



BUSINESS DIALOGUE: THE INFLUENCE OF ELECTRONIC CERTIFICATION ON THE B2G ENVIRONMENT

28 JUNE 2016

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CANADIAN MEAT COUNCIL

I am delighted to be here today to share with you how Canada's meat industry is partnering with its regulator, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency ("Agency") to align the export certification process with the new inspection model within the context of the Agency's transformational change in the way it does business in the B2G environment.

Recording annual sales of \$23.6 billion, exports of \$5.7 billion, and 65,000 jobs, the meat industry is the largest component of Canada's food processing sector. The industry provides a vital market outlet for Canada's: 68,000 beef farms and feedlots; 10,000 sheep farms; 7,000 hog farms; and, the cattle and calves from 12,000 dairy farms. The Canadian Meat Council ("CMC") has been representing Canada's federally inspected meat processing industry since 1919.

In Canada, the e-cert system is part of the Electronic Service Delivery Platform (ESDP) which has been driven over recent years as a consequence of a number of factors including: the modernization initiatives of trading partners through the adoption of proactive approaches to food safety control and regulatory systems, increased knowledge of risk, risk analysis and risk-based approaches to inspection as well as increased food trade and obligations under trade agreements.

According to recent statistics, CFIA issues on a yearly basis:

- 102, 303, 000 export meat certificates
- 41,000 certificates pertaining to animal products/by products
- 60,027 certificates relating to live animal, semen/embryo exports.

When fully operational in 2018, the e-cert system will be a single export certification process that is managed in a consolidated and centralized administrative function complete with online support tools.

Exporters will be able to browse and query export information online, apply for certificates online, monitor and track the progress of their applications on line.

Inspection of goods will be triggered, assigned, scheduled, completed and results uploaded into the case file.

Certificates will be electronically transmitted to the foreign trading partner, where possible. (In cases where this is not possible, the exporter will be able to print a scanned certificate with a digital signature).

And, authorized CFIA users will be able to exchange export information online with international trading partners.

In broad terms, the inspectors will save time in receiving requests, processing requests, verifying requirements, responding to related inquiries, data collection and reporting. The inspectors will focus on inspection related activities while the administrative functions will be re-directed towards administrative staff.

The industry will benefit from improved operational productivity as the functions will move to standardized and automated online processes. This makes working with the regulator more consistent, predictable and transparent.

Other benefits include:

- Expedited exports of goods
- Provision of uniform advice
 - For example, CMC and its counterpart organization in the US, the North American Meat Institute (“NAMI”), are working to streamline and simplify the language of export requirements for the US and Canada in their respective export libraries as a 2016 work plan project initiative under the umbrella of the Regulatory Cooperation Council.
- Improved accessibility to export certificates by remote exporters
- Increased productivity through data analysis and tracking
- Enriched program delivery by adding to the Agency’s risk assessment ability
- Enhanced resource effectiveness
- Consistent applications of service delivery across the country