

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: November 06,2020

Report Number: CO2020-0040

Report Name: Post Secures the Release of Six Containers of American Agricultural Products Valued at 250 Thousand Dollars

Country: Colombia

Post: Bogota

Report Category: Export Accomplishments - Border Facilitation

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Report Highlights:

Thanks to FAS Bogota's engagement with Colombian port authorities and coordination with USDA agencies, Colombia's local food safety authority released six containers of U.S. food products detained in October.

General Information:

On October 16, FAS Bogota learned that six containers of U.S. frozen pork loins, mechanically deboned chicken, and fat-free milk powder had been detained by the local food safety authority, INVIMA, at the ports of Buenaventura and Cartagena. Detentions resulted from alleged non-compliance with local labeling requirements. FAS quickly contacted U.S. trade association representatives and U.S. food safety authorities and worked successfully with INVIMA to allow the importers to fix the labeling issues and avoid the rejection/destruction of the shipments. This resulted in the release of all six containers on October 21.

In the past several years, stuck shipment assistance has become a key part of the services FAS provides to U.S. food and agricultural exporters who commonly find the Colombian regulatory system challenging to navigate. Post estimates that this assistance results in over \$1 million in trade preserved annually. As INVIMA's physical inspections at ports of entry and volumes exported to Colombia return to pre-Covid levels, FAS Bogota expects to see an increase in detentions of U.S. shipments. FAS Bogota will continue to build upon the close working relationship it has with local authorities at ports of entry.

In 2019, U.S. exports of pork, poultry, and milk powder to Colombia were valued at \$221 million, \$114 million, and \$90 million, respectively.

Attachments:

No Attachments.