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November 4, 2003



# Country of Origin Labelling

Implications for Canadian  
Agriculture

“a retailer of a covered  
commodity shall inform  
consumers...of the country of  
origin”

Sec.282(a)(1)

# Covered Commodities

- Beef, Lamb, Pork (muscle cuts)
- Fish and Shellfish (farm-raised and wild)
- Fruits and Vegetables (fresh and frozen)
- Peanuts

Sec. 281(2)

# Meat Cuts

Australia, Argentina, Austria, Belgium,  
Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark,  
European Union, Finland, France,  
Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel,  
Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico,  
Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru,  
Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore,  
Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand,  
Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United  
Kingdom

# Meat Carcasses

Australia, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

# Ground Meat

Australia, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

# Exclusions

- Poultry
- Goats
- Processed Foods (e.g. corned beef, bratwurst, ham)
- Ingredients in Processed Foods

# Three Labelling Requirements

- US only origin
- Foreign only origin
- Mixed origin

# Method of Display

- On the commodity
- On the bin, package, etc.  
holding the commodity

Sec. 282(c)

# Verification

USDA “may require that any person that prepares, stores, handles, or distributes a covered commodity for retail sale maintain a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail”

Sec. 282(d)

“Any person engages in the business of supplying a covered commodity to a retailer shall provide information to the retailer indicating the country of origin”

Sec.282(e)

# US Retailers have Notified Packers to:

- Segregate covered commodities throughout the entire production chain
- Document segregation through verifiable audit trail and provide audit results
- Label all products with country of origin
- Indemnify retailer for any packer-related non-compliance violations

*Beef Tips (May 2003)*

# US Packers Notified Producers to:

- Provide 3<sup>rd</sup>-party verified documentation showing where animals were born and raised
- Allow packers to conduct random audits of producer records
- Indemnify the packer for any producer-related noncompliance violations

*Beef Tips (May 2003)*

# Possible Supporting Records

- Birth records
- Shipping, receiving and transportation records
- Purchase Records
- Animal identification system
- Feeding records and bills
- Animal inventory records
- Performance records
- Health records

*Beef Tips (May 2003)*

# Concerns

- What will the final design look like?
- How will this coordinate with new *Bio-terrorism Act*?
- What are the Costs?
- Liability

# The Good News

- US Processors are Up in Arms