



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

## Canadian Food Inspection Agency



### **Our vision:**

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

### **Our mission:**

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

# An overview of foreign plant health import requirements for Canadian forages, and obtaining plant health market access for new forage products to new destinations

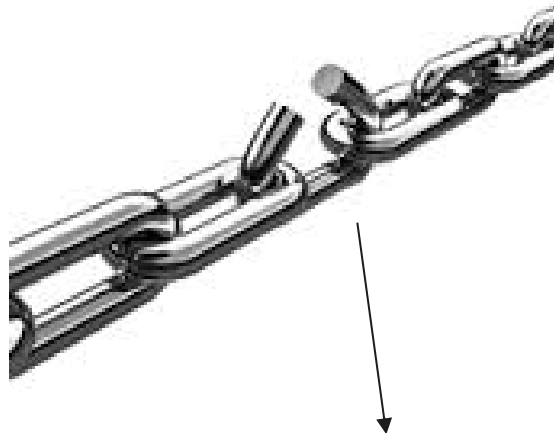
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Canada

- CFIA's involvement with hay exporters and processors is limited to those export markets with plant health or phytosanitary import requirements
- Countries which do not have import requirements for Canadian forages include:
  - USA
  - European Union





-meeting foreign plant health import requirements is just one of many links in the export chain



## Japan / Korea

- The original off continent markets for Canadian double compressed timothy and forages (late 1980s)
- Required that the hay was visually free from Hessian fly host grass species and soil
- Evolution of CFIA phytosanitary certification

### **CFIA Hay Inspection**



### **Designated Company Inspectors**



### **Canadian Hay Certification Program (CHCP) (2003)**

## Japan / Korea (continued)

- Market Challenges
  - Rejections due to presence of soil or prohibited grass species (quackgrass, foxtail barley, wheat, barley, etc..)
  - Limitations on what forage products can be exported



## Japan – Heat Treatment Program

- Hay processors, researchers and the CFIA worked with Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to demonstrate that heat treatment processing of hay destroys all life stage of Hessian fly
- An option to hay being visual free of HF host grass species

### Advantages:

- new markets into Japan for forage products like wheat and barley silage / haylage
- Eliminate rejections in Japan due to detections of grasses that are hosts of Hessian fly
- non-phytosanitary (harvest management)

advantages \*\*



- Additional countries we currently export forages to that require CFIA phytosanitary certification

Hong Kong	Thailand
Malaysia	UAE
Vietnam	Trinidad and Tobago
Qatar	Israel
Taiwan	Dominican Republic

- “Basic” requirements for all of these :
  - Processor approved under the CFIA’s Canadian Hay Certification Program
  - Forages free from soil, visible insect pests
  - No special bilateral arrangements, no species specific requirements

# China: alfalfa and timothy hay

- Bilateral arrangements signed with China on alfalfa (2009) timothy (2014), export programs finalized in 2011 and 2014
- a longer list of diseases, weed species, and insect of concern to China
- assurances of on farm pest management
- Specific bale labelling requirements
- facility approval requirements by China
- non-phytoanitary requirements; isolation from livestock operations
- CFIA phytosanitary certificate and industry issued “Safety and Hygiene Certificate”





# New Market Access

## Best Case Scenario:

- Market access exists, all that is required is confirmation
- Any plant health import requirements that are established can be met by Canada



## New Market Access (cont.)

First steps in obtaining information on plant health requirements for new markets:

Make a request for information on import requirements should to your local CFIA Office

1. previous history / precedents researched
2. research into requirements done using available information sources (importing country's plant health requirements), which may be on their country website or a website maintained by International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
3. a request will be made by the CFIA Grains and Oilseed section to their foreign counterpart for information

Along with points, 1, 2 and 3, the importer / client may be able to assist in obtaining information on their government's import requirements



## New Market access (cont.)

The foreign client / importer can play a very import role in:

- forwarding relevant legislation and communications to the exporter / CFIA
- clarifying plant health import requirements
- lobbying the importing country's plant health authorities to modify import requirements
- proposing alternative import requirements based on end uses
- influencing the priority given to the market access request



# New Market access (cont.)

Scenario : Importing country has no established plant health import requirements = no access

- CFIA's initial contact with foreign counterparts have confirmed that no import requirements have been established for the commodity = NO ACCESS
- Exporter or Exporter Association should contact Market Access Secretariat (MAS), with a request for Government of Canada assistance to formally engage with a request to establish import requirements

[MAS-SAM@agr.gc.ca](mailto:MAS-SAM@agr.gc.ca)

- MAS is a single-window to the Federal Market Access team, which includes CFIA, AAFC and Global Affairs Canada (GAC)
- A submission questionnaire will be forwarded for completion, and is used to evaluate and assign a priority level to request (Tier 1 - Tier 4)

## New Market access (cont.)

- Requests for grain and field crop market access (phytosanitary related) are prioritized by MAS and CFIA
- In gambling terms, you may have rolled “snake eyes” on a smaller value export market that requires significant input and resources to obtain plant health market access

## New Market access (cont.)

- Phytosanitary market access projects rated as “Tier 1”
  - the importing country is contacted through our embassy, through bilateral meetings, or official letters and requested to establish import requirements for a new commodity
  - the importing country may be either willing or non committal to working on the request and initiating a Pest Risk Assessment. They may ask Canada to prioritize what they should work on if there are multiple requests that have accumulated.

## Market Access (cont.)

- the exporting country's plant health organization (ex: CFIA) is often requested to provide information on insects, diseases, weed species, etc.. assistance of stakeholder group may be needed)
- importing country uses the questionnaire to complete their PRA and establish import requirements



# New Market access (China Specific)

- Foreign plant health organization, including China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) generally follow the process previously summarized (slides 14-15)
- Unique to AQSIQ is the need for a “bilateral protocol or arrangement” for each commodity, visit(s) by their technical specialists to verify information, and non-phytosanitary issues within the arrangement.
- This adds an additional requirement for high level approval.
- Industry input into review of “bilateral protocols” and in proposing alternatives is necessary to ensure workable arrangements



# Summary

The establishment of new phytosanitary requirements for a new commodities / country may be very straight forward.

or

It may be a multi-year project that needs to undergo initial prioritization through MAS, and may require significant resources (time and money) of industry stakeholders and government when it is worked on. There is no guarantee of success.

