



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

IMPORTS AND EU POLICY TEAM

OVS NOTE 2024/12

17 April 2024

IMPORTATION OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS FROM CANADA – CHANGE IN CFIA'S OFFICIAL CONTAINER SEAL

Purpose

1. To advise you that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is changing its official container seal.

Background

2. The CFIA is the Canadian competent authority responsible for the certification of meat and meat products exported from Canada. It is in the process of standardising its official container seal to replace the old seal with a new seal that is more secure, durable, legible and reliable.
3. The characteristics and pictures of the new seal can be found in the [Annex](#). "CFIA-ACIA" is printed on the body of the seal along with a 10-digit seal number with serialisation sequence starting from 1000000001.
4. CFIA has confirmed that this change does not affect the attestations and official controls for exports of meat and meat products and the integrity and security of Canada's export system will be maintained.
5. Containers associated with export certificates issued as of 1 May 2024 will be sealed with the new CFIA official seal. CFIA has requested a transition period of six months where containers may be presented with either the old or new seal. The transition period will account for containers associated with export certificates issued by CFIA before 1 May 2024.
6. In the future the CFIA may adopt a new supplier where the seal may look slightly different from the one below, but the characteristics will remain the same.

Action for OVSs

7. To note the content of this OVS note.

Contact point for enquiries

Email: imports@apha.gov.uk

Imports and EU Trade Team

Annex A: CFIA's New Official Container Seal

1. Characteristics of the CFIA's new official container seal

Specifications	Characteristics
ISO 17712-2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully meets the standards of International Standardization Organization ISO 17712-2013 for Freight containers – Mechanical seals
C-TPAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complies with the requirements of Customs – Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)
Classification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classified as a high security seal according to ISO 17712-2013 and is identified as such with marking "H" on the seal
Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main lock body: Aluminium Cable: steel
Size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cable diameter: between 3.5mm to 5mm Stock cable length: between 12" to 16" or 305mm to 406mm
Colour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red body with white markings
Marking and Legibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markings are laser engraved and printed with a clear, legible and tamper resistant font
Identification and seal sequencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "CFIA-ACIA" is printed on the body of the seal on its own line Each seal is uniquely marked with a laser-printed 10-digit seal number on its own line directly below "CFIA-ACIA" The seal numbers will be 10 digits long, unique, in consecutive numeric order, with no duplications Seal number serialization sequence will start from 1000000001

2. Sample picture of the CFIA's new official container seal

