

RCC Agriculture and Food 1 Working Group: Meat and Poultry Products Export Certification

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

Deliverable outcome	Streamline the certification process, including consideration to reduce or eliminate redundant certification, data elements and administrative procedures for shipments flowing between Canada and the US.
3-6 months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FSIS and CFIA will establish a bilateral working committee, consisting of representation from both agencies, aimed at developing a framework for aligning the inspection systems' requirements for export certification. This working committee will conduct an assessment of all certification requirements and identify opportunities to reduce or eliminate these requirements, taking into account the electronic certification business processes* and the streamlining impact they will have on the certification process. The working committee will use this assessment to identify enablers, barriers, and means of addressing these barriers by determining: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is it really required? b) Is there an alternate way to address the requirement? (i.e., data sharing) c) For those deemed necessary, can administrative burdens be reduced or eliminated? 2. Targeted consultations held with stakeholders to help identify key certification irritants through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Canada-U.S. conference calls with stakeholders, on an as needed basis, with a minimum frequency of at least twice a year and b) regular stakeholder events as driven by the milestones of the project, i.e. public meetings or other avenues to be identified. 3. Report on the results of the assessment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Offer recommendations for how to reduce the regulatory burdens associated with certification requirements. b) Suggest viable options for both interim and long-term measures to support e-certification in both countries*. <p>* <u>Key Consideration</u> - FSIS is implementing the PHIS Import functions on May 29, 2012, and will subsequently begin to implement the PHIS Export function in Quarter 1 of fiscal year 2012 (October-December 2012).</p>
6-12 months	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prioritize options to eliminate, replace or reduce certification requirements, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) identifying any regulatory changes b) pilot projects where needed c) additional research required

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Develop a list of certification reduction proposed projects to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) elimination of requirement for veterinary signature b) certificate 'stickering.' 3. Develop a work plan and mechanisms for the initiation, monitoring and evaluation of any pilot project(s) on an on-going basis. 4. Continue stakeholder engagement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Canada-U.S. conference calls with stakeholders, on an as needed basis b) Regular stakeholder events as driven by the milestones of the project, i.e. public meetings or other avenues to be identified.
<p>12-18 months</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement pilot projects and evaluate options to test reduction and/or elimination of certification requirements. 2. Compile a joint report assessing the pilot projects impact and next steps to advance proposed recommendations for permanent changes. 3. Continue stakeholder engagement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Canada-U.S. conference calls with stakeholders, on an as needed basis b) regular stakeholder events as driven by the milestones of the project, i.e. public meetings or other avenues to be identified.
<p>Beyond18 months</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiate implementation of adjustments in both countries to reflect lessons learned to include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) permanent changes identified to eliminate, replace or reduce certification requirements, b) long-term measures (i.e., includes longer term plan for PHIS implementation and the CFIA's broader Electronic Service Delivery Platform - anticipated implementation in 2016).

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