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Turks and Caicos Islands Set New Meat Import Requirements

Report Categories:

FAIRS Subject Report

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

Policy and Program Announcements

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Trade Policy Incident Report

Export Accomplishments - Other

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Report Highlights:

Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) have recently implemented new import requirements for meat and poultry products. While several new certification statements are now required on USDA health certificates for practically all meat and poultry products, these new requirements continue to provide full market access for U.S. suppliers. In 2012 the United States exported 2,750 MT of meat and poultry products to TCI, valued at \$7.6 million.

General Information:

TCI have recently implemented new import requirements for meat and poultry products. Prior to the implementation of these new requirements, TCI had no specific guidelines for the importation of meat and poultry products and thus U.S. meat and poultry products were exported freely to TCI with just the standard USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness, Form 9060-5. However, in August 2012 TCI Officials expressed their interest to the CBATO in establishing more substantive requirements. This led to several months of discussions between USDA and TCI Officials to ensure that the new requirements not only met TCI food safety and animal health needs, but that they continue to provide market access for U.S. suppliers as well. The new requirements also provide greater transparency in terms of the eligibility of select products, such as meat from exotic animals (non-amenable species) slaughtered and processed under FSIS voluntary inspection and meat and meat products from third countries which are re-exported to TCI. The new requirements are summarized below.

Specific Attestation Required on Export Certificate

1. For meat products bearing the USDA mark of inspection containing pork, sheep, or goat meat, the following statement must be typed in the "Remarks" section of FSIS Form 9060 -5:

"The United States is free from foot-and-mouth disease."

2. For fresh/frozen poultry meat, the following statements must be typed in the "Remark" section of a FSIS form 9060-5 or on a FSIS Letterhead Certificate:

"The poultry was raised in a zone or state where there has been no confirmed cases of HPAI (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza)."

3. For beef and beef products, the following statements must be typed in the "Remarks" section of a FSIS Form 9060-5 or on an FSIS Letterhead Certificate:

- a. "The United States is free from foot-and-mouth disease."
- b. "The beef and beef products (bone-in or boneless) were derived from cattle that were either born in the United States or legally imported."
- c. "The United States complies with the conditions in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE as a country that presents a Negligible Risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)."
- d. "The cattle from which the fresh meat and meat products destined for export to the Turks and Caicos Islands were derived were not subjected to a pithing process."
- e. "The feeding of ruminants with ruminant origin meat-and-bone meal or greaves is prohibited in the United States."

Meat and meat products imported into the United States from third countries, whether further processed or

not, may also be exported to TCI under the following conditions.

4. For meat and meat products other than canned, boneless meat products imported into the United States which are intended for export to TCI without further processing, a copy of the original accompanying health certificate from the exporting country must accompany the product along with the original FSIS export certificate. In addition, the following statement must be included in the Remarks section of FSIS Form 9060-5:

"The meat or meat product was legally imported into the United States."

5. For meat and meat products imported into the United States which are intended for export to TCI after further processing in the United States, the following must be included in the remarks section of FSIS Form 9060-5:

"The meat and meat product were legally imported into the United States."

6. For canned, boneless meat imported into the United States and exported to the Turks and Caicos Islands without further processing, a copy of the original accompanying health certificate from the exporting country must accompany the product along with the original USDA inspection certificate. In addition, the following statement must be included in the remarks section on the FSIS Form 9060-5:

"The canned meat product was legally imported into the United States."

For more complete information on these new requirements, please see the FSIS Export Library (<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products/export-library-requirements-by-country/Turks-Caicos-Islands>).

Other Regulations and Requirements: Import Permits

The Animal Health Services Division of the TCI Department of Agriculture requires that importers obtain an import permit for the importation of meat and poultry products. U.S. exporters are advised to work closely with their importers to ensure that such import permits are issued in advance of their shipments. It is important to note that the TCI import permit is not a prerequisite for the issuance of the FSIS Form 9060-5.