



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

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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.

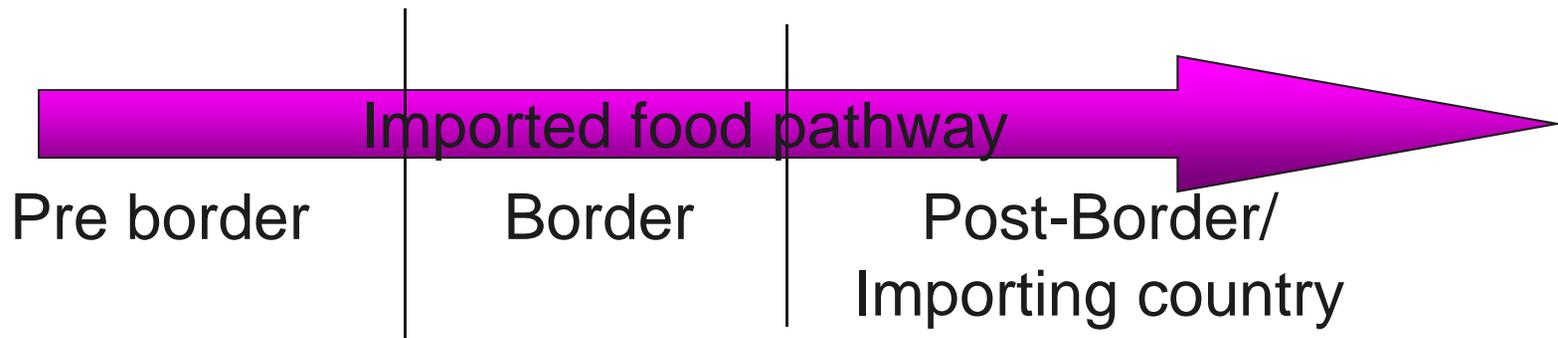
APEC Export Certification Workshop

Rationale, Methods and Avoiding Redundancy

Date : April 2012

Canada

Imported Food Control



- Imported food control program
 - Provides food safety assurance
 - Generally includes multiple risk management activities
 - Pre border, border and in country
 - It is the integration of risk management activities that ensures effectiveness



Pre border activities

Objective

Assurance of controls in exporting country

- Risk management activities within an importing country's control program and should be:
 - risk based and
 - tailored to specific country requirements
- Other pre border risk management activities may include
 - Requirements that importers establish supplier verification.
 - Requirements for 3rd party certification



Importing country considerations

- Knowledge

- Build and maintain confidence in the inspection and certification system of an exporting country.
- Requires collaboration between exporting and importing countries

- Establish priorities

- Prioritise pre border activities, based on, for example:
 - Product risks,
 - Volume of trade,
 - Food business controls and oversight in exporting country

- Integration

- Integrated border controls, in country risk management activities

Formalising “assurance”

- Generally an arrangement between countries
 - Guidance provided in various CCFICS guidelines and includes concept of certification* as:
 - the procedure by which official certification bodies or officially recognized certification bodies provide written or equivalent assurance that foods or food control systems conform to requirements.
 - Options for providing assurance of food control systems
 - Memorandum of understanding or recognition of the exporting country’s system
 - List of processing plants recognised by the competent authority in the exporting country
 - Options for providing assurance of foods
 - Export certificates for multiple lots from one plant or
 - Lot by lot certificates

Import decisions: Incorporating “assurance”

- Implementation
 - Needs clear and transparent import processes including:
 - Information about imported products at point of entry,
 - Coordination of border (e.g. customs), quarantine and food safety import processes
 - Processes to validate documentation (to prevent fraudulent entry)
 - Minimising duplicative inspection requirements both at the border or in-country, where exporting country provides assurances
 - Ongoing collaboration and cooperation between importing and exporting country
 - Information exchange on changing requirements, new and emerging risks or non compliance



Conclusions

- Certification is a valuable procedure that generally is most effective where it is:
 - Used as an expression of confidence in the exporting country's food safety system,
 - Established within a formal arrangement between countries
 - Used within a risk based and transparent import food control program that also includes border and in country activities