

particular state or municipal government. This becomes a technical barrier in cases where many states and municipalities have regulations that apply different standards, or where certification requirements differ.

State regulations governing laboratory accreditation also act as barriers to trade. As stated in a National Institute of Science and Technology publication, "Laboratories desiring to be accredited nationwide to conduct electrical safety-related testing of construction materials have to gain the acceptance of at least 43 states, more than 100 local jurisdictions, three building codes..., [and] a number of federal agencies, as well as several large corporations." In other words, it is common for a testing organization to need multiple state and local government accreditation to conduct similar testing.

The U.S. voluntary standards systems are still intact after several attempts to impose greater government control. The lack of one central standardizing body further exacerbates problems for exporters to the United States, particularly small- and medium-sized companies.

### **Health and Sanitary Requirements**

Shipments of agricultural products are occasionally subject to long delays due to health and sanitary inspections at the U.S. border. Delays resulting from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) procedures to monitor pesticide residue have raised concerns among exporters. This type of delay can be damaging to perishable fresh fruits, vegetables or dairy products. Canadian livestock exporters have also been inconvenienced by limited quarantine facilities for live animals at U.S. border crossings.

Trade in meat is hampered by the unnecessarily stringent application of meat inspection requirements by the United States. In February 1990, Canada and the U.S. reached an agreement providing for the elimination of border re-inspection. The agreement was founded on the principle that the two countries have equivalent inspection systems. In September 1991, however, the United States decided that it could not implement the agreement. As a result, in September 1991, Agriculture Canada also implemented spot check re-inspection of U.S. meat at designated facilities.

The U.S. Farm Bill requires the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conduct, for grading purposes, random spot checks of potatoes entering through ports of entry in the northeastern United States. Canada considers these checks to be unnecessary since, through reciprocal arrangements with the USDA, Agriculture Canada inspects and certifies all Canadian exports of potatoes to the United States as meeting USDA grading requirements.