barriers and enablers that include changes to legislation, regulation, policies and administrative procedures. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Run pilots to test key elements
<p>12-18 Months</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement nomenclature pilot project for agreed products. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalize a paper detailing requirements and mechanisms necessary for ongoing regulatory alignment for discussion within and between jurisdictions.
<p>(18 Months and Beyond) Beyond June 2013</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate information obtained from pilot project and determine if modifications are needed. 2. Re-develop (if needed) and implement fully tested models. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Generate an annual bi-national government report on progress to advance regulatory alignment under the RCC initiatives; to be shared with industry stakeholders as established in the communications plan
<p>*Key Considerations</p>	<p>There are different US statutory and regulatory 'regimes' for red meat and poultry and their nomenclature. The RCC initiative deliverable to develop a single approach will reflect this situation - red meat and poultry nomenclature will be addressed in a similar manner that respects the different regimes in an appropriate manner.</p>	

Contact Information:

Canada: CFIA, Dr. Richard Arsenault [e-mail: Richard.Arsenault@inspection.gc.ca]

U.S.: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) [e-mail: RCC-BTB@one.usda.gov]