

(Name of official authorized by the national foreign government to issue inspection certificates for meat food product exported to the United States)
(Official title)

(c) Each foreign meat-inspection certificate shall bear the official seal of the national government agency responsible for the inspection of the product and be signed and issued by an official authorized to sign and issue such certificates by the national government of the foreign country in which the product is inspected.

(d) Each foreign meat-inspection certificate shall be in both the English language and the language of the foreign country of origin.

(e) Except for product subject to procedures in § 327.5(d)(1), the foreign meat inspection certificate required by this section to accompany each consignment containing any product shall be delivered by the consignee, or his agent, in the United States to the Program import inspector at the place of inspection, and inspection of the product will not be commenced prior to such delivery.

[35 FR 15610, Oct. 3, 1970, as amended at 54 FR 274, Jan. 5, 1989; 60 FR 38668, July 28, 1995]

§ 327.5 Importer to make application for inspection of products for entry; information required; “streamlined” inspection procedures for Canadian product.

(a) Except for importers of Canadian products, each importer shall apply for inspection of any product offered for entry by contacting the Import Field Office covering the location where import inspection will take place. The Import Field Office will provide specific application instructions (See § 301.2 (yyy)).

(b) The application should be made as long as possible in advance of the anticipated arrival of each consignment, except in case of consignments of products expressly exempted from inspection by §§ 327.16 and 327.17, and in the case of product imported from Canada.

(c) Except in the case of product imported from Canada, each application shall state the approximate date on which the consignment is due to arrive at such port in the United States, the name of the ship or other carrier trans-

porting it, the name of the country from which the product was, or is to be, shipped, the place where inspection is desired in accordance with § 327.6, the quantity and kind of product, and whether it is fresh, cured, canned or otherwise prepared. In case of consignments arriving in the United States by water, the application shall also state the port of first arrival in the United States.

(d) For participating Canadian establishments, an official of the Canadian meat inspection system shall contact the participating Import Field Office for an inspection assignment (See § 301.2 (yyy)).

(1) If the Automated Import Information System (AIIS) does not designate the consignment for reinspection, the consignment may be transported to its consignee for further distribution.

(2) If the AIIS designates the consignment for reinspection, the representative shall:

(i) Select samples in accordance with USDA sampling tables.³

(ii) Identify and place samples in the vehicle for easy removal and reinspection by an import inspector.

(3) In the event that any one of the requirements provided in (d)(2) of this section is not met, reinspection of the consignment shall be conducted by a Program import inspector in accordance with established procedures provided in the regulations for other imported products.

[54 FR 274, Jan. 5, 1989, as amended at 54 FR 41048, Oct. 5, 1989]

§ 327.6 Products for importation; program inspection, time and place; application for approval of facilities as official import inspection establishment; refusal or withdrawal of approval; official numbers.

(a)(1) Except as provided in §§ 327.5(d)(1), 327.16 and 327.17, all products offered for entry from any foreign country shall be reinspected by a Program inspector before they shall be allowed entry into the United States.

³ A copy of the sampling tables is available, upon request, from the Import Inspection Division, International Programs, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

(2) Every lot of product shall routinely be given visual inspection by a Program import inspector for appearance and condition, and checked for certification and label compliance, except as provided in 327.5(d)(1).

(3) The computerized Automated Import Information System (AIIS) shall be consulted for reinspection instructions. The AIIS will assign reinspection levels and procedures based on established sampling plans or established sampling plans and established product and plant history.

(4) When the inspector deems it necessary, the inspector may sample and inspect lots not designated by AIIS.

(b) All products, required by this part to be inspected, shall be inspected only at an official establishment or at an official import inspection establishment approved by the Administrator as provided in this section. Such approved official import inspection establishments will be listed in the Directory of Meat and Poultry Inspection Program Establishments, Circuits and Officials, published by the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The listing will categorize the kind or kinds of product² which may be inspected at each official import inspection establishment, based on the adequacy of the facilities for making such inspections and handling such products in a sanitary manner.

(c) Owners or operators of establishments, other than official establishments, who want to have import inspections made at their establishments, shall apply to the Administrator for approval of their establishments for such purpose. Application shall be made on a form furnished by the Program, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, and shall include all information called for by that form.

(d) Approval for Federal import inspection shall be in accordance with part 304 of this subchapter.

(e) Owners or operators of establishments at which import inspections of product are to be made shall furnish adequate sanitary facilities and equip-

ment for examination of such product. The requirements of §§304.2(e), 307.1, 307.2 (b), (d), (f), (h), (k), and (l) and 416.1 through 416.6 of this chapter shall apply as conditions for approval of establishments as official import inspection establishments to the same extent and in the same manner as they apply with respect to official establishments.

(f) The Administrator is authorized to approve any establishment as an official import inspection establishment provided that an application has been filed and drawings have been submitted in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section and he determines that such establishment meets the requirements under paragraph (e) of this section. Any application for inspection under this section may be denied or refused in accordance with the rules of practice in part 500 of this chapter.

(g) Approval of an official import inspection establishment may be withdrawn in accordance with applicable rules of practice if it is determined that the sanitary conditions are such that the product is rendered adulterated, that such action is authorized by section 21(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (84 Stat. 91), or that the requirements of paragraph (e) of this section were not complied with. Approval may also be withdrawn in accordance with section 401 of the Act and applicable rules of practice.

(h) A special official number shall be assigned to each official import inspection establishment. Such number shall be used to identify all products inspected and passed for entry at the establishment.

(i) A sampling inspection shall be made, as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, of foreign chilled fresh or frozen fresh meat, including defrosting if necessary to determine its condition. Inspection standards for foreign chilled fresh or frozen fresh meat shall be the same as those used for domestic chilled fresh or frozen fresh meat. (See §327.21)

(j) Imported canned products are required to be sound, healthful, properly labeled, wholesome, and otherwise not adulterated at the time the products are offered for importation into the

¹ [Reserved]

² For example: Canned product, boneless meat, carcasses and cuts.

United States. Provided other requirements of this part are met, the determination of the acceptability of the product and the condition of the containers shall be based on the results of an examination of a statistical sample drawn from the consignment as provided in paragraph (a) of this section. If the inspector determines, on the basis of the sample examination, that the product does not meet the requirements of the Act and regulations thereunder, the consignment shall be refused entry. However, a consignment rejected for container defects but otherwise acceptable may be reoffered for inspection under the following conditions:

(1) If the defective containers are not indicative of an unsafe and unstable product as determined by the Administrator;

(2) If the number and kinds of container defects found in the original sample do not exceed the limits specified for this purpose in FSIS guidelines; and

(3) If the defective containers in the consignment have been sorted out and exported or destroyed under the supervision of an inspector.

(k) Program inspectors or Customs officers at border or seaboard ports shall report the sealing of cars, trucks, or other means of conveyance, and the sealing or identification of containers of foreign product on Form MP-410 to Program area supervisors at points where such product is to be inspected.

(l) Representative samples of canned product designated by the Administrator in instructions to inspectors shall be incubated under supervision of such inspectors in accordance with § 318.309 (d)(1)(ii), (d)(1)(iii), (d)(1)(iv)(c), (d)(1)(v), (d)(1)(vii) and (d)(1)(viii) of this subchapter. The importers or his/her agent shall provide the necessary incubation facilities in accordance with § 318.309(d)(1)(i) of this subchapter.

(m) Sampling plans and acceptance levels as prescribed in paragraphs (j) and (l) of this section may be obtained, upon request, from International Programs, Food Safety and Inspection

Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

[35 FR 15610, Oct. 3, 1970, as amended at 37 FR 21927, Oct. 17, 1972; 38 FR 29215, Oct. 23, 1973; 49 FR 36818, Sept. 20, 1984; 51 FR 37707, Oct. 24, 1986; 51 FR 45633, Dec. 19, 1986; 54 FR 274, Jan. 5, 1989; 54 FR 41048, Oct. 5, 1989; 62 FR 45026, Aug. 25, 1997; 64 FR 56416, Oct. 20, 1999; 64 FR 66545, Nov. 29, 1999; 65 FR 2284, Jan. 14, 2000]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTES: 1. At FR 64 56416, Oct. 20, 1999, § 327.6, paragraph (e) was amended by removing the phrase "308.3, 308.4, 308.5, 308.6, 308.7, 308.8, 309.9, 308.11, 308.13, 308.14, 308.15", and adding the phrase "416.1 through 416.6 of this chapter" in its place, effective Jan. 25, 2000.

2. At 64 FR 66545, Nov. 29, 1999, § 327.6 was amended by removing the last four sentences from paragraph (f) and adding one sentence in their place, effective Jan. 25, 2000. For the convenience of the user, the superseded text is set forth as follows:

§ 327.6 Products for importation; program inspection, time and place; application for approval of facilities as official import inspection establishment; refusal or withdrawal approval; official numbers.

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(f) * * * If it is determined that the establishment does not meet such requirements, approval of the establishment as an official import inspection establishment may be refused in accordance with the applicable rules of practice. A written notice, specifying the premises to which the approval applies, shall be given to each applicant granted approval. When approval is refused for any such reason, the applicant shall be informed of the action and the reason therefor. Approval may also be refused in accordance with section 401 of the act and applicable rules of practice.

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3. At 65 FR 2284, Jan. 14, 2000, § 327.6, paragraph (e) was amended by removing the phrase "of this subchapter" after the phrase "416.1 through 416.6 of this chapter", effective Jan. 25, 2000.

§ 327.7 Products for importation; movement prior to inspection; handling; bond; assistance.

(a) No product required by this part to be inspected shall be moved, prior to inspection from any port, or, if arriving by water from the wharf where first unloaded, to any place other than the