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POLICY

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Hong Kong

Post: Hong Kong

HK Officially Allows U.S. Bone-in Beef Exports to Resume

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Livestock and Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture successfully reached an agreement with the Hong Kong government (HKG) to expand beef product access to Hong Kong. In addition to boneless beef obtained from cattle under 30 months of age, the HKG agreed to allow the following U.S. beef products derived from cattle which are slaughtered on or after February 15, 2013 to be eligible to export to Hong Kong.

- I. Ribs and bone-in beef (excluding cuts containing vertebral column) from cattle less than 30 months of age; and
- II. Boneless beef from cattle of age 30 months and over

USDA will update its official certification process and export library on February 25, 2013 to reflect the eligible product cuts and Hong Kong's import requirements.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture successfully reached an agreement with the Hong Kong government to expand U.S. beef product cuts to the Hong Kong market. U.S. bone-in beef (excluding cuts containing vertebral column) from cattle less than 30 months of age and boneless beef of all ages, slaughtered on or after February 15, are eligible to have access to Hong Kong. This is the first expansion of product cuts to Hong Kong following the resumption of U.S. boneless beef from cattle less than 30 months of age since December 2005.

FSIS will accommodate the inspection and certification of the expanded products cuts after February 25 when the Export Library is updated accordingly.

To be eligible for Hong Kong, U.S. bone-in beef products have to be slaughtered and processed from establishments that comply with the [Hong Kong EV program](#) for bone-in beef approved by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). All existing suppliers at AMS' [Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers for the Bovine Export Verification Program for Hong Kong](#) who meet the new requirements as determined by AMS will remain eligible to export all eligible beef products to Hong Kong, including bone-in beef, without undertaking any re-approval process by the Hong Kong Government. However, the inclusion of additional establishments to the Official Listing still will need to go through the existing approving process by AMS with written notification to the Hong Kong Center for Food Safety as a requirement prior to official listing.

All federally authorized plants can export all eligible boneless beef to Hong Kong. The AMS EV program no longer applies for the export of eligible boneless beef to Hong Kong.

U.S. exporters should continue to use FSIS health certificate (Form 9297-1) for export purposes to Hong Kong together with a revised Letterhead Certificate contained in appendix one.

Similar to current U.S. boneless beef exports to Hong Kong, Hong Kong importers are required to obtain prior permission from the Center for Food Safety to import all U.S. beef products. On arrival, each consignment shall be subject to inspection before release to the local market.

Trade Statistics

Table 1. Hong Kong's Beef Imports in Value

Year To Date: January - December							
Partner Country	United States Million Dollars			% Share			% Change
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2012/2011
World	576	724	924	100.00	100.00	100.00	27.61
United States	132	232	315	22.95	32.06	34.11	35.80
Brazil	190	183	298	32.90	25.25	32.22	62.79
Australia	53	66	63	9.12	9.08	6.87	- 3.46
Canada	65	70	62	11.30	9.66	6.76	- 10.73

China	39	53	43	6.74	7.31	4.60	- 19.69
New Zealand	27	29	32	4.65	4.07	3.42	7.35
Japan	14	12	16	2.38	1.70	1.73	29.97
Argentina	18	11	13	3.11	1.54	1.37	13.45

Source : Hong Kong Census & Statistics Department

Table 2. Hong Kong's Beef Imports in Volume, MT

Year To Date: January - December							
Partner Country	Quantity			% Share			% Change
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012	2012/2011
World	146,740	163,572	221,364	100.00	100.00	100.00	35.33
Brazil	56,638	46,401	80,861	38.60	28.37	36.53	74.26
United States	32,259	45,956	58,794	21.98	28.10	26.56	27.94
Canada	13,028	15,031	16,010	8.88	9.19	7.23	6.51
China	10,756	13,270	12,014	7.33	8.11	5.43	- 9.47
Australia	8,439	9,942	9,986	5.75	6.08	4.51	0.44
Paraguay	680	3,899	8,902	0.46	2.38	4.02	128.31
New Zealand	5,169	4,689	4,987	3.52	2.87	2.25	6.36
Ireland	1,205	3,684	3,440	0.82	2.25	1.55	- 6.64
Argentina	5,728	3,066	3,420	3.90	1.87	1.55	11.55
United Kingdom	821	3,105	3,411	0.56	1.90	1.54	9.84

Source : Hong Kong Census & Statistics Department



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

Letterhead Certificate for the Export of Beef and Beef Products to Hong Kong

Date Issued: _____ Certificate Number: _____

1. The deboned beef was derived from cattle of all ages. The ribs and other bone-in beef products (excluding cuts involving vertebral column) were derived from cattle less than 30 months of age. The beef or beef products exclude mechanically separated beef, products from advanced recovery system, ground beef, scrap meat, trimmings or other pieces (whether with or without bone) of such shape or in such condition as to afford insufficient means of identification with a definite part of a carcass.
2. The feeding of ruminants with meat and bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants has been banned and the ban has been effectively enforced.
3. The beef or beef products were neither derived from nor contaminated with the following specified risk materials: the brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia of cattle 30 months of age and older, and the tonsils and distal ileum of any cattle regardless of age.
4. The cattle from which beef or beef products were derived were not subjected to a stunning process, prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity or to a pithing process.
5. The beef or beef products were derived from cattle that passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection. The beef or beef products were derived from cattle that were slaughtered under official supervision in FSIS-inspected establishments. The beef or beef products were derived from cattle free from systemic contagious, infectious and parasitic disease at the time of slaughter.
6. The beef or beef products were produced in accordance with the FSIS National Residue Program, which ensures that the product is free of harmful residues.
7. The United States has been evaluated and classified by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a country with a controlled-risk status for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
8. The product meets EV Program Requirements for Hong Kong

Signature of FSIS Veterinarian: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title/ Professional Degree: _____

Certificate Edition (xx/xx/xxxx)

FSIS Form 2630-9 (6/86)

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