



OCT 20 2003

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import and Export

Products Program

4700 River Road
Unit 40
Riverdale, MD 20737

Subject: Over-land transit of meat from Canada to Mexico

To: Importers, Brokers and other interested parties

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) has been informed by the Government of Mexico that they will now accept the import of certain meat products from Canada. The only products that are being accepted by the Mexican Government for importation are those that would be accepted for import into the United States. These products will require a Transit Permit.

The National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) will now accept applications for Transit Permits for the following products: boneless beef, bovine liver, veal and other products that are currently permitted for entry into the United States. These permits will differ from current import permits in that the shipment will not be required to go to an Import Establishment or I-House. This requirement will be replaced with certification statements to allow the over-land transit of these products to Mexico.

United States entities which want to have shipments transit the United States to Mexico on a regular basis must have obtained a VS Transit Permit by January 30, 2004. In the interim, to facilitate the movement of product, NCIE will allow the use of current permits while U.S. importers apply for and receive their transit permits.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will verify the following:

- The shipment comes from a Canadian facility that is approved by USDA/ Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to export to the United States. (Any shipper that is listed on a Veterinary Import Permit would meet this condition.)
- The Permittee or their agent presents the Import Permit, Canadian Government Certification and other applicable documents to CBP,
- If the Permittee or their agent is requesting "transportation and exportation" (T&E)" of the shipment to Mexico and has met all requirements of CBP for such movement then the shipment will be allowed to transit the United States without inspection at the FSIS I-House.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING: If the shipment is refused entry by Mexico for any reason, then the Permittee is responsible for contacting FSIS at 202-720-9904 to inform them that the shipment is returning from the Mexican Border.



Karen A. James-Preston
Director
Technical Trade Services
National Center for Import and Export