

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

THIS REPORT CONTAINS ASSESSMENTS OF COMMODITY AND TRADE ISSUES MADE BY
USDA STAFF AND NOT NECESSARILY STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Voluntary Public

Date: 2/27/2014

GAIN Report Number: CA14023

Canada

Post: Ottawa

Canada to Extend Administrative Monetary Penalties to the Meat Sector

Report Categories:

Policy and Program Announcements

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Approved By:

Jeff Zimmerman

Prepared By:

Mihai Lupescu

Report Highlights:

Canada initiated formal 30-day public consultation process on the extension of Administrative Monetary Penalties to the *Meat Inspection Act* and the *Meat Inspection Regulations, 1990*. Stakeholders have until March 22, 2014 to submit their comments to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

With a recent [announcement](#), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) seeks comments from industry on a proposed amendment to the *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* (AMPs Regulations) to expand Administrative Monetary Penalties (AMPs) to the *Meat Inspection Act* and the *Meat Inspection Regulations, 1990*.

This proposed regulatory change follows another recent [announcement](#) informing about federal government plans to strengthen the Canadian food safety enforcement in the meat sector. These initiatives fall under the government's [Healthy and Safe Food for Canadians Framework](#), which outlines how federal authorities are working to prevent food safety risks and protect consumers when unsafe products enter the marketplace.

The proposed amendments to the AMPs Regulations were published in [Canada Gazette, Part 1](#) on February 22, 2014. Interested stakeholders have until **March 22, 2014** to get involved and send their comments to the CFIA:

Dr. Parthiban Muthukumarasamy Acting Director, Meat Programs Division Canadian Food Inspection Agency 1400 Merivale Road, Tower 1, 4th Floor, Room 228, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0Y9 Telephone: 613-773-6162, Fax: 613-773-6281 Email: Parthiban.Muthukumarasamy@inspection.gc.ca	Mr. Doug Milne Director, Enforcement and Investigation Services, Canadian Food Inspection Agency 1431 Merivale Road, 3rd Floor, Room 118 Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0Y9 Telephone: 613-773-8170 Fax: 613-773-8528 Email: Doug.Milne@inspection.gc.ca
---	--

AMPs are one of the options available to CFIA to respond to non-compliance, in addition to education, written warnings, seizure and detention of product, or prosecution when non-compliance is found. These various options are used depending on the nature of the contravention and the compliance history of the contravener.

To date, since the AMPs Act was passed in 1995, the AMPs Regulations have been implemented to respond to violations of the *Health of Animals Act* and Regulations, the *Plant Protection Act* and Regulations, and the *Pest Control Products Act* and Regulations. The current regulatory proposal will add provisions of the *Meat Inspection Act* and *Meat Inspection Regulations, 1990* to Schedule 1 to the AMPs Regulations, thereby enabling the issuance of administrative monetary penalties for violation of these provisions.

According to the CFIA, the ability to use AMPs allows the Agency to be more strategic and proactive in its enforcement approach. Currently, when faced with non-compliance in the meat hygiene sector, the CFIA can either suspend or cancel a license or registration (which prohibits the regulated party from operating) or recommend prosecution. The Public Prosecution Service of Canada decides whether to pursue the case in the courts. With AMPs, the CFIA has full authority to decide when to issue a monetary penalty. CFIA officials can now work in conjunction with industry associations to act on specific non-compliance issues. The experience of other agencies administering similar schemes shows that this approach is very effective in increasing compliance.