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# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## **Thailand**

**Post:** Bangkok

### **Changes in Inspection Fees for Imported and Domestic Uncooked Meat**

**Report Categories:**

Trade Policy Monitoring

Trade Policy Incident Report

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**Report Highlights:**

New regulations will change inspection fees for imports of uncooked meat and slaughtering fee ceilings (the equivalent to inspection fees) for domestic livestock. Despite these regulatory changes, imported meat still face significantly higher fees when compared to the equivalent fees for domestic meat.

## Executive Summary:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives (MOAC) recently announced that effective on October 17, 2016 inspection fees for the importation of animal and animal products will change. Inspection fees (called import permit fees in the notification) for imported uncooked meat for food or feed production will now be set to 7 baht/kilogram (\$200/metric ton). Uncooked meat imported for purposes other than food or feed production will now have a 3 baht/kg (\$86/MT) fee. When compared to the prior inspection fees, the new inspection fees are higher for imported red meat (i.e., meat from buffalo, cattle, sheep, goat, and pig) which previously faced inspection fees of 5 baht/kg (\$143/MT). For imported poultry meat (including turkey meat), the new inspection fees are lower than the previous inspection fee of 10 baht/kg (\$286/MT). Fees for some imported items including: breeding animals and animal products (semen and embryos), hides and skins imported for non-food use, animal offal imported for processing products and then re-exported, and bone and cartilage are exempted from these inspection fees as they were in the previous regulation.

In addition to the inspection fee changes, the new Control of Animal Slaughtering for Sale Act, B.E. 2559 was announced on September 26, 2016. Fully effective on September 27, 2017, this act replaces the Control of Animal Slaughtering for Sale Act, B.E. 2535. Although the contents of this act are mostly aimed at improving domestic slaughtering house registration and management, the regulation includes provisions regarding slaughtering fees (which are the domestic equivalent to inspection fees listed in the above paragraph). The new provisions change the slaughtering fee ceilings for different animals. The new fee ceilings are 20 baht/head (57 cents/head) for buffalo, 25 baht/head (71 cents/head) for cattle, 10-15 baht/head (29-43 cents/head for swine and ostrich, 10 baht/head (29 cents/head) for goat and sheep, 0.20 baht/bird (0.6 cent/bird) for poultry, and 0.20 baht/head (0.6 cent/head) for other animals, respectively. Table 1 compares the new slaughtering fee ceilings to the previous ceilings. It shows a sharp increase in slaughtering fees for cattle, buffalo, swine, sheep and goats and a significant decline for poultry.

**Table 1: New and Old Slaughtering Fee Ceilings by Different Animal Types**

	Slaughtering Fees		Unit	% Change
	New Act B.E. 2559	Old Act B.E. 2535		
Cattle	57	34	Cent/head	67.6
Buffalo	71	43	Cent/head	65.1
Swine and ostrich	43	29	Cent/head	48.3
Swine at weight less than 22.5 kilograms	29	14	Cent/head	107.1
Goat and Sheep	29	11	Cent/head	163.6
Poultry	0.6	11	Cent/bird	-94.5
Other animals	0.6	11	Cent/head	-94.5

These two rules do not change the discriminatory status of inspection fees for imported uncooked meat against domestically produced uncooked meat. The fees applied to imported meats are still significantly higher when compared to the fees for domestic meat.

Table 2 compares the meat-weight equivalent fees on imported meat and domestic meat under the new regulations.

**Table 2: Comparison of Inspection and Slaughtering Fees as Applied to Domestic and Imported Uncooked Meat**

	Inspection Fees (Meat-weight Equivalent)		Unit
	Domestic	Imported	
Beef	0.23	9.09	Cent/pound
Pork	0.34	9.09	Cent/pound
Chicken	0.23	9.09	Cent/pound