

Import Library: Eligible Countries and Products

July 12, 2018

[START OF TRANSCRIPT]

Aasif, ATT: Welcome everyone and thank you for joining today's webinar, Import Library: Eligible Countries and Products. Please note all participant lines will be muted until the Q&A portion of the call and we will provide you with instructions on how to ask a verbal question at that time. However, you are welcome to submit written questions throughout this presentation and this also will be addressed in the Q&A. To submit a written question, please use the chat panel on the lower right-hand side of your screens and then choose all panelist from the send to drop down menu. If at anytime you require technical assistance, please send a note to the event producer or call our help desk at 888-796-6118. With that, I'd like to turn the call over to Selena Kremer.

Selena Kremer: Thank you and good afternoon. Thanks everyone for dialing in to today's webinar on the Food Safety and Inspection Service's plan to update the support import library on the FSIS website. We want to use this opportunity to describe the changes that FSIS will be making to the website. But before we start the webinar, I wanted to let you know that this webinar is being recorded and we will provide the transcript and the presentation on the FSIS website, when available.

Let's get started with today's webinar. It's my pleasure to introduce Brianna Robinson-Verloop to you. Brianna is a Senior Equivalence Officer in the Office of Policy and Program Development in the International Equivalence Staff. Brianna.

**Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:**

Thank you, Selena. Today, I will be talking about the upcoming changes to how FSIS will identify eligible countries and products that can be exported to the United States on FSIS' website. The primary reason for updating this section of FSIS' website is to provide transparency to our customers on what countries are eligible to export to the United States and make the content friendlier and easier to review. Customers will be notified with real time updates on changes to countries eligibilities.

Before I discuss the enhancement FSIS has made on identifying eligible countries and products on FSIS' website, I would like to quickly display how FSIS currently identifies this information on the website. To access eligible countries and products webpage, the viewer is to first select "Topics" on FSIS homepage, then "International Affairs." From the international affairs page, the viewer is then to select "Importing Products." Next, the viewer is to select "Eligible Countries and Products, Foreign Audit Reports, and Eligible

Foreign Establishments.” Lastly, the viewer is to select “Eligible Countries and Products,” and the viewer will be brought to a pdf document that contains the chart.

The current chart no longer reflects how FSIS evaluates the equivalence, which is at a more granular level not raw and processed. Traditionally, FSIS has implemented new policy that when an equivalent country has not exported products for an extended period of time, meaning three or more years, a reinstatement of equivalence needs to be requested prior to resuming exporting such products. Lastly, this chart terminology does not align with how FSIS categorizes eligible products in the Public Health Information System (PHIS) and the FSIS Product Categorization Guide.

Now, I will share the enhancement FSIS intends to make. First, to improve accessibility to eligible information for customers, FSIS will add a direct link to the eligibility table on the importing products homepage. The current content displayed is a mock up. When customers select the circled link, it will be brought to the import library homepage. This is a mock up of the beginning of the import library homepage. This page begins with a general description of how countries’ eligibilities are broken down, which aligns with FSIS’ Product Categorization Guide and the Public Health Information System (PHIS), and where applicable APHIS animal health requirements are noted with a plus minus (\pm) symbol on the individual country eligibility pages. When the import library goes live, customers will be able to register to receive real time notifications when a change to a country’s eligibility is made.

The main page will also contain two tables, which collectively capture all equivalent countries listed in the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR). The first table will identify all countries currently eligible to export, while the second table will identify all inactive countries. In order for an inactive country to be eligible to export again, they will need to request a reinstatement of equivalence determination from FSIS. To access an individual country’s eligibility page, select an eligible country’s name in the first table.

The next couple of slides are mock ups for demonstration. All changes on a country’s eligibility page will be noted with a yellow highlighted asterisk (*). Each country’s eligibility page will start with information on how to read the eligibility table. Each country’s eligibility will be broken down and described by Process Category, Products Category, and Eligible Products. If a country is not eligible to export a specific product, the specific product eligible will not be listed out. I’m sorry -- if a country is not eligible to export specific product, the specific products not eligible will be listed out. For raw intact and raw non-intact process categories, FSIS will list eligible species and products. For processed products processing categories, FSIS lists eligibility by meat or poultry. All eligible species for processed products are noted at

the top of the page. After the table, if applicable, USDA APHIS animal health requirement applicable to that country is listed out. Lastly, a direct link to the country's certified establishment list is cited and a link to FSIS' product categorization guide for reference.

FSIS has announced in Constituent Update that the launch date will be July 23rd for the import library. I want to thank everyone for calling in today and participating and FSIS is very excited about these improvements to FSIS' website and hope you will find these changes helpful.

Selena Kremer: Thank you, Brianna. Aasif, can we open the line for any phone calls and remind us that they're also able to chat with us if they have questions.

Aasif, ATT: Absolutely. Ladies and gentlemen, at this time, if you'd like to ask a question, please feel free to place yourself into the telephone question queue by pressing #2 on your telephone keypad. You will hear a notification when your line is unmuted and at that time, please then state your name and question. As a reminder, you are also welcome to submit a written question. To do so, please use the chat panel on the lower right-hand side of your screen and then choose all panelist from the send to drop down menu. We'll just give it a moment.

Selena Kremer: Aasif, I have my first question in writing. The first question, where can the latest audits be found?

Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:

Thank you for your question. On FSIS' website, the latest audit reports can be found if you access the "International Affairs" page and then select from the "Import Products" page, and then click on "Eligible Countries And Products, Foreign Audit Report, and Eligible Foreign Establishment." There will then be a direct link titled "Foreign Audit Reports" and you click on that link and all foreign audit reports will be listed there.

Selena Kremer: And are those listed by country?

Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:

Yes. They are listed by country.

Selena Kremer: Thank you. Okay. Here's another question, a written question. Will Siluriformes be specified in the list of eligible products for applicable countries?

Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:

Once a country had gone through rulemaking for Siluriformes, they will be cited and published in the Code of Federal Regulations. Once they are listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, they're eligibility will be identified on our website and will notate what specific Siluformes products are eligible to export to the United States.

Selena Kremer: Our next question, GB is eligible to export raw product? Why is it not ticked on the table? Let me go back and see what GB references unless you... let's see. Great Britain. If we look back on slide seven –

Aasif, ATT: Another quick reminder to our audience, if you would like to participate through the telephone, please press #2 or use the chat panel on the lower right-hand side of your screen to submit a written question.

**Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:**

To answer the question about Great Britain, Great Britain is listed in the Code of Federal Regulations as having an equivalent inspection system for poultry. However, England is written out separately on the Code of Federal Regulations as eligible or/equivalent to export meat products and England is identified as eligible to export raw pork.

Selena Kremer: Aasif, any questions on the phone?

Aasif, ATT: At this time, we have no questions on the telephone line. But as a reminder, if you would like to ask a question over the phone, please press #2 on your telephone keypad. Otherwise, use the chat panel on your lower right-hand side of your screen to submit a written question. Let's give it a moment.

Selena Kremer: Okay. We do have another written question. How will the link to APHIS diseases work? Is it leading the current general disease descriptions or will it be more specific? Products example as beef offal or primal cuts and diseases. Let me paraphrase that. The APHIS link plus minus sign that you talked about Bri, how does that work and will it lead you, the reader, to general disease descriptions or is it going to be leading you to more specific information about the products or the products types?

**Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:**

Sure. If we want to go to slide 12.

Selena Kremer: Okay.

**Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:**

There's an example with the yellow highlighted asterisk... I'm sorry. There's an example in the... it looks like in the first row, where there might be a plus minus symbol and it's in the fully cooked not shelf stable row.

Selena Kremer: Okay. It's the second row from the second box from the bottom on the right?

**Brianna Robinson
-Verloop:**

Yeah.

Selena Kremer: Okay.

Brianna Robinson

-Verloop: Whenever there is an applicable APHIS animal health disease instruction requirement in place. We have it noted next to an applicable product, category, or processing category. That symbol is noted, and at the bottom of the page, the applicable APHIS animal health disease requirement will be cited. The type of animal health disease will have a direct hyperlink to APHIS' animal disease webpage and there will also be cited regulatory requirements that go with that specific animal disease. There will be a direct link to those regulations.

Selena Kremer: I'm not seeing any more written questions, Aasif. Do we have anyone of the phone?

Aasif, ATT: At the time, we have no other questions on the phone. Otherwise, if you did have a question please press #2. At this time, we have no questions on the phone. Looks like –

Selena Kremer: Okay.

Aasif, ATT: -- we have just received one question on the telephone line.

Selena Kremer: Great.

Aasif, ATT: That caller's line has been unmuted.

Caller 1: Hello. Is lamb eligible from the United Kingdom or England?

Brianna Robinson

-Verloop: At this time, England is not eligible to export lamb products. That can also be looked at and referred to on slide seven.

Selena Kremer: Okay. We have one more written question coming in here. Is there any reference to regionalization in the system? For example, Brazil pork?

Brianna Robinson

-Verloop: If there is any regionalization requirement that APHIS has specified, those details will be on a country's individual, eligible products page and it will be cited and listed out at the bottom of the page.

Selena Kremer: Thank you. Our next question. When you authorize a country to export to the U.S., what are the certificates that you request and let us know if we can have access to those documents? In other words, what documents do you request to establishments? Do we have access to those certificates?

For the person writing the question, if you could be a little more specific, and Janet, maybe you want to jump in here. What other information do you think they need?

Janet McGinn: Well, is the question about what documentation does FSIS review as part of the equivalence determination to determine whether a foreign country is

eligible to export product to the U.S.? Is that what the question is? Or is it about the establishment documentation?

Okay. Thank you for the clarification.

Selena Kremer: The additional information is asking about establishment's letters of guarantee, quality system, and third-party audit. It looks like the question is focused around the establishments and not the country.

Janet McGinn: Right. For equivalence, we are determining whether the foreign country inspection system is equivalent and we don't make equivalence decisions on an establishment-by-establishment basis. Once we determine that the foreign country's inspection system is equivalent to the U.S. inspection system, we leave it to the Central Competent Authority to certify those establishments that can meet U.S. requirements.

Selena Kremer: Okay. If that... if you needed more information and if that doesn't answered the original question you were asking, please let us know. Aasif, I don't see anymore written questions coming in. You have anyone on the phone for us?

Aasif, ATT: At this time, we have no questions on the phone.

Selena Kremer: Okay. Well, if we don't have any more questions on the phone and I'm not seeing any questions come in, we can go ahead and adjourn today's conference call. That said, I really would like you would just reach out one more time -- I don't want to miss anyone -- to see if folks have any final questions before we adjourn today.

Aasif, ATT: Absolutely. Ladies and gentlemen, if you would like to ask a question over the telephone line, please press #2 on your telephone keypad to enter the telephone question queue and to submit a written question, please use the chat panel on the lower right-hand side of your screen and address your question to all panelist. We'll just give it a moment. We have one. We have received a question on the telephone line. That caller's line has been unmuted.

Caller 2: Hi. This is Joe. Just a quick question. When will the transcript be provided for this webinar?

Selena Kremer: Yes. We will provide the transcript and the recording on our website. It usually takes a few weeks with processing. But that will certainly be available in our "Newsroom" on the FSIS website under the "Meetings" page. We will certainly make that available.

We did get one more question in writing. Can you give me the difference between the blue and the red blocks on page seven?

Brianna Robinson

-Verloop: Thank you for your question. On slide seven, I just want to remind the inquirer that this table will no longer be available on FSIS' website after July 23rd it will be replaced by the import library. The color coding is no longer relevant.

Selena Kremer: Okay. We have another question. What institution did you say evaluates an establishment so we can ask them for the documents to prove they can export? It sounds like we have a question about...actually verifying an establishment is eligible for export.

Brianna Robinson

-Verloop: Thank you for your question. On FSIS' website, if you go to the "International Affairs" page, select "Importing Products," and then select the "Eligible Countries And Products, Foreign Audit Report, and Eligible Foreign Establishments" link, you will be brought to a page and it cites their "Eligible Foreign Establishments" and that page lists all eligible foreign countries that are exporting to the United States and all the certified establishment for each of those countries.

Selena Kremer: Okay. Thank you, Brianna. Aasif, any there anymore questions on your end? I'm seeing none here.

Aasif, ATT: At this time, we have no other questions on the telephone line.

Selena Kremer: Okay. Well, I want to thank everyone so much for your participation today in today's webinar. As a reminder, we will be posting the recording as well as this power point presentation on our website and we will be updating the website with this information –

Brianna Robinson

-Verloop: On July 23rd.

Selena Kremer: On July 23rd. Okay. Wonderful. Thank you everyone for your questions and everyone have a great day.

Aasif, ATT: Thank you all for joining today's conference. The conference has now concluded and you may now disconnect.

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]