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POLICY

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Mexico

Post: Mexico

New Meat and Poultry Letterhead Certificates Required

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Agriculture in the Economy

FAIRS Subject Report

Policy and Program Announcements

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

The National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) provided clarification on the appropriateness of U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Letterhead Certificates that must accompany shipments of certain meat and poultry as well as related products exported from the United States to Mexico. SENASICA indicated that new Letterhead Certificates must accompany all shipments arriving at the border when an agreement has been reached between the two governments (see accompanying product list) unless it was certified prior to Mexico's Nov. 22, 2011, communication. Products have been held up at the border if they are not accompanied by the new certificate.

General Information:

On December 6, 2011, SENASICA’s Import and Export General Directorate announced that between now and December 15, 2011, Mexico will only be accepting the newest version of the FSIS Letterhead Certificates that were agreed upon and included in SENASICA’s official communication 0805/11 and dated November 22, 2011. If shipments are not accompanied with these new Letterhead Certificates they will likely be held up at the border until a new certificate can be issued. The Letterhead Certificates have been posted on USDA’s FSIS [Export Library](#) and the Spanish requirements are posted on SENASICA’s website under the [Modulo de Consulta de Requisitos Zoosanitarios para la Importacion](#) (MCRZI). Previously, it was thought that Mexico would allow both the new and the previous versions of Letterhead Certificates through December 15, 2011.

It is important to note that if a shipment of a relevant product was certified prior to November 22, U.S. exporters should inform USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) in Mexico (agmexico@fas.usda.gov and Tel: +52 55 5080 2532) so that the office can work with SENASICA and facilitate the trade of these shipments.

It is critical that industry know and understand that all shipments arriving on or after December 16, 2011, must be certified with the new documentation requirements. The U.S. Government is continuing to work with SENASICA to reach an agreement on appropriate language for Letterhead Certificates for additional meat and poultry and related products (specifically those for beef and multi-species products) so as to comply with the *Hoja de Requisitos Zoosanitarios (HRZs)*. On December 1, 2011, SENASICA granted an extension to the implementation period for these additional products with the hopes that a final agreement can be reached before December 15, 2011. It remains in question as to what will happen to shipments of products without an agreed upon Letterhead Certificate after December 15, 2011.

The FAS Offices in Mexico encourage all interested parties to be in compliance with the new documentation requirements by the stipulated dates so as to avoid any trade disruption, as SENASICA will maintain only a small number of technical staff in their offices when the Mexican Government shuts down activities on December 16, 2011, for the holiday season. SENASICA has reported that technical staff are neither authorized nor able to make decisions or rulings in the case of a non-compliance with the HRZs and shipments, therefore, will need to await the return of authorized staff on January 3, 2012.

Government Certificate Legal Entry Requirements:

A free translation of SENASICA’s official communication is provided.

Begin note

The National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality
Animal Health General Directorate
Import and Export Directorate

Mexico City, November 22, 2011

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Dear Minister Counselor Berman:

As a follow up on SENASICA’s official communication B00.02.03.01.02.-0780, dated November 9, 2011, the teleconferences held with FSIS Dr. Juan Rodriguez and to the emails received at this Area Directorate containing the proposed models of FSIS Letterhead Certificates to comply with the Zoo sanitary requirements of the new HRZ system (MCRZI), I would like to inform you, once the analysis has concluded, that we have reached to the following conclusion:

The guarantees established in the of FSIS Letterhead Certificates models for the import of Pork offal (other than organs); pork offal (organs); pork cooked or smoked bacon; pork fat and lard; raw poultry meat; poultry offal (other than organs); raw poultry offal (organs); ovine/caprine offal (other than organs); ovine/caprine offal (organs); thermally process poultry; poultry edible fats; pork, carcasses, raw meat; processed egg products; poultry dried meat; poultry cooked or smoked bacon and pork skin popping are considered acceptable. We will inform all personnel from the Phyto Zoo sanitary Inspection General Directorate, at the points of entrance, its immediate enforcement as follows:

Letterhead Certificates	Correspondent combination
Pork offal (other than organs)	Despojos porcinos 024-13-181-USA-USA
Pork offal (organs)	Visceras porcinos 024-13-120-USA-USA
Pork bacon	Tocino cocido o ahumado (porcino) 024-13-423-USA-USA
Pork fat and lard	Grasas porcinas 024-13-363-USA-USA
Raw poultry (fresh)	Carne avicola 004-13-87-USA-USA
Poultry Offal (other than organs)	Despojos avicolas 004-13-086-USA-USA
Raw poultry offal (organs)	Visceras avicolas 004-13-182—USA-USA
Ovine/Caprine (other than organs)	Despojos ovinos/caprinos 098-13-161-USA-USA
Ovine/Caprine (organs)	Visceras ovina/caprina 098-13-120-USA-USA
Thermally processed poultry	Carne avicola con proceso termico 004-13-89-USA-USA
Poultry edible fats	Grasas avicolas 004-13-383-USA-USA
Pork, carcasses, raw, etc	Carne porcina 024-13-116-USA-USA
Processed Egg Products	Huevo procesado o sus partes 004-13-53-USA-USA
Poultry dried meat	Carne deshidratada/avicola 004-13-185-USA-USA
Poultry bacon	Tocino cocido o ahumado de ave 004-13-424-USA-USA

Pork Skin Popping	Piel de cerdo con tratamiento termico 024-13-823-USA-USA
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It is important to note that, in compliance with what agreed in the teleconferences, the certifications issued previous to November 30, 2011 for the import of this merchandise will be accepted. However, starting on December 1, 2011, the only accepted certifications will be those ones previously agreed.

Best regards,

End note

Author Defined:

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For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico:

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX1076	Mexico Eliminates Trucking Retaliation Tariffs Against Ag. Products	10/21/2011
MX1042	Market Concentration in Selected Agricultural and Food Subsectors	5/25/2011
MX1019	Mexico Consolidates Labeling Requirements for Milk and Hams	3/16/2011
MX0096	Mexico Announces 2011 Import TRQ for Dairy Preparations	12/20/2010
MX0095	Mexico Announces 2011 TRQ for Milk Powder Imports from WTO Members	12/20/2010
MX0084	Guidelines to Harmonize Import Inspection of Agricultural Products	11/15/2010
MX0076	New Mexican Regulation for Milk and Milk Products	10/18/2010

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx, equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx and equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned sites.