Libertad y Orden

Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social
República de Colombia

Prosperidad para todos

Courtesy Translation

April 15, 2012

Ambassador Ron Kirk
United States Trade Representative
Washington, DC United States of America

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between representatives of the Government of the Republic of Colombia (Colombia) and the Government of the United States of America (United States) during the course of discussions pertaining to the implementation of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement:

> The Parties confirm that their respective authorities will cooperate on the development of Colombia's national policy pertaining to *Salmonella* bacteria, taking into account Colombia's existing formal recognition of the equivalency of the U.S. meat and poultry inspection system, including the monitoring, control, and reporting procedures for *Salmonella*.
>
> Colombia agrees and confirms that based on Colombia's knowledge and understanding of U.S. measures with regard to the control of *Salmonella*, no U.S. raw poultry meat or poultry product of any form exported to Colombia will be rejected for *Salmonella-related* reasons, provided that the shipment is accompanied by a valid United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service Export Certificate of Wholesomeness which includes the following statement in it: "The poultry meat exported to Colombia was derived from federally certified slaughter and processing facilities operating under the permanent inspection of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The poultry meat was derived from slaughterhouses that adhere to the performance standards for Salmonella which have been verified by FSIS through monitoring of the pathogen reduction and HACCP programs, implemented in the slaughterhouses".

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

Sincerely,

Beatriz Londoño Soto
Minister of Health and Social Protection

Sergio Díaz-Granados Guida
Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism

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

April 15, 2012

The Honorable Beatriz Londoño Soto
Minister of Health and Social Protection

The Honorable Sergio Díaz-Granados Guida
Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism

Dear Ministers Londoño and Díaz-Granados:

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of today's date, which reads as follows:

> "I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between representatives of the Government of the United States of America (United States) and the Government of the Republic of Colombia (Colombia) during the course of discussions pertaining to the implementation of the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement:
>
> The Parties confirm that their respective authorities will cooperate on the development of Colombia's national policy pertaining to *Salmonella* bacteria, taking into account Colombia's existing formal recognition of the equivalency of the U.S. meat and poultry inspection system, including the monitoring, control, and reporting procedures for *Salmonella*.
>
> Colombia agrees and confirms that based on Colombia's knowledge and understanding of U.S. measures with regard to the control of *Salmonella*, no U.S. raw poultry meat or poultry product of any form exported to Colombia will be rejected for *Salmonella-related* reasons, provided that the shipment is accompanied by a valid United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service Export Certificate of Wholesomeness which includes the following statement in it: "The poultry meat exported to Colombia was derived from federally certified slaughter and processing facilities operating under the permanent inspection of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). The poultry meat was derived from slaughterhouses that adhere to the performance standards for Salmonella which have been verified by FSIS through monitoring of the pathogen reduction and HACCP programs, implemented in the slaughterhouses."
>
> I have the honor to propose that this letter and your letter in reply confirming this understanding shall constitute an agreement between our two Governments, and enter into force on this day".

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

Sincerely,

Ambassador Ron Kirk

Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social
República de Colombia

Libertad y Orden

Prosperidad para todos

15 de abril de 2012

Embajador Ron Kirk
Representante Comercial de los Estados Unidos
Washington DC, Estados Unidos de América

Estimado Embajador Kirk:

Tengo el honor de confirmar el siguiente entendimiento logrado entre los representantes del Gobierno de la República de Colombia (Colombia) y el Gobierno de los Estados Unidos de América (Estados Unidos) en el curso de las discusiones relacionadas con la implementación del Acuerdo de Promoción Comercial Estados Unidos-Colombia:

> Las Partes confirman que sus autoridades respectivas cooperarán en el desarrollo de la política nacional de Colombia relacionada con la bacteria *Salmonella*, teniendo en cuenta el reconocimiento formal existente por parte de Colombia de la equivalencia del sistema de inspección de la carne y el pollo de EE.UU., incluyendo el monitoreo, control y procedimientos de reporte para Salmonella.
>
> Colombia acuerda y confirma que con base en el conocimiento y entendimiento de las medidas de EE.UU. sobre el control de *Salmonella*, ninguna carne de pollo o producto del pollo de cualquier forma exportada a Colombia será rechazada por razones relacionadas con *Salmonella*, siempre y cuando el cargamento venga acompañado por un Export Certificate of Wholesomeness del Servicio de Seguridad e Inspección de los Alimentos, del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA), que incluya la siguiente declaración: "La carne de pollo que sea exportada a Colombia se deriva de mataderos e instalaciones de procesamiento certificadas federalmente que operan bajo la inspección permanente del Servicio de Seguridad e Inspección de los Alimentos (FSIS). La carne de pollo se deriva de mataderos que se adhieren a las normas de desempeño sobre Salmonella verificadas por el FSIS por medio del monitoreo de programas de reducción de patógenos y HACCP, implementados en los mataderos."

Tengo el honor de proponer que esta carta y su carta en respuesta confirmando este entendimiento constituyan un acuerdo entre los dos Gobiernos, y entren en vigencia este día.

Atentamente,

Beatriz Londoño Soto
Ministra de Salud y Protección Social

Sergio Díaz-Granados Guida
Ministro de Comercio, Industria y Turismo