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Traceability Requirements for Imported Beef

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

Korea will implement amendments to the Act on the Traceability of Cattle and Beef to require traceability for imported beef from point of importation to final consumer. A parallel system for domestically raised beef, the Cattle Identification system, is already in place. Expansion of the beef traceability system to include imported product is not expected to disrupt the market for U.S. exporters.

General Information:

The Korean Government promulgated amendments to the Act of Traceability of Cattle and Beef (Act) in May 2010, which provided among other things, an Imported Beef Traceability (IBT) system to be enforced as of December 22, 2010. Under the IBT system, beef importers will be required to submit an application for an IBT identification Code to the Director of the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service (NVRQS) prior to completion of customs clearance for an imported shipment. The imported product will be assigned and notified an IBT ID Code through the IBT Management System or Import Traceability System. (Application procedures may also be done through the computerized import declaration system of the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Service or the Korean Customs Service's Customs Single Window System.) Once the IBT Identification code is issued, the importer must affix an IBT ID Sticker to the imported beef box or packaging. The same IBT ID Code must be displayed on the innermost package by meat packers or on the meat sales plate for meat sellers and meat by-product sellers.

Beef importers will be required to keep required information on imported beef and beef products in an IBT log. Under the Act, the information which must be disclosed includes the IBT ID Code, the bill of lading number, the country of origin, the product name (including name of cuts, number of cuts and weight by cut), the name of the exporting company, the name of the importing company, the date of import, the name of the slaughter house (processing plant) and date of slaughter, and the shelf life. MIFAFF regulations also require that the IBT Log includes inspection locations, ship-in dates, inspection results and dates, and whether chilled products were previously frozen. The IBT is updated daily and information from the IBT Log is made available to consumers when they type in the IBT ID Code via the internet (www.meatwatch.go.kr) or mobile phone. Records on all beef sold must be kept for three years from the date of importation.

Beef importers will also be required to report individual transactions – whether a sale or simply a ship-out. The importer's daily transaction report, which includes IBT Code, cut, unit number and weight among other information, must be submitted within three days. The transactions reporting requirement will also extend to meat sellers and meat by-product sellers whenever they buy, sell, or ship out IBT coded beef. In general, meat and meat by-product sellers who are covered by these requirements are those who operate in establishments reported under the category "Other Food Selling Business" under the Korean Food Sanitation Act regulations (of at least 300 sq meters in a department store, supermarket or chain store.) Certain small businesses (less than five employees) may be exempt from the transaction reporting requirement, and the enforcement date for transactions reporting for certain meat sellers is delayed until December 2011.

The parallel system for domestically raised beef is the Cattle Identification (CID) system. Information reported on domestic cattle includes date of birth or importation, type, gender, owner name, address of rearing facility, name and address of slaughter facility, date of slaughter and meat inspection results, beef grading results, and name and address of the meat packer. The identification number and bar code are attached by ear tag to the animal within 30 days of birth (7 for beef cows), and must be displayed by butchers and meat sellers. Butchers and packers are required to keep logs on the beef they process for two years.

Other Reports

[KS1023](#) Republic of Korea-Livestock and Products Annual Report, September 2010