

U.S. and Canada Harmonize Names of Meat Cuts to Facilitate Trade

- The U.S. and Canada have agreed to harmonize the terminology used for wholesale meat cuts.
- Both countries will adopt the U.S. Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS) as the standard meat nomenclature.
- Establishing the IMPS as the foundation of a North American approach.

Nomenclature Differences and Effect on Trade

- Currently, trade between the two countries can be hindered due to cut names and labeling requirements.
- The Canadian meat classification system is based on a regulatory document known as the Meat Cuts Manual.
- The United States uses the IMPS, a set of voluntary standards maintained by AMS.
- Large volume purchasers such as Federal, state and local government agencies, schools, restaurants, hotels, and other food service users reference the IMPS.
- There are similarities in the cut descriptions and names, but are not inclusive and omit certain cuts with differing names.

Pilot Program for Harmonizing Names between U.S. and Canada

- As of February 24, 2014, selected meat cut names can be used interchangeably with their Canadian equivalent.
- The full list of applicable meat cut names is listed in the IMPS.
- Consumers will not be impacted as it only applies to wholesale cuts of meat.

FSIS Role at the Affected Establishments

- OPPD and OFO will coordinate communication to the District Offices through correlations and other messages from the OFO AA to ensure awareness about the list of meat cut names.
- Inspectors are still required to continue the normal label verification tasks they already undertake.
- OFO personnel are aware of these labeling changes and they know NOT to give an NR if they come across one of these terms during their normal checks.

U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC)

- In early 2011, U.S.-Canada Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) was created.
- Established to accelerate trade and travel between the two nations.
- Will develop clear, consistent standards to identify products to make it easier for industries to do business on both sides of the border.
- Website: <http://trade.gov/RCC/>