

APR 15 2009



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

PORT OF SAVANNAH PIPELINE # 2009-06

ENT-1-SV:FO:LFB

TO: All Customhouse Brokers, Freight Forwarders, Importers, and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Area Port Director
Savannah, Georgia

SUBJECT: Permit Requirement for FSIS-Exempt Products

On March 31, 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) issued an "Importer/Broker" letter to clarify the import permit process for USDA Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) -exempted food products containing small amounts (less than two percent) of meat and/or poultry ingredients. This letter can be found on the following APHIS webpage: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/animals/animal_import/animal_imports_anproducts.shtml


Further, APHIS has informed Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that a USDA import permit will now be required for FSIS-exempted food products containing small amounts of meat and/or poultry ingredients from countries considered by USDA to be affected with animal diseases of concern. Products from these countries, such as bouillon cubes, extracts, and soup mixes, which have previously gained entry solely under a health certificate indicating product being concentrated by boiling, will now also require a USDA import permit. CBP enforcement of this USDA administrative change is scheduled to start on June 22, 2009.

Questions for APHIS may be directed to Dr. Christopher Robinson at Christopher.c.robinson@aphis.usda.gov or at phone number 301-734-3277.

Questions for FSIS may be directed to FSIS at the following email address: permits@fsis.usda.gov or at toll free number 888-287-7194.

Additional information may also be found at the following FSIS website: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Imported_Food_Products/index.asp

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to Ms. Lynn Brennan, Assistant Port Director, at (912) 447-9400.


John S. Porter
Area Port Director