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European Union

Product Brief

EU Beef Imports under the Hilton Quota

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Report Highlights:

An EU annual tariff rate quota for 11,500 MT of high quality beef is available to exporters of U.S. and Canadian high-quality beef. The in-quota tariff rate is 20 pct. This product brief compiles information for users of the quota.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E2]

The HQB (high quality beef) quota was published in Commission Regulation 936/97 (O.J. L 137 of 1997).

Shipments need to be accompanied by a health certificate issued by FSIS. All bovine meat exported to the EU must originate from animals that have never been treated with growth hormones. Assurances that this requirement is met are provided through participation in the FSIS Non-Hormone Treated Cattle Program (NHTC). Details on the operation of this program are available from the FSIS export library:
(<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/euroreqs.pdf>).

Export establishments need to be approved for export to the EU. The complete list of EU-approved establishments is available from
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/irc/sanco/vets/info/data/listes/01us.pdf>

FSIS is also responsible for issuing the "certificate of authenticity". This certificate provides the guarantees that the product shipped meets the definition of the Hilton beef quota. Both the health certificate and the certificate of authenticity need to be obtained via the FSIS inspector present in the exporting establishment.

Import licenses are issued by the competent authorities in the EU Member States. A complete list of the Member State agencies responsible for granting import licenses was published in the Official Journal.
http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/pri/en/oj/dat/2003/c_121/c_12120030523en00090021.pdf

The Member State competent authorities communicate to the European Commission the quantity of license applications on a monthly basis. The quantity available is published every month in the Official Journal. It corresponds to 958.333 MT (one twelfth of 11,500 MT) plus any quantity remaining from the preceding months. If the quantity covered by license applications is less than the quantities available, all licenses are granted. Alternatively, if the applications exceed the quantities available, the Commission fixes a reduction coefficient. Import licenses are issued on the 11th of each month.

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