

## Animal Identification and Traceability Updates Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Second half of July 2007

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### ISO standard set for food traceability

By Ahmed ElAmin

26/07/2007 - A new international standard has been set for traceability along the food chain, setting out a complete system under which processors can get certification.

The International Standards Organisation this month issued ISO 22005 as the latest in its series for the food and drink industry.

ISO 22005 sets out the general principles and basic requirements for designing and implementing a traceability system along a processor's supply chain.

Processors aim to get certified by independent audit companies in a bid to demonstrate to regulators and consumers that they have taken the necessary steps to protect the safety of their products.

In recent years, cases of food poisoning and outbreaks have pushed the many countries, including EU members, to require that processors have a traceability system in place to protect public health.

The regulations generally require that each company know who their immediate supplier is and to whom the product is being sent, on the principle of "one up, one down".

A traceability system can also help a company withdraw or recall products faster and more efficiently.

Processors who achieve certification under the new ISO standard will be required to have systems in place to trace the flow of feed, food, ingredients and packaging into and out of their plants.

They must also be able to identify the necessary documentation and tracking for each stage of production, ensure the adequate coordination between the different actors involved, and require that each party be informed of at least his direct suppliers and clients.

*"Moreover, a traceability system can improve the appropriate use and reliability of information, effectiveness and productivity of the organisation,"* ISO stated in releasing the standards.

Since food safety hazards can enter the food chain at any stage, adequate control and communication throughout the process is essential, ISO stated.

*"One weak link in the supply chain can result in unsafe food, which can present a serious danger to consumers and have costly repercussions for suppliers,"* the organisation stated. *"Food safety is therefore the joint responsibility of all the actors involved."*

ISO also promotes the standard as a cost saving measure, doing away with the need for multiple and sometimes conflicting schemes used by different players along a supply chain.

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*"In the food industry, a diversity of retail and private quality schemes generate uneven levels of safety, confusion over requirements and increased cost and complication for suppliers obliged to conform to multiple programmes," the organisation stated. "ISO 22005 offers a unique solution for good practice on a worldwide basis and thus contributes to lowering trade barriers."*

ISO 22005 is the second in a series of food safety standards launched by the organisation.

The standard uses the same definition of traceability as the Codex Alimentarius Commission and provides a complement for organisations implementing the ISO 22000 standard, released in 2005.

ISO 22000 sets out the basic requirements for a food safety management system to ensure safe food supply chains. ISO 22000 also incorporates the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system for food hygiene.

Under EU law, "traceability" means the ability to track any food, feed, food-producing animal or substance that will be used for consumption, through all stages of production, processing and distribution.

The controls were made mandatory after past food crises, such as dioxin contamination and BSE, showed that the bloc need a system to respond quickly to such events.

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### **Cattle Identification: USDA Selects K-State To Lead Benefit-Cost Analysis Of NAIS**

WASHINGTON, July 16, 2007--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today announced the selection of Kansas State University to lead a multi-institutional benefit-cost analysis of the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The analysis will be conducted with the assistance of co-contributors Colorado State University and Michigan State University. Montana State University will provide a comprehensive assessment of the economic benefits and costs of NAIS, including its three components, premises registration, animal identification and animal tracing.

"There are tremendous benefits associated with NAIS by registering premises, identifying animals and trace-back ability," said Bruce Knight, undersecretary for USDA's marketing and regulatory programs mission area. "The benefit-cost analysis will provide comprehensive, objective economic information for producers."

Several segments of the livestock industry will be a part of this analysis including small producers; commercial producers; marketing institutions; processing facilities and rendering operations. Kansas State and colleagues will study the benefits and costs of all components of NAIS across species. Also, the analysis will seek to determine the overall distribution of benefits and costs of NAIS among producers of various sized herds, marketing firms, processors, consumers and state and federal government agencies.

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NAIS is a voluntary federal-state-industry partnership designed to help producers respond to and minimize the impact of an animal disease outbreak. NAIS is a modern, streamlined information system consisting of three components: premises registration, animal identification and animal tracing. For more information, visit the USDA-APHIS-NAIS Web site at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>.

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### **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE – draft regulation**

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
9 CFR Parts 71, 77, 78, 79, and 80  
[Docket No. 04-052-2]  
RIN 0579-AC48

Livestock Identification; Use of Alternative Numbering Systems  
AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.  
ACTION: Final rule.

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SUMMARY: We are adopting as a final rule, with several changes, an interim rule that, among other things, amended the regulations to allow for the use of additional numbering systems for purposes of animal and premises identification. As amended by this document, the rule recognizes additional numbering systems for the identification of animals in interstate commerce and State/Tribe/Federal/industry cooperative disease control and eradication programs. Additionally, the rule amends the regulations to authorize the use of a numbering system to identify premises where animals are managed or held. These regulatory changes are necessary to allow the use, for official purposes, of the new numbering systems in the National Animal Identification System. Use of the new numbering systems is not required by this final rule.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 18, 2007.

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-13932.htm>

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### **U.S.: Lawmakers challenge mandatory premise ID**

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Published: Thursday, July 19, 2007 11:08 AM MDT

DENVER, Colo. - The controversy over requiring 4-H and FFA participants to have their livestock entries enrolled in a mandatory premise program continues to grow as one state senator is rallying support in opposition to the proposal.

Republican state senator Greg Brophy (R-Wray) recently issued an open letter, calling on his colleagues within Colorado's General Assembly to join him in opposing mandatory identification for 4-H and FFA participants at the Colorado State Fair, as well as local events, such

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as county fairs. So far the letter has been signed by eight state legislators.

The letter, addressed to Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Director, Marc Johnson and state Ag Commissioner John Stulp, calls for the two state officials to drop a requirement that would have only those participants who have obtained a federal premise ID, be eligible for entry into Colorado State Fair and local county fair activities and contests.

“There are a lot of my constituents who just bristle at the thought of having to register themselves and their operation with the federal government,” says Brophy.

The Colorado State Fair Board ruled on the issue and approved mandating the entry requirements to be effective starting with this year's events.

“I strongly oppose something like that, because that limits our kids,” says state representative Ray Rose (R-Montrose), who is among those supporting senator Brophy's opposition drive. “We, the government, are entering into areas we're we don't belong,” he tells the Ag-Journal this week. “We have far greater problems to solve than tinkering with the 4-H kids.”

Rose says there is a significant force behind the mandate. “They currently have the votes and the power to do so, if they choose to push it on through.”

State senator Rose feels that the push for the entry requirements is most likely coming from a section of urban lawmakers who he says has little to no understanding of rural America. “I don't know if that's entirely the case, but that's where I see it coming from and that's who I see propagating this.”

However, John Heller, the Colorado Animal Identification Coordinator with the Colorado Department of Agriculture, says that his department applied no pressure for the premise ID requirement.

“The requirement has been put out by 4-H and FFA and those are private organizations, essentially. And then the Colorado State Fair, even though it's administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, has a state fair board that makes decisions on rules and regulations,” says Heller.

“In both cases, despite what a considerable amount of people want to insinuate and suggest, we have not strong-armed, or forced, or even asked these groups to make that decision,” Heller said. “They feel and understand the program and see its value in terms of helping out with animal health. And they feel that their participants in the organization and exhibitions need to comply with a certain rule and standard.”

“Basically the request to do this came to the Colorado State Fair through both 4-H and FFA,” states Chris Wiseman, general manager of the Colorado State Fair. “In consulting with all different, various groups, through the commissioner of agriculture, the determination was made, and a policy was set by the Colorado State Fair Board, to require Premise ID this year for 4-H and FFA and the Junior Livestock Sale.”

However, Rose believes such mandates only further eliminate children from more economically challenged families from participating in such activities. “This is just another way of getting

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money out of the families and taking your tax dollars and not supporting the educational facilities and the educational responsibilities that we have as a state,” said Rose a retired farmer, whose children participated in 4-H activities in their youth.

However, Wiseman reaffirmed there is no cost to participants to register their premise. Perspective contestants can go on-line to the department's website and enter all of the information there for free.

Brophy says he is currently thinking about drafting legislation opposing the matter, but says he would first like to try and convince state leaders that such requirements are not needed and will injure 4-H and FFA programs and activities.

Alan Foutz, president of Colorado Farm Bureau (CFB,) tells the Ag-Journal the state organization strongly believes any form of participation in animal identification programs at either the state or federal levels, should remain strictly voluntary.

Foutz says Farm Bureau historically take any formal position regarding rules and regulations for contest entry re-quirements, such as 4-H and FFA activities. “On this particular issue, we've talked a lot with the CSU people and basically have said we don't think that it needs to be mandatory, that it should be voluntary. But we're not weighing in on it, because that's their contest rules and we just don't weigh in on contest rules.”

Foutz adds that its important to note many 4-H and FFA participants don't own the property where they maintain their entry livestock, so mandatory premise identification may hinder their ability to use another land owner's property, if that land owner does not want to be registered in any such programs. “I think that puts a burden on some of our young 4-H and FAA members, that we don't need to do. So that does concern me a little bit.”

However, Foutz does agree with the concept that if there are any questions about possible disease issues involving livestock entries, that such identification programs would assist in helping to contain such diseases quickly. Foutz noted that a rodeo bull was recently discovered as being diseased and was easily traced back because it was registered in such a program.

“We haven't seen any drop, so far, in any of our shows, in any of the breeds; from the goats to the beef, to the hogs and the sheep, by requiring this. Maybe later in the year we may see something, but right now everyone seems to be complying,” said Wiseman.

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### **European Commission demands Italy drop law on poultry labelling**

Food Production Daily.com

By Ahmed ElAmin

*23/07/2007 - Italy's compulsory law requiring poultry meat and related products to carry country-of-origin labelling has been deemed illegal by the European Commission.*

The law on poultry is one of a series of regulatory measures by Italy that has raised questions about whether the country is using the EU's food safety rules to batter down the

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foreign competition.

The law in essence pushed Italy's processors to source their poultry from the country's producers. Processors generally source their ingredients from the cheapest country.

Italy has a history of using country-of-origin labelling laws as a means of instilling food patriotism among consumers, and to give its producers an advantage. The Commission decision foreshadows further action on similar legislation in Italy and in other countries.

Under legislation adopted in August 2005, Italian producers and the first recipients of poultry meat are obliged to indicate the member state of origin of the meat. The labelling must also state the date of import for poultry meat and products coming from other member states and non-EU countries.

*"This measure contravenes EU rules on food labelling and the marketing of poultry, and could cause market discrimination and hamper the internal market and other trade,"* the Commission stated in announcing the decision.

The Italian government defends the law on the ground that the labelling measures were taken so that, in the event of an avian flu outbreak, poultry meat could be rapidly traced and withdrawn from the market.

*"However, the Commission finds no justification for the Italian rules,"* the notice stated. *"Strict EU veterinary legislation ensures that any poultry meat placed on the EU market is safe, while there are also harmonised rules on food labelling which ensure that consumers are properly informed and not misled."*

Under EU regulation 1906/90 on the marketing of poultry products, member states can only require the labelling of origin when the absence of such information could mislead or confuse the consumer.

The Italian government has two months to reply to the Commission's decision. If the government fails to comply with the ruling the Commission can refer the issue to the Court of Justice.

Italy has previously made similar country-of-origin labelling mandatory on some tomato products and chocolate. The country's regulators have also banned Canadian wheat and some foreign milk products based on what they said were breaches of food safety.

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### **Northern Ireland: UFU To Consider New Traceability Proposals**

July 27, 2007

*UK - The Ulster Farmers' Union says it will urgently and carefully consider new proposals for the identification, registration and movement of cattle, put forward this week by Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle Gildernew.*

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UFU President Kenneth Sharkey, who attended a meeting with the Minister, said the industry now had to consider how to achieve the most effective way of enhancing further our traceability system using new technologies.

Mr Sharkey said; “We are faced with the opportunity to introduce electronic identification and movement notification and our livestock committees have already been considering these options. These systems could significantly reduce bureaucracy in our industry and help us with problems such as DARD’s desire to remove staff from livestock markets and meat plants. We will discuss this further with our members and I have already highlighted to the Minister that switching to electronic ID for existing animals would have to be supported financially, because this is a cost that was not anticipated by farmers”.

The Minister also proposed new arrangements for recording movements to markets and meat plants as DARD proposes the removal of its staff from those activities. Kenneth Sharkey said; “DARD staff play a valuable role in our marts and meat plants, and we have told the Minister that we do not want to see DARD staff removed until new arrangements could be put in place. It is very important that all these new developments happen in the right sequence”.

The UFU also raised farmers views that rules and bureaucracy relating to cattle exports to Scotland and the Continent need to be amended to assist freer trade.



#### **Uruguay Increasing Herd's Traceability**

*July 19, 2007*

*AUSTRALIA - Uruguay's Animal Identification and Registry System (SIRA) has already identified 2.1 million cattle, 17% of the country's 12 million national herd, since it was implemented on 1 September 2006.*

This is Uruguay’s first step in providing traceability for its entire cattle herd by 2011.

Individual electronic cattle identification will allow Uruguayan producers to comply with requirements set by the EU for Hilton quota (high quality beef) cuts from 1 March 2010. Uruguay’s Ministry of Cattle, Agriculture and Fisheries believes they have an advantage over close competitors, such as Brazil and Argentina, as a result of having a smaller herd, which makes it easier to implement full electronic traceability.

To complement SIRA, Uruguay’s National Meat Institute released an electronic control system for cattle slaughter – the “black box” system – in May this year, which provides online slaughter information to producers.



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### **MIXED VIEWS IN BRUSSELS ON BRAZIL BEEF BAN**

DAN BUGLASS AND DARREN ENNIS ([dan.farming@virgin.net](mailto:dan.farming@virgin.net))

THE Scottish and Irish farmers and representatives of the meat trade who lobbied the EU's council of farm ministers in Brussels yesterday, calling for an immediate end to all imports from Brazil, received minimal understanding of their concerns.

The Scots and Irish have raised major concerns about beef from Brazil, which they says lacks traceability and is frequently raised using growth hormones, while disease control measures, especially relating to foot-and-mouth, are haphazard.

Mariann Fischler Boel, the EU commissioner for agriculture and the environment, is on the record echoing those concerns. However, they were apparently not shared by her colleague Markos Kyprianou, the commissioner in charge of consumer affairs. In a press statement released hours before the Scots and Irish made their pitch to MEPs, it was clear that Brussels intended to take a detached stance.

Kyprianou said: "Overall, we feel that the allegations are to a large extent based on incorrect interpretation of EU requirements for beef imports. The information is not new and is misleading. The European Commission's food and veterinary office is broadly satisfied with the controls of the Brazilian authorities. Consequently, many of the conclusions of the Irish Farmers Association are not valid."

Pekka Pesonen, the secretary-general of COPA, the confederation of EU farming unions, was more circumspect.

She said: "We are very concerned about the implications on European consumer safety. As a precautionary measure, the commission must immediately increase the frequency of physical checks for Brazilian beef. If these serious failures are found to be widespread, the EU must be ready to introduce further measures, such as a complete ban on Brazilian beef without hesitation."

Matt Dempsey, editor of the Irish Farmers Journal, which was one of the co-sponsors of the investigation in Brazil, said: "This is utter nonsense from Brussels. Farmers and consumers are entitled to far more than the bland words of Kyprianou."

The Irish case was strongly supported by the Scottish Beef Cattle Association (SBCA), and was clearly one that found favour with Alyn Smith MEP, of the Scottish National Party. He said: "The SBCA, alongside their Irish colleagues, made an excellent case and have obviously rattled the Commission into acting. We have seen that Fischler Boel may be more in line with the industry's thinking than Kyprianou, but it is not acceptable that we are getting two different opinions on this major issue.

"The commission must speak with one voice, but we now look forward to both Fischer Boel and Kyprianou talking to the main committee in October. This whole business needs to be speeded up."

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NFU Scotland and Quality Meat Scotland are equally sure of their ground: any beef sold in supermarkets must be up to scratch. Nigel Miller, vice-president of NFUS, said: "This has been a very useful meeting where a lot of salient points were raised. We, and our Irish friends, had a good hearing and I hope that something positive will come out of it.

Speaking last night to The Scotsman, Miller added: "We were not sure of what sort of reaction we would receive, but we now have the French on our side, and that is hugely important. We are not going to get this resolved overnight, but at last MEPs are now beginning to understand that it is a major issue, particularly in terms of consumer confidence and animal health."

Smith said: "Australia, the US, Japan, South Korea and now Russia have introduced bans on Brazilian beef imports until standards improve. The commission must act. We have seen some progress today in this campaign and I hope we will soon see much more."

**This article:** <http://business.scotsman.com/agriculture.cfm?id=1110012007>

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