

Bulletin

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Canada Reaches Historic Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the European Union

Prime Minister Stephen Harper tabled a technical summary of the Canada-European Union (EU) Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in the House of Commons. This document entitled *Technical Summary of the Negotiated Outcomes: Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement* can now be found at actionplan.gc.ca/ceta.



Top picture: (left to right) Arnold Drung - President Canadian Meat Council, Minister of International Trade Ed Fast, Jim Laws - Executive Director Canadian Meat Council

Bottom picture: (left to right) Jim Laws - Executive Director Canadian Meat Council, Harold Albrecht - Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga, Arnold Drung - President Canadian Meat Council



Membership Report

New Members:

Regular Members:

Les Aliments Levitts - A meat processing plant based in Montreal, Quebec.

Maxi Canada Inc. - A meat processing plant based in St. Lin-Laurentides, Quebec.

Associate Members:

Canadian Contract Cleaning Specialists Inc. - A sanitation company based in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Technical Update

Processing aid approval

On October 25, Health Canada released the new Policy Intent for Issuing an Interim Letter of No Objection for Processing Aids. This policy is considered an active policy (applications can be submitted for consideration). The Canadian Meat Council will analyze the policy with members to comment or seek clarification on this process. Comment period will end on January 6, 2014.

Meat Nomenclature

This initiative will benefit Canada by creating more consistent nomenclature rules across North America. The creation of a common Canada – United States meat cut nomenclature system will enable freer trade between the two countries. A pilot project will be launched this fall. This project will include a few industry selected meat names and involve the use of current Canadian terms and equivalent U.S. terms which can be used interchangeably for the ease of trade. The CFIA's current meat cuts manual remains in effect and must be used for all other meat names when certifying and verifying meat cut names for wholesale trade purposes. The adoption of new terms will help consumers benefit from a single regulatory approach and industry will see a reduction in costs associated with maintaining separate inventories due to differences in meat cut nomenclature.

Industry Days: Food Safety Enhancement Program/Compliance Verification System

Very positive feedback from the sessions were given by participants. From the sessions, the new Corrective Action Requirement (CAR) process and posting them on the website created some concerns among the participants. During discussions in the last Technical Committee meeting, it was stated that industry needs to be involved in the development of the CAR language and content. Concern was also raised on getting consistent inspector training when this new process is rolled out and the communication with the establishments (be sure that companies have provided all the necessary feedback) before a very serious CAR will be posted. It was suggested to collect a number of existing CARs and run them through the proposed new process and consider how they become classified as minor, serious and very serious.

International Trade

CANADA-EU Trade Negotiations (CETA)

On October 18th, Prime Minister Stephen Harper and EU President José Manuel Barroso signed an agreement in principle.

When fully implemented, the Agreement provides: duty-free access of 80,000 tonnes of Canadian pork to the EU; duty-free access of 65,000 tonnes of Canadian beef and veal; duty-free access of 3,000 tonnes of Canadian bison meat; unlimited duty-free access of Canadian horsemeat; and, unlimited duty-free access of Canadian prepared meats. In return, the EU will: retain duty-free access to the Canadian market for pork; obtain duty-free access for beef; and receive reciprocal unlimited duty-free access for prepared meats. In addition to the agreement on import quotas and tariffs, the CETA outcome includes a critically vital commitment to resolve technical barriers.

Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement

The signature of the Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement and the approval by Honduras of Canada's beef and pork inspection and certification system were announced on November 5 by the Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, and the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food.

The recognition by Honduras of the Canadian beef and pork inspection system permits all of Canada's federally-registered meat processing establishments to take advantage, effective immediately, of export opportunities in a market of 8 million consumers. Moreover, when ratified, the Canada-Honduras Free Trade Agreement will result in the progressive elimination of Honduran import quotas and tariffs on all Canadian beef and pork products.

Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

The leaders of the 12 TPP nations – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam – will hold a ministerial meeting from December 7 to 9 in Singapore, with an aim to conclude a deal by year end. The ministerial sessions will be the stage for the countries to make progress toward resolving difficult issues such as tariff eliminations. The meeting will be held on the heels of the World Trade Organization's ninth ministerial conference from December 3 to 6 in Bali, Indonesia.

Bilateral economic partnership talks between Canada and Japan stalled when Japan formally joined the TPP in July. Momentum for the talks has resumed. Canadian trade negotiators are scheduled to meet their Japanese counterparts in November.

Canada-Korea Free Trade Agreement

Encouraged by President Park Guen-hye and Prime Minister Harper's announcement to finalize the deal, Canadian trade negotiators have reengaged their South Korean counterparts in the negotiations. When the talks resumed in 2012, three sensitive market access issues had to be resolved. Canada was seeking comprehensive tariff elimination for its commercially significant beef and pork exports. South Korea was seeking enhanced market access on imports of Korean made vehicles to Canada. Indications are hopeful.

Trade Remedy: Chile

Canada and Chile have benefited from a Free Trade Agreement that entered into force in 1997. This year, Canadian Pork Council and the Canadian Meat Council participated in a safeguard investigation conducted by Chile's National Commission to Investigate the Existence of Distortions in the Price of Imported Merchandise and made submissions about the inconsistency of the ASPROCER petition with WTO rules.

ASPROCER, the Chilean producer association, had requested an import surcharge of 14.3 per cent on imported frozen pork. The Government of Chile decided to reject ASPROCER's demands for safeguard measures on imports of frozen pork in the absence of evidence of serious injury. This threat to Canadian exports of frozen pork products to the Chilean market has been neutralized and removed.

Regulatory Affairs

Consultations on the "New Regulatory Framework for Federal Food Inspection" are ongoing until November 30th. After that, a second tranche of discussion papers will be released for consultation:

- Compliance Promotion Strategy
- Incorporation by Reference
- Foreign Systems Comparability
- Private Standards
- Statement of Regulatory Excellence

The draft content of the food inspection regulations, supported by the first draft suite of guidance documents for industry, is scheduled to be released in the spring of 2014. The new Food Inspection Regulations are scheduled to come into force sometime in January 2015.

CFIA's Feed Regulatory Modernization Initiative is proceeding on a parallel track. On October 10th, the CFIA released two of the four proposals related to the modernization initiative for comment. The proposals deal with feed ingredient assessment and authorization and feed labelling. The remaining two proposals, feed hazard identification and preventive control as well as facility licensing/enforcement approaches, have yet to be released by the CFIA.

In the meantime, the long awaited regulatory amendments to the Meat Inspection Regulations - including the repeal of paragraph 92 (2) (b) which represents the requirement to register packaging and labelling materials with the CFIA - is pending, subject to Cabinet's approval.

Government and Media Relations

Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP):

Alexis Conrad, the Director General responsible for the Temporary Foreign Worker Program in the Department of Employment and Social Development was invited to meet with the Canadian Meat Council Board of Directors on September 5. Conrad stated the objective of the government is to ensure Canadians are aware of job opportunities, but that the government does not wish to impede business activities when employers have used best practices to recruit Canadians and demonstrated a requirement for temporary foreign workers. In response to concerns pertaining to the classification of positions in meat processing establishments, he noted that National Occupational Classifications are changed every five years. In addition, he expressed a willingness to meet with anyone who wishes to discuss the TFWP.

Age Labelling of Meat:

The Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council and the Further Poultry Processors Association forwarded a joint letter to Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Ritz indicating meat and poultry industry opposition to a Chicken Farmers of Canada proposal to label meat products by age, e.g., as spent fowl or mature chicken rather than as chicken.

Media Contacts:

- *CBC Saskatoon*, re: implications of the decision by Tyson Foods to terminate the importation of live cattle from Canada
- *Business Review Canada* and *Food Digital*, re: the CMC digital brochure
- *Bloomberg Winnipeg*, re: the use of ractopamine in Canada and its acceptability in export markets such as the European Union
- *Global Meat News*, re: the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement
- *Western Producer*, re: implications of the transfer of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to Health Canada
- *Canadian Press Montreal*, re: impact of the U.S. government shutdown on Canadian meat exports
- *Ontario Farmer*, re: progress in implementing the 30 recommendations of the Independent Review of XL Foods Inc. Beef Recall 2012
- *CBC Power and Politics*, re: potential impact of U.S. government shutdown on the Canadian meat and poultry industry
- *Western Producer*, re: comparative intensity of media coverage for XL Foods versus foodborne illness incidents associated with: B.C. cheese, small Manitoba pork producer, and U.S. lettuce
- *La Presse*, réponses écrites à neuf questions concernant la production et la consommation des différentes viandes au Canada
- *Canadian Meat Business*, Guest Editorial re: the importance of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program in the meat and poultry sector
- *Washington Post* re: the origin and evolution of the High Line Inspection System and its potential relationship to the XL Foods beef recall
- *Plan Publishing* re: Report on Agriculture for the *Vancouver Province*
- *Canadian Meat Business* Guest Article by Executive Director Jim Laws entitled “*Canada Needs New International Trade Agreements*”
- *Food in Canada* magazine re: Canadian Meat Council 93rd Annual Conference and Canadian Meat Science Scholarship awards
- *Globe and Mail* re: July 1 article “*The Search for a Better Dog*”
- *Food in Canada* magazine re: proposal for a strategic alliance
- *Foodservice and Hospitality* magazine re: trends in meat consumption and current issues such as nitric oxide, food irradiation and sodium-reduced processed meats



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Staff Contact Information

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