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Romania

Livestock and Products

New Import Certificates for Pork Meat

2002

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Report Highlights:

A new Food Safety Inspection Service health certificate will be required for U.S. pork exports to Romania, beginning on April 15, 2002. Additionally, a new lower tariff will provide better opportunities for exporters of U.S. pork and beef.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Sofia [BU1], RO

On March 27 AgOffice concluded consultations and reached consensus with the Romanian Veterinary Agency (RVA) on the final version of the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) health certificates to accompany U.S. exports of fresh and frozen pork to Romania. It was agreed that RVA will grant an extension until April 15, 2002 for the U.S. to comply with the new veterinary health certificates for pork meat. Until then the United States will be allowed to export pork to Romania using the current FSIS approved certificate for Romania.

Discussions began in the fall of the year 2001 and were generated by the EU's requirement for Romania to adopt EU vet certificates, inspection procedures and practices.

Romania's Pork Production Continues to Fall

As the Romanian pork sector continued the downward trend into the year 2001, the GOR launched a set of measures aimed at increasing both livestock population and meat production. In 2001 pork production fell to 540,000 MT, liveweight from 670,000 MT. This total includes the meat produced for self-consumption in the rural households (that never reached the market) and the stock at the end of the year. The reported pork domestic commercial production for 2001 was only 170,000 MT.

As reported by the local customs, Romania imported in the Calendar year 2001 46,536 MT of fresh, chilled or frozen pork meat (HTS Code 0203), primarily from Germany (14,100 MT), Hungary (8,400 MT), France, Belgium, Poland. The U.S. shipped to Romania only 24 MT of frozen pork in CY 2001.

Lower Tariffs May Provide Export Opportunities

Throughout much of calendar year 2001, the MFN applied import tariff on chilled and frozen pork was 45%, while members of the Central European Free Trade Agreement enjoyed a preferential rate of 25%. However, because of the excess demand for red meats on the domestic market, in August 2001 MFN import duties (applicable to imports from the United States as well), were lowered from 45 to 20 percent. The lower tariffs were subsequently extended for another 6 months into the year 2002 and, moreover, it was extended to include beef (for which MFN duties were cut by half, from 40 percent). The new regulation is expected to expand U.S. export opportunities to Romania, especially for shoulder cuts and offals for use in processing.

New Food Safety Inspection Service Export Certificates

The final version of the export vet certificate to be issued by FSIS will be bilingual (English and Romanian).

The following type of information should be provided by the health certificate for pork meat:

- C name and address in full of company-importer;
- C name and address in full of company-exporter;
- C country of origin: the United States of America;
- C region of origin;
- C name of the products;
- C number and type of packages;
- C date of freezing;
- C identification marks
- C export number of the establishment registered for exports (company, slaughtering house, processing facility, warehouse or refrigerated warehouse);
- C countries of transit;
- C means of transportation;
- C certificate of fitness of the goods for the consumption;
- C date and place of issuing of the document;
- C name and self signed signature of the officially authorized state official issuing the document;
- C original stamp of the state veterinary service.

The certificate of fitness of the goods for the consumption is a veterinary-sanitary statement by which the authorized person issuing the document officially declares the wholesomeness, safety and purpose of use of the product. By this, the official veterinarian certifies that:

1. The fresh meat described is obtained from animals which were clinically healthy and found free of clinical signs of List A of OIE diseases.
2. The animals were not vaccinated against Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) and classical swine fever (CSF) and are originated from premises where no FMD and CSF vaccination was carried out during the last 12 months.
3. The meat described was not obtained from animals which originated or were not slaughtered in slaughterhouses placed in infected with CSF areas, in accordance with regionalization system described in Directive 80/217/EC.
4. The meat was obtained, handled, marked and labeled in accordance with provisions equivalent to Directive 64/433/EEC and is unconditionally fit for human consumption.
5. The means of transport, wrapping and packing material are in accordance with the international norms of hygiene.
6. The meat is derived from animals which have been treated in the slaughterhouse before and at the time of slaughter and killing in accordance with the relevant provisions of Council directive 93/119.

