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POLICY

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Mexico

Post: Mexico

GOM announces structural changes to federal meat inspection system

Report Categories:

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

The Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food (SAGARPA) published a notice in the *Diario Oficial* (Federal Register) that eliminated NOM-018 on September 28, 2010. This regulation established the requirements for employment as veterinarians within meat and poultry establishments that are part of Mexico's federal meat inspection system. This announcement comes after the National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) published new guidelines regarding the employment of veterinarians who are responsible for animal sanitary inspections within meat and poultry establishments. The elimination of NOM-018 became effective September 29, 2010. This notice only pertains to the domestic meat and poultry inspection system and will not affect U.S. meat and poultry exports to Mexico.

General Information:

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a cursory review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

Title: Elimination of the Mexican official regulation NOM-018-ZOO-1994, Approved veterinarians authorized to provide inspection services with respect to animal health (published April 26, 1995).

SAGARPA published a notice in the *Diario Oficial* on September 28, 2010, eliminating the Mexican official regulation NOM-018-ZOO-1994, “Approved veterinarians authorized to provide inspection services with respect to animal health” originally published April 26, 1995. This regulation was eliminated because that these regulations contradicted the Animal Health Law (LSA) as published on July 25, 2007.

FAS-Mexico Assessment

This notice is part of an effort by SAGARPA-SENASICA to fulfill international standards, including meeting U.S. regulations. In the latest systems audit of the Mexican poultry and meat inspection system conducted by USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) a preliminary finding with respect to government oversight was cited. FSIS’s preliminary finding stated that approved veterinarians were employed and paid directly by establishments, rather than by SENASICA, but worked under the supervision of the official SENASICA veterinarians.

Recently, SENASICA announced new procedures for employment and payment of veterinarians, who are part of the federal meat inspection system within federally-inspected establishments (TIF). As announced, veterinarians will now be employed and paid by a third party and will be responsible for conducting poultry and meat inspections. These new procedures are outlined in SENASICA’s revised procedure manual for TIFs and are found on-line at the following web-site (in Spanish):

<http://www.senasica.gob.mx/includes/asp/download.asp?IdDocumento=19273&idurl=28809>

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: September 28, 2010
2. Effective Date: September 29, 2010

For More Information

FAS/Mexico Web Site: We are available at www.mexico-usda.com or visit the FAS headquarters' home page at www.fas.usda.gov for a complete selection of FAS worldwide agricultural reporting.

FAS/Mexico YouTube Channel: Catch the latest videos of FAS Mexico at work
<http://www.youtube.com/user/ATOMexicoCity>

Other Relevant Reports Submitted by FAS/Mexico

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX0065	Mexico Lifts Ban on Poultry Imports from Four Counties	09/21/10
MX0059	Poultry and Products Annual	09/01/10
MX0058	Shell egg categories for import into Mexico	08/24/10
MX0054	Mexico Increases Trucking Retaliation Against Ag Products	08/18/10

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx. This web site is mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with, the information contained on the mentioned site.