

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: October 11, 2022

Report Number: GT2022-0010

Report Name: Improved Regulations for Poultry Meat Exports to Guatemala

Country: Guatemala

Post: Guatemala City

Report Category: Export Accomplishments - Events, Export Accomplishments - Other, Export Accomplishments - Trade Leads, Export Accomplishments - Marketing, Trade Events and Shows, Export Accomplishments - Market Access, Export Accomplishments - Border Facilitation, Livestock and Products, Poultry and Products

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Report Highlights:

In June 2022 the Government of Guatemala confirmed that poultry products exported to Guatemala no longer need the USDA export mark on every box, and instead USDA can apply the mark on every consignment, pallet, or transportation unit. This has resulted in more efficient export clearance times with reduced labor, dock space and loading time which ultimately translates into better poultry prices for consumers.

Poultry importers in Guatemala and the USA Poultry and Egg Export Council (USAPEEC), together with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service, asked the Government of Guatemala to help improve the efficiency of export procedures for poultry by allowing USDA to place the export stamp on each pallet or transportation unit rather than unloading and stamping each box. They argued that reduced logistics costs and time are important during a period of escalating inflation, resulting from the post-pandemic transportation crisis and limited port operation capacities worldwide.

The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is responsible for the certification of exports of U.S. poultry and red meat products. As part of these duties, FSIS routinely provides the USDA export mark (e.g., hand stamp or computer-generated sticker) on every box of these products before they are exported. Many countries have approved stamping of larger export units, such as at the pallet level, to improve the efficiency of export procedures. The Guatemalan Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAGA) has just approved this method of stamping, thus reducing the burden on USDA and poultry exporters. To see the update visit [Guatemala at FSIS Export Library](#) which reads:

NOTE: USDA Export Mark: Exporters may apply the FSIS-issued USDA export mark (e.g., hand stamp or computer-generated sticker) to 1) each outside container within a consignment, 2) a securely enclosed pallet or pallets within the consignment (e.g., shrink-wrapped, or other effective means), or 3) the closed means of conveyance transporting the consignment (e.g., rail car, air, ocean container, truck). The USDA export mark bears the export certificate number and links a consignment to its corresponding export certificate.

As a result of its implementation, logistic operators in the United States have received training and are adjusting their procedures accordingly, which has increased the speed at which they can process and load orders. After two months of implementation of this change, industry sources report that logistic costs in the United States have been reduced by up to 60-70%, which translates into final sale price reduction of \$0.02 to \$0.10 per pound of poultry meat or meat product.

Attachments:

No Attachments.