

## Changes to the list of Mexican points of entry where SENASICA provides inspection services for imports of pork.

Today Post spoke to the Mexican authorities (SENASICA) and they confirmed that they have made an adjustment to the list of Mexican points of entry where they will provide inspection services for pork to be imported into Mexico. SENASICA indicated that **as of Monday December 24, 2007**, they **will only provide** inspection services for imported pork at the following points of entry:

- Ciudad Juarez
- Nogales
- Nuevo Laredo
- Piedras Negras
- Tijuana
- Colombia
- Manzanillo
- Lazaro Cardenas

SENASICA also indicated that as of **Monday December 24, 2007** they **will no longer provide** inspection services for imported pork at the following Mexican points of entry:

- Agua Prieta
- Matamoros
- Mexicali
- Ojinaga
- Ciudad Reynosa
- San Luis Rio Colorado
- Ciudad Camargo
- Tuxpan
- Progreso
- Puerto Morelos

### **It is very important that CPI members are advised as soon as possible to only send shipments of Canadian pork to Mexico through the points of entry where SENASICA will still provide inspection services.**

Shipments of Canadian pork should not be sent through those points of entry where SENASICA will no longer provide inspection services, given that they would be rejected and would have to be re-routed to other points of entry where SENASICA does provide inspection services. Even if the Mexican importers have a valid import permit (HRZ) with other points of entry, the exporters should **ONLY** send the shipments to the points of entry where SENASICA has confirmed that they will continue to provide inspection services.

According to SENASICA, they decided to implement this measure as an effort to rationalize their human resources (inspectors) at the border, given that they do not have enough human resources to conduct inspection services for imported pork at all the points of entry that were previously authorized. According to SENASICA, they tried to concentrate their human resources in those points of entry where most of the shipments of pork are imported. SENASICA also noted that a similar exercise will be made for the points of entry for imported beef.

In spite of the above, Post believes that the above measure could also be related to a proposal that a group of Mexican congressmen sent to the Mexican government at the end of November, calling on a temporary suspension of pork imports, until the emergency economic situation of the Mexican pork industry is addressed. The proposal implies that the Mexican pork sector is currently on

crisis and is not in a position to compete against imported pork. This proposal called on the Ministries of Economy, and of Agriculture and Livestock, as well as on the Federal Commission against Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS), to undertake actions to verify pork meat products in the entrance points of the country. In addition, the proposal called on the Executive to implement a safeguard clause of the agricultural agreement with the WTO, in order not to compensate any affected country. Finally, it called on the Executive to implement compensatory measures for Mexican producers in order to alleviate competitiveness' limitations, as well as to impede pork meat imports after 30 days of the animal's slaughter.

Post understands that the above proposal was initiated/pushed by particular interests of legislators, who are actually pork meat producers. Despite the fact that the above proposal has a non-binding character (does not oblige the Mexican government to take any actions), this proposal could have influenced SENASICA's decision to readjust the points of entry for imported pork.

It is important to note that during some informal discussions with our colleagues from the U.S., Post was told that the U.S. is very concerned about these actions taken by the Mexican government and that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture is actually pushing SAGARPA on this issue aggressively.

With regard to the potential impact from these changes on Canadian exports of pork to Mexico, this would depend on how much Canadian pork was actually being sent through the points of entry where SENASICA will no longer provide inspection services. Post does not have these figures, but maybe CPI could obtain this from its members.

Post will continue to monitor this issue closely and will advise in case that we learn of any other actions from the Mexican government that could have an impact on Canadian exports of pork to Mexico. In the meantime, in order to assess the potential impact of these measures on Canadian pork exports to Mexico, it would be very useful if CPI could please find out whether the Mexican points of entry that were closed were regularly used by the Canadian exporters of pork or if most of the Canadian pork exported to Mexico comes through any of the points of entry where SENASICA will still provide inspection services (as far as Post knows a large portion of the Canadian pork exported to Mexico comes through Laredo, where SENASICA will continue to provide inspection services for imported pork).

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