

February 28, 2013

Ambassador **Ronald Kirk**
United States Trade Representative
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

We have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Governments of Panama and the United States of America with respect to imports of beef and beef products from the United States:

Further to the “United States-Panama Agreement Regarding Certain Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Standards Affecting Trade in Agricultural Products” of December 20, 2006 (“the Agreement”), Panama confirms that, consistent with World Organization for Animal Health (“OIE”) guidelines, it shall permit the importation from the United States of beef and beef products for human consumption that are accompanied by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) Food Safety and Inspection Service (“FSIS”) Export Certificate of Wholesomeness,¹ but shall not require the additional certification statements for “beef/ beef products for human consumption” set forth in the Annex to the Agreement entitled “Additional Certification Statements on USDA FSIS Export Certificate of Wholesomeness to Accompany U.S. Beef/Beef Product Exports to Panama”.

Although the Annex requires certain additional certification statements related to the mitigation of the risk of introduction of the causative agent of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (“BSE”) from products of bovine origin, those additional statements are no longer deemed necessary given the six years of experience in trade of U.S. beef and beef products between our two countries under the Agreement, and the classification of the risk status of the United States for BSE by the OIE since the Agreement was implemented.

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¹ No such export certificate shall be required for products containing, by weight, less than three percent beef or beef products.

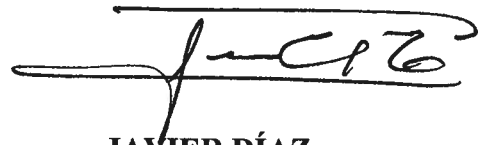
Panama further confirms that it shall accept a USDA FSIS Export Certificate of Wholesomeness that U.S. authorities issue for exports of beef and beef products for human consumption from the United States as meeting all of Panama's requirements for the importation and sale of such beef and beef products, including Panama's sanitary certification and import licensing or permitting requirements.²

We have the honor to propose that this letter, and your letter in reply, confirming that your Government shares this understanding, shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments to enter into force on the date of your letter in reply.

Sincerely,



OSCAR OSORIO CASAL
Minister of Agricultural Development



JAVIER DÍAZ
Minister of Health



RICARDO A. QUIJANO J.
Minister of Commerce and Industry

² No such export certificate shall be required for products containing, by weight, less than three percent beef or beef products.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

March 27, 2013

The Honorable Oscar Osorio Casal
Minister of Agricultural Development
Republic of Panama

The Honorable Javier Díaz
Minister of Health
Republic of Panama

The Honorable Ricardo A. Quijano J.
Minister of Commerce and Industry
Republic of Panama

Dear Ministers Osorio, Díaz, and Quijano:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of February 28, 2013, which reads as follows:

We have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Governments of Panama and the United States of America with respect to imports of beef and beef products from the United States:

Further to the “United States-Panama Agreement Regarding Certain Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Standards Affecting Trade in Agricultural Products” of December 20, 2006 (“the Agreement”), Panama confirms that, consistent with World Organization for Animal Health (“OIE”) guidelines, it shall permit the importation from the United States of beef and beef products for human consumption that are accompanied by a U.S. Department of Agriculture (“USDA”) Food Safety and Inspection Service (“FSIS”) Export Certificate of Wholesomeness,¹ but shall not require the additional certification statements for “beef/ beef products for human consumption” set forth in the Annex to the Agreement entitled “Additional Certification Statements on USDA FSIS Export Certificate of Wholesomeness to Accompany U.S. Beef/Beef Product Exports to Panama”.

Although the Annex requires certain additional certification statements related to the mitigation of the risk of introduction of the causative agent of Bovine Spongiform

¹ No such export certificate shall be required for products containing, by weight, less than three percent beef or beef products.

Encephalopathy (“BSE”) from products of bovine origin, those additional statements are no longer deemed necessary given the six years of experience in trade of U.S. beef and beef products between our two countries under the Agreement, and the classification of the risk status of the United States for BSE by the OIE since the Agreement was implemented.

Panama further confirms that it shall accept a USDA FSIS Export Certificate of Wholesomeness that U.S. authorities issue for exports of beef and beef products for human consumption from the United States as meeting all of Panama’s requirements for the importation and sale of such beef and beef products, including Panama’s sanitary certification and import licensing or permitting requirements.²

We have the honor to propose that this letter, and your letter in reply, confirming that your Government shares this understanding, shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments to enter into force on the date of your letter in reply.

I have the honor to confirm that my Government shares this understanding and that your letter and this letter in reply shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments to enter into force on the date of this letter.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Demetrios Marantis
Acting United States Trade Representative

² No such export certificate shall be required for products containing, by weight, less than three percent beef or beef products.