

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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POLICY

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Mexico

Post: Mexico

Mexico Postpones the Implementation of Traceability Regulations

Report Categories:

Livestock and Products

Poultry and Products

WTO Notifications

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

FAIRS Subject Report

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Report Highlights:

The National Service of Health, Food Safety, and Food Quality (SENASICA) notified USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) that the implementation date of guidelines for the traceability of products imported to Mexico was deferred to July 4, 2011. SENASICA will publish the next version on April 25, 2011, and, if necessary, publish a second revision on June 13, 2011.

Executive Summary: Implementation of Article 89 of the Animal Health Federal Law, which regulates traceability of animal, animal products and feed products exported to Mexico, has been deferred to July 4, 2011.

General Information:

On April 14, 2011, SENASICA notified USDA's FAS through official memorandum 1690 of the deferral to July 4, 2011, of the implementation date of traceability regulations, to be published as "Guidelines to verify the compliance with the provisions established in Article 89 of the Animal Health Federal Law regarding the import of merchandise regulated by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fishery and Food (SAGARPA)".

After receiving comments and observations from interested parties, SENASICA granted a 60-day extension on the date of the implementation of the guidelines.

SENASICA also informed USDA that the most updated version of the guidelines, integrating the comments and observations received as of April 25, 2011, will be posted on SENASICA's website on that date. Furthermore, if additional comments and observations not included in the previous version are received subsequently, a second revision will be issued on June 13, 2011.

Background:

SENASICA had previously informed USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on March 18, 2011, and FAS on March 22, 2011, about the pending implementation of the guidelines. Article 89 specifically establishes the provisions for the traceability of animal, animal products and feed products exported to Mexico.

An initial review revealed that these new guidelines are based on the provisions of Article 89 of the 2007 Animal Health Federal Law. These recently published guidelines are similar to those based on Article 24 of the 2002 Animal Health Federal Law. Further analysis showed that that this new version contains new requirements regarding dates of slaughter, packing, expiration dates. Other additional requirements state that slaughtering establishment numbers need to be declared on export certificates and labels. SENASICA notified USDA that these guidelines will be implemented on Monday, April 25, 2011.