



August 19, 2004

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Subject: Clarification Regarding the Importation of Eligible Fresh or Frozen Boneless Bovine Meat of Canadian Origin

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

To: U.S. Importers, Brokers, and other Interested Parties

Veterinary Services

Technical Trade
Services

Effective on or about August 7, 2003, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS), National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) announced its intention to issue permits to allow the importation of low risk ruminant meat and meat products from Canada. The list of low risk ruminant meat and meat product eligible for import, dated August 15, 2003 (republished May 6, 2004) included:

4700 River RD
Unit 40
Riverdale MD 20737

Bovine Meat, Boneless Fresh or Frozen from animals under 30 months of age – (no advanced meat recovery, mechanically separated meat, ground meat, or low temperature rendered product) *[includes trim/manufacturing trim derived from skeletal muscle with associated tissues, not including any ground meat, trim derived from a mechanical separation process (including AMR), or derived from vertebral column.]*

Boneless bovine meat includes beef derived from the skeletal muscles of carcasses, which includes wholesale or retail primal/sub-primal cuts as well as the trim/manufacturing trim derived from skeletal muscle with associated tissues. Meat from the diaphragm (i.e., from the beef plate, e.g. beef skirt steak, hanging tender) is considered boneless beef. Therefore, diaphragm meat and hanging tenders may be imported when accompanied by a valid permit for boneless beef.

Effective immediately, boneless bovine meat of Canadian origin as defined above is eligible for importation provided the shipment is accompanied by a valid APHIS, VS, NCIE import permit (VS Form 16-6: United States Veterinary Permit for Importation and Transportation of Controlled Materials and Organisms and Vectors) authorizing the importation of boneless beef, boneless bison, or boneless buffalo, and the required original certification as specified in the restrictions and precautions on the permit. Any of the eligible products listed above currently detained at the border are eligible for entry if all of the requirements listed above are met. An application for a permit (VS Form 16-3) is available on our web site <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie>.

Sincerely,

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



Safeguarding American Agriculture

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