

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Mexico

Post: Mexico

Mexico Delays Traceability Regulation Until Further Notice

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

Livestock and Products

FAIRS Subject Report

WTO Notifications

Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

The National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) issued an official communication on May 4, 2011, delaying implementation, until further notice, of the guidelines based on provisions of Article 89 in the 2007 Animal Health Federal Law. Article 89 relates to the traceability of animals, animal products, and by-products, as well as to the products used or consumed by animals that are imported into Mexico.

Executive Summary: SENASICA delayed implementation of the guidelines in order to allow more time to review the large number of initial comments received with the April 25, 2011, comment deadline and in order to notify the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other interested parties of the proposed guidelines.

General Information:

On May 4, 2011, SENASICA issued an official communication informing relevant parties of the decision to defer implementation of the traceability regulations, to be published as “Guidelines to verify the compliance with the provisions established in Article 89 of the Animal Health Federal Law regarding the import of merchandise regulated by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food (SAGARPA).”

SENASICA reports that it needs time to analyze and address the numerous comments received. Once a document addressing the concerns is ready, SENASICA will inform those involved in a timely and proper manner.

Below is an informal translation of the official documents issued by SENASICA.

BEGIN TRANSLATION

Mexico City, May 4, 2011

Chamber of Importers,
Associations of Producers,
Customs Agencies,
Veterinary-Pharmaceutical Industry,
Feed Industry for Animal Consumption,
Embassies with which Mexico has Trade Relations

With reference to official communication No. B00.02.03.01.026/11, dated April 14, regarding the document “Guidelines to verify the compliance with the provisions established in Article 89 of the Animal Health Federal Law for the import of merchandise regulated by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food (SAGARPA)” which was made jointly with the Department of Phytozoosanitary Inspection and published on the website of the Department of Imports and Exports indicating the comment due dates and dates for entry into force.

It has been determined that the implementation of these guidelines should be delayed until further notice due to the breadth of comments that have been received and the need to notify users and the World Trade Organization about this sanitary regulation through the most appropriate legal means. The guidelines have been removed from our website.

This Department appreciates all comments received, which will be useful for the analysis and the composition of the new document for the enforcement of Article 89. You will be notified about this new document in due course.

For this reason, we kindly request that you inform the members of your organization about this issue.

Without anything else, please receive greetings.

Sincerely,

Director
Montserrat Arroyo Kuribreña, DVM

END TRANSLATION

Background: SENASICA informed USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on March 18, 2011, and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) on March 22, 2011, about the pending implementation of Article 89 guidelines that specifically establish the provisions for the traceability of animal, animal products, by-products, and feed products imported into Mexico.

Those guidelines contained new requirements regarding dates of slaughter, packing, and expiration dates. Other additional requirements state that slaughtering establishment numbers must be declared on export certificates and labels. SENASICA notified USDA that these guidelines would be implemented on Monday, April 25, 2011. However, on April 14, 2011, SENASICA notified USDA's FAS through an official memorandum that it would defer implementation until July 4, 2011.

In that communication, SENASICA expressed its intention to receive comments and observations from interested parties. It also informed USDA that the most up-to-date version of the guidelines, integrating the comments and observations received as of April 25, 2011, would be posted on SENASICA's website. Furthermore, SENASICA reported that if additional comments and observations, not included in the previous version, were received, a second revision would be issued on June 13, 2011.

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>

Report Number	Subject	Date Submitted
MX1030	Mexico Postpones the Implementation of Traceability Regulations	4/15/11
MX1021	Livestock and Products Semi-Annual	3/17/11
MX1013	Poultry and Products Semi-Annual	3/04/11
MX1011	Mexico Extends Temporary Procedures for Obtaining HRZs	2/11/11
MX1009	Mexico Initiates An Anti-dumping Investigation on U.S. CLQs	2/08/11
MX0090	New SENASICA System for Import Requirement Sheets	12/03/10

	(HRZ's)	
MX0064	Annual Livestock and products	9/17/10
MX0053	Import Beef Duties Eliminated	8/10/10

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx , equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.economia.gob.mx and equivalent to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (SALUD) can be found at www.salud.gob.mx. These web sites are 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 sites.