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Barbados Sets New Import Requirements for Animal Products

Report Categories:

Export Accomplishments - Market Access

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Trade Policy Incident Report

Trade Policy Monitoring

Approved By:

Michael T. Henney

Prepared By:

Omar Gonzalez

Report Highlights:

For nearly two years, the Caribbean Basin Agricultural Trade Office (CBATO), in coordination with Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), engaged Barbados in bilateral discussions that recently culminated with issuance of clearer requirements for dairy products for human consumption, ornamental feathers, leather and products based on animal skins (including drums) sourced from the United States. U.S. suppliers of these products, mostly small to medium-sized entities, will find it easier to supply these small but steady markets (combined value of approximately US\$3 million).

General Information:

BARBADOS AGREES TO NEW IMPORT PROTOCOLS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTS, ORNAMENTAL FEATHERS AND PRODUCTS BASED ON ANIMAL SKINS

In February 2015, the Barbados Veterinary Service (BVS) agreed to three USDA export certification protocols for U.S. origin and U.S. market present third-country dairy products, ornamental feathers and products made of animal skins. Confusion over certification authority for multiple products sourced from the United States had resulted in growing frequency of border detentions in Barbados, specifically on consolidated shipments containing U.S. origin and third-country origin products. The protocols, nearly two years under negotiation, remove more opacity from the trade regime between the United States and Barbados.

The referenced protocols address, respectively:

1) "Dairy Products for Human Consumption" sourced from the United States. This protocol defines the U.S. health certifying authority and terms for certification for dairy products sourced from manufacturer to retailer. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is the sole certifier for U.S. origin dairy products. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is the sole certifier for eligible third country-origin dairy products as determined by the product's legal entry into the United States.

The transition period is thru June 30, 2015 after which Barbados will accept only the AMS dairy certification on U.S. origin dairy products and the APHIS Export Certificate for Animal Products for eligible third-country origin dairy products sourced from the United States. In this latter situation, APHIS can issue a VS Form 16-4 with specific language pertaining to the dairy product type.

For more information, visit the following APHIS' IREGs note:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/bb_dap.pdf.

2) "Feathers Intended for Ornamental Use" sourced from the United States or of holding legal entry status in the United States. APHIS is the sole certifying authority for such products.

3) "Leather and Products Based on Animal Skins (including drums)" sourced from the United States or of holding legal entry status in the United States. APHIS is the sole certifying authority for such products.

Products affected by the latter two proposals are normally exported from the United States prior to the Barbados carnival, an event that normally takes place in early August. More information on the certification requirements for these products can be found on APHIS' IREGs:

a) http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/bb_feathers_ormnt.pdf;

b) http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/products/downloads/bb_leather_%20goods.pdf.

BACKGROUND

In May 2013, after witnessing an uptick in detentions/rejections of animal based products sourced from the

U.S., CBATO Miami initiated discussions with the Barbados Veterinary Service (BVS) to negotiate clearer entry requirements for animal and animal products sourced from the United States. Third country origin animal products sourced through the United States lay at the heart of Barbados' border detentions, as the country's new technical requirements called for country-specific health certification on animal product shipments from dairy products for human consumption to non-edible animal-based products.

To better understand the nature of the technical constraints, CBATO tapped APHIS to participate on separate technical missions to the Caribbean region given its regulatory responsibility for classification of a country's animal health status, and thus a country's animal product eligibility for the U.S. market. The BVS had indicated it sought to mimic the U.S. risk management system.

In early fall 2014 the CBATO energized negotiations, interfacing near weekly with BVS and USDA regulatory agencies in effort to bring technical views together on trade of these products. After several months of more intensive engagement by the CBATO the BVS agreed to recognize the USDA certifying agencies as the Agricultural Marketing Service for U.S. origin dairy products and APHIS for third country origin dairy products based on the country's eligibility in the U.S. market. Because of its role certifying an animal product's eligibility for U.S. entry, BVS was receptive to recognizing APHIS as the certifying agency for both U.S. and third-country origin non-edible animal products. By February 2015 CBATO's persistency on these issues culminated with bilateral agreement on protocol language and the respective USDA export certificate form for the various products.

While protocols have been achieved governing these three product areas, dairy for human consumption, ornamental feathers and other non-edible animal based products, progress continues towards establishment of export protocols involving live animals and bovine semen.

IMPACT

In 2014, the United States exported \$5.3 million in dairy products to Barbados, making Barbados the fifth largest market for U.S. dairy products in the CBATO region. U.S. dairy exports to the CBATO region as a whole grew by a robust 10 percent in 2014, reaching a record high \$98.6 million. Dairy also represents the third largest U.S. export category to the region after forest products and poultry. The vast majority of U.S. food supplied to the Caribbean islands, inclusive of dairy products, is supplied by small to medium-sized businesses that consolidate shipments of various case-lots mixed products when filling orders. Clarification of certifying authorities and product eligibilities should ensure these entities can expand services to U.S. market interests in this important Caribbean market.

Ornamental feathers, leather and products based on animal skins supply a niche industry in Barbados that services seasonal demand across the broader Lesser Antilles basin. Clarifying the certification requirements on products of U.S. origin (approximately 20-25 percent of the country's import value) and those having legally entered the United States (and re-exported to Barbados) will enable resources previously diverted by both governments to address each individual shipment to be reallocated for more critical animal and food safety protection efforts of the regulatory authorities.