

CFIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS USDA FINAL BSE RULE

LIVE CATTLE AND BISON

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| Q1. | What does the implementation of the USDA Final Second Rule mean for Canadian farmers and beef processors? |
| A1. | The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) BSE rule will expand market opportunities for farmers and processors. It will allow imports of older cattle and other bovines (i.e. bison), and meat and products derived from them. Animals for breeding, and those for temporary stay for shows or exhibitions, which were prohibited under the previous rule, will also now be permitted. The rule should enter into force on November 19, 2007. |
| Q2. | What animals are now eligible for export to the U.S.? |
| A2. | Live animals born on or after March 1, 1999 are now eligible for export to the United States. Under the previous rule, only cattle under 30 months were eligible. |
| Q3. | Why did the U.S. choose the date of March 1, 1999? |
| A3. | This is the date that the U.S. recognizes as the effective date for Canada's ruminant to ruminant feed ban. |
| Q4. | What are the requirements for a producer who wants to export live cattle to the United States? |
| A4. | To put it simply, the producer must have a shipment of cattle certified by a CFIA-accredited veterinarian and the certificate must be endorsed by a CFIA veterinarian. Certification includes an animal health inspection, age verification and permanent identification requirements. |
| Q5. | What does export certification process involve? |
| A5. | Accredited veterinarians must use the most recent export certificate, which is available from a CFIA district office, and follow the inspection process described in the Accredited Veterinarian's Manual. There are 2 certificates currently available: HA 1941 for breeding, show, and feeding, and HA 2183 for animals for immediate slaughter. A list of Animal Health district offices is available on the CFIA website: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/offbure.shtml |

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| Q6. | What are the considerations of the animal health certification? |
| A6. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All animals were born in the United States or Canada or were legally imported into Canada from a region recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a region not restricted due to BSE • All animals have been under no movement restrictions within Canada or the U.S. for at least 60 days prior to importation into the U.S.; • Veterinary inspections must verify that all animals are found to be free from any evidence of communicable disease and that, as far as can be determined, they have not been exposed to any such disease during the preceding 60 days. • The animals are not under quarantine in Canada; |
| Q7. | Are tuberculosis and brucellosis tests required? |
| A7. | Tuberculosis and brucellosis testing is not required for animals entering the U.S. for immediate slaughter. The same tests are also not required for animals exported for any other reason (breeding, show, and feeding) unless the animals come from the province of Manitoba. This is due to the fact that the USDA does not consider Manitoba to be free of tuberculosis. Sexually intact (non-castrated) animals over 4 weeks old which have resided in Manitoba within 60 days preceding export must have tested negative for bovine tuberculosis, unless they are sexually intact heifers moving to a U.S. feedlot then to slaughter. |
| Q8. | Are pregnant animals still prohibited? |
| A8. | Pregnant animals are no longer restricted, so pregnancy tests and a segregation period between males and females are no longer necessary. |
| Q9. | How do you confirm the age of an animal for export? |
| A9. | <p>This can be done in one of three ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birth records agreeable to the accredited veterinarian can be used for animals of any age; • an examination of dentition which confirms the full eruption of the 8th permanent incisor (this examination can determine whether an animal is approximately four to five years of age); • a visual inspection is allowed for younger animals (up to 3 years of age) under certain conditions |
| Q10. | What are the animal identification requirements? |
| A10. | <p>All animals for export must be identified with official Canadian ear tags, from the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, or Agri-Traçabilité Québec.</p> <p>All animals not exported for immediate slaughter must be permanently and humanely identified with a distinct and legible "CAN" mark that has been applied with a freeze brand or hot iron that is easily visible on the live animal. The mark is to be applied to each animal's right hip, high on the tail-head and not less than two (2) inches or more than three (3) inches high. A legible tattoo bearing the letters "CAN" applied to the inside of the left ear is also acceptable.</p> <p>Animals for immediate slaughter do not require a brand or tattoo.</p> |

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| Q11. | Are there other requirements? |
| A11. | <p>Producers should be aware of the Canadian and U.S. regulations and requirements for the humane transportation of animals.</p> <p>For animals going to slaughter, transport vehicles must move directly from the exporting premises to the port of entry where it will be sealed by a USDA officer before proceeding directly to the designated slaughter plant. The requirement that transport trucks be sealed with Government of Canada seals prior to shipping has been eliminated.</p> <p>Unrelated to the requirements of the U.S. final rule, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires exporters of live animals intended for food use (i.e. slaughter) to provide prior notice before animals enter the U.S. As well, Canadian commercial feedlots exporting live animals to the U.S. are required to be registered with the FDA. Prior notice must be received and confirmed electronically by the FDA no more than five days before arrival and no fewer than two hours by land for animals arriving by road.</p> |
| Q12. | Does the final rule affect exports of sheep and goats? |
| A12. | Restrictions on sheep and goats have not changed. These animals may be imported for immediate slaughter and feeding prior to slaughter in the U.S. provided they are less than 12 months of age. Sheep and goats for breeding purposes remain prohibited. The U.S. continues to review this position. |
| Q13. | How many copies of the export certificate are needed? |
| A13. | <p>If a large group of animals for immediate slaughter are being sent in a convoy of livestock trucks, the first truck must hold the original export certificate plus two additional copies. The remaining trucks must hold three copies of the certificate, and one of these copies must have the official CFIA red exportation stamp on every page.</p> <p>For animals destined for breeding, feeding or show, an original export certificate and two copies of the export certificate are required for each truck.</p> |
| Q14. | There used to be a limit of 8 trucks per export certificate for shipments of animals destined for immediate slaughter going to the same end-destination. Is this still the case? |
| A14. | No, there may now be more than 8 trucks per export certificate, but all trucks under this certificate must cross at the same border crossing, all on the same day. |
| Q15. | Does the quantity of the animals in each truck have to exactly match what is written on the export certificate? |
| A15. | <p>There can be up to 20% more animals on the export certificate than the quantity of animals being actually exported. It is not necessary to strike out the animals that are not part of the shipment but are still on the certificate. The owner, agent, or exporter must write the exact number of animals in each truck in the appropriate section of each copy of the certificate which will accompany the animals.</p> <p>Please understand that it is of the utmost importance that all the animals being exported are properly identified on the export certificate.</p> |

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| Q16. | May CFIA-accredited veterinarians begin inspecting animals to be exported under the USDA Final Rule before the implementation date of November 19, 2007? |
| A16. | Yes, inspections may begin, but CFIA veterinarians are not allowed to officially endorse the export certificates provided by the accredited veterinarian before the implementation date of November 19, 2007. |

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

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| Q1. | What type of certification will be required when exporting over thirty month (OTM) meat to the USA? |
| A1. | The revised certification for bovine meat products will apply regardless of the age of the animals from which the meat is derived. Distinct certificates are designed for specific categories of meat products as it is currently the case (e.g., meat, meat by-products, meat food products, edible tallow, casings, and inedible offal). |
| Q2. | Can the shipments contain a mixture of both UTM and OTM meat for export? |
| A2. | Yes. The new rule will allow importation of bovine meat products of all ages, provided specified risk material (SRM) is removed from the products. As all products are eligible, no segregation between OTM and UTM meat will be required when products are in trucks used to transport meat to the USA. |
| Q3. | What sort of certification or additional information is required when exporting OTM meat? |
| A3. | As indicated in the response to question one above, certification for the different categories of meat products will continue to be required by the USDA. The only changes are that the certificates currently used will be amended to reflect the requirements of the new rule, i.e., the removal of the age restriction of the animals from which the meat is derived; the list of prohibited tissues will be modified by replacing "entire small intestine" with "distal ileum"; the certificate for animal casings will be amended to include casings derived from bovine. |
| Q4. | How can producers operate leading up to the November 19 deadline, so they can effectively shipping product on November 19 without experiencing any issues or refusals at borders and avoid any delisting and plant closures? |
| A4. | Although the CFIA cannot provide guarantees for what will happen on November 19, 2007, all efforts are being made to amend the requirements to reflect the new rule so that all concerned can be informed when the new requirements are implemented in order to facilitate, to the extent possible, a smooth implementation. |

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| Q5. | Would gel bone exported to the US, have to be vertebral column free? Also how about blood meal (red cells)? |
| A5. | Certification conditions require removal of SRM as defined by the USDA-FSIS (removal of the vertebral column derived from products from OTM animals). Regarding blood meal, it is covered under the "Blood and blood products". Again it is important to consider applicable conditions must be met (section 95.4 of USDA regulations). |
| Q6. | Will all offal, raw pet food items (spleens, lungs etc), plasma (edible and inedible), fetal blood, edible tallow and gel bone be eligible to be shipped to the U.S? |
| A6. | Yes, based on information available at this time, provided applicable requirements outlined in the certificates are met. As far as meat and bone meal (MBM) and inedible tallow are concerned, we are seeking confirmation from the UDSA of eligibility requirements and provide this information when it is made available to the CFIA. |
| Q7. | What are the requirements with respect to meat/bone meal, edible tallow, inedible tallow, gel bone, dried blood, blood plasma (edible and inedible), fetal blood, offal, raw pet food items (example lungs, spleens etc)? |
| A7. | Refer to Table 1, below 1. For Meat products: as far as meat products are concerned, the following are the certificates that will apply under the new MRR rule. The certification requirements are the same as those currently used except for the two attestations related to the age restrictions which will be deleted (see attached for your convenience the current certificates). Paragraphs 1 and 2 of annex A-1, A-3 and A-5 will be removed. Also in the case of paragraph 3 of annex A-1 and A-5 the reference to "entire small intestine" will be replaced by "distal ileum". 2. For other products derived from bovines: Inedible animal by-products are covered by the CFIA's Animal Health and Production Division. Export certificates exist for the following products: Bovine blood and blood product (HA2391), bovine donor blood (HA2392) and Fetal bovine serum (HA2393). Export certificates for inedible tallow, inedible offals have been approved. |
| Q8. | International markets request export products to be labelled with the OTM symbol (triangle with the number 3 inside), would these still be required for export to US? |
| A8. | It is important to note that the marking requirements for OTM meat will continue to apply in order to facilitate trade with several partners that continue to implement age restrictions. The details of the marking requirements for OTM meat are outlined in section 11.6.3.2 and are as follows: "Marking requirements: To facilitate the work of all parties involved, an identification mark has been agreed upon to identify products derived from animals aged 30 months or older. In the case of unpackaged products, the identification mark (see Annex R-2) should appear on the products. In the case of packaged |

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| | <p>products, it should appear on the main panel of the shipping container. The size of the mark should be of at least 5 cm (sides in the case of the triangle and height in the case of the numeral alone). Operators of establishments where bovine meat products are manufactured are responsible for developing marking procedures, using one of the agreed upon identification marks, to the satisfaction of the CFIA to ensure that all products derived from animals aged 30 months and older are identified as required.</p> <p>As a control measure at a receiving establishment, written confirmation from the operator of the supplying establishment endorsed by the CFIA inspector to the effect that the marking is conducted in a satisfactory manner should be retained on file and made available on request.</p> <p>Meat products pre-packaged for retail sale on the Canadian market and prepared meat products for sale in Canada do not need to bear the markings described above."</p> |
| Q9. | Would frozen packaged edible meat with SRM removed be allowed for export? |
| A9. | As long as the meat meets all the new requirements (ie. SRM as defined by the FSIS are removed) as of Nov 19, 2007, edible meat would be eligible for export. |

Table 1:

| Product/Commodity | Annex | Certificate |
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| MEAT PRODUCTS, BLOOD PLASMA - EDIBLE | Annex A-1 | VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR BOVINE (1) MEAT, MEAT BY-PRODUCTS AND MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION DESTINED TO THE USA. |
| EDIBLE TALLOW | Annex A-3 | VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR EDIBLE TALLOW DESTINED TO THE USA |
| OFFAL, RAW PET FOOD ITEMS (EXAMPLE LUNGS, SPLEENS, ETC.) | Annex A-5 | VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR BOVINE OFFAL NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (1) DESTINED TO THE USA |
| GEL BONE | Annex A-1 will apply in the case of edible bones. Annex A-5 in the case of inedible bones. | VETERINARY CERTIFICATE FOR BOVINE OFFAL NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION (1) DESTINED TO THE USA |
| MEAT/BONE MEAL | | NO CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE YET. USDA HAS BEEN CONTACTED |
| INEDIBLE TALLOW | | CERTIFICATE APPROVED BY USDA |
| BLOOD AND BLOOD PRODUCT | | ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE AGREED UPON (HA2391) |
| BOVINE DONOR BLOOD | | ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE AGREED UPON (HA2392) |
| FETAL BOVINE SERUM | | ANIMAL HEALTH CERTIFICATE AGREED UPON (HA2393) |
| INEDIBLE OFFALS | Annex A-5 (HA) | CERTIFICATE APPROVED BY USDA |