

August 9, 2024

Non-supply managed trade controls (TNC)
Global Affairs Canada
111 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2
Via email: tnc-Consultations@international.gc.ca

RE: Consultation on the administration of the World Trade Organization (WTO) TRQ for beef and veal

The Canadian Meat Council (CMC) is pleased to respond to the Public Consultation on the administration of the World Trade Organization (WTO) TRQ for beef and veal.

The Canadian Meat Council (CMC) represents federally inspected meat packers and meat processors as well as suppliers of goods and services to the meat industry. As an industry association, CMC advocates on behalf of its members and works to secure and improve Canada's global meat competitiveness and domestic growth. CMC members directly employ over 64,000 people in rural and urban locations nationwide, and additionally support 300,000 jobs along the supply chain.

Beef Tariff Rate Quota Advisory Committee (TQAC)

The CMC has been a member of the Beef Tariff Rate Quota Advisory Committee (TQAC) for a number of years. The group has not met in several years, perhaps in part because the Beef TRQ is functioning well, with no known issues necessitating substantive changes.

If the Government plans any substantive revisions to the TRQ administrative policy, the TQAC should be reconstituted, informed of the specific changes, and convened to discuss them. Therefore, CMC recommends that the current TRQ administration remains unchanged in substance. If there are issues with the TRQ's operation, the Government should inform the TQAC and seek its advice.

Reviewing specific elements like Supplier Country Pools and Importer Allocation Methodologies, CMC emphasizes maintaining the status quo unless the TQAC recommends changes after thorough consideration. Non-substantive terminology changes should not signal a shift in access, ensuring importers retain discretion over access options.

Non-substantive terminology changes

The inconsistent use of terms like "rest of world" or "non-FTA countries" may have caused confusion in the past. The CMC is open to the Government's proposals to revise the administrative policy text in a non-substantive way to improve clarity and reduce misunderstandings.

However, the CMC emphasizes that any changes to terminology should not signal a shift in access. Beef imported from FTA partners (e.g., Japan, UK, France) must remain eligible for the WTO rest-of-world pool if quantities are available, rather than being forced to use preferential FTA access. Importers should retain the discretion to choose which access option to utilize if multiple options are available.