

CFIA – Meat Inspections (UPDATE)

The following information was distributed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on the afternoon of December 24, 2009. Although the notice is addressed to Registered Meat Inspection Establishments, it is recommended that all importers of meat from the United States read this information as an update to our previous notice posted on November 17, 2009.

December 24, 2009
Ottawa (Ontario)

Notice to all Registered Meat Inspection Establishments

Please note that as of January 4, 2010, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will modify its procedures related to the distribution of the MCAP Import Inspection Report for meat shipments from the USA.

Under the new procedures, Importers/brokers will no longer be provided with advanced notice of the status of the shipment (if the product is a skip lot or is targeted for inspection). Copies of MCAP documents (Import Inspection Report) **will no longer be automatically forwarded** to the CFIA Inspector at the Registered Meat Inspection Establishment to eliminate any possibility of advance notice to the importer.

At the time of import, Carriers will be informed of the status of their shipment at the Primary Inspection Line (PIL) by the CBSA.

For shipments targeted for inspection, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) will affix a special CFIA stamp (Report for Full Meat Inspection) on import documentation (e.g. Canada Customs Invoice – sample attached *) and will inform the Carrier to proceed to the pre-selected Registered Meat Inspection Establishment. For skip lots, regular release procedures will apply and Carriers will proceed to the manifested destination.

For shipments targeted for inspection, carriers will proceed to the pre-selected Registered Meat Inspection Establishment. Upon arrival, **registered meat establishment staff** will contact the CFIA Meat Import Control and Data Information Centre (MICDIC) in Ottawa (613) 221 4012 and request a copy of the MCAP Import Inspection Report. At the same time the Registered Meat Inspection Establishment will contact the CFIA Inspector and arrange for an inspection appointment.

MICDIC staff will review the transaction in the Import Control and Tracking System (ICTS) and verify that the shipment has been released by CBSA and has entered Canada. If these conditions have been met, the MICDIC staff will fax a copy of the MCAP Import Inspection Report to the care of the CFIA Inspector at the Registered Meat Inspection Establishment.

Once the inspection has been completed, the CFIA Inspector will provide the establishment with a signed copy of the MCAP Import Inspection Report as proof that the shipment has been inspected and released by the CFIA.

If you have any questions regarding this procedure please contact the CFIA Meat Import Specialist in your area.

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(*) Please see the sample attached to our initial notice posted on November 17.