



LMA Fact Sheet

(Important Information for U. S. Livestock Markets Selling Horses to Canadian Food Processing Plants)

Canada Food Inspection Agency Post New Rules For Horses Moving to Canadian Equine Food Processing Plants

The Canada Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has announced new rules, effective July 31, 2010, for all equine, including imported horses, presented for slaughter at Canadian equine processing plants. Effective July 31, 2010, Canadian equine processing plants must have complete records, including a unique, individual written and picture identification of each horse as well as a comprehensive record of illness and medical treatments administered to the animal for the six-month period prior to slaughter. The new Canadian rules are in response to a European Union (EU) directive for the identification and traceability of horses used for food. Thus, while Canadian equine rules are only required for horses moving to Canadian equine processing plants, we expect the same or very similar information will be needed when moving horses to equine processing plants in Mexico selling into EU countries.

Horses being presented to livestock markets, where the animal may be sold to a food processing plant in Canada must be accompanied by the CFIA's "Equine Information Document" (EID). The EID, which is broken out in three parts, must be completed by horse owners documenting the horse's identification (visual and written description) and medical/treatment history and provided to the buyer before the animal can move onto an equine processing plant in Canada.

A list of permitted equine drugs and their withdrawal periods are included with information about the EID document that is posted on LMA's website, www.lmaweb.com. (Most feed supplements or vitamins and minerals would not need to be declared on the EID unless they contain a drug ingredient.) Withdrawal period for certain drugs not label approved for equine but often used in horses, are also included. If non-approved drugs are used, the animal cannot be processed for human food. An updated list of drugs safe for use in equine animals and their withdrawal periods is expected to be released soon by CFIA.

Because the CFIA documents, which include CFIA's *Frequently Asked EID Questions and Answers*, are rather lengthy, we ask that markets holding horse sales obtain copies of these important documents from LMA's website, www.lmaweb.com by clicking on the "Industry Issues" link on the home page and look under the "Horse Slaughter" banner. If you do not have Internet access, please call Nancy Robinson to get a faxed copy of the documents.

Prepared by Nancy Robinson, VP for Government & Industry Affairs, Livestock Marketing Assn., July 12, 2010.

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