

The new measure requires that imported pork must be either cooked in the exporting country or in a transitional facility in New Zealand, similar to Australian restrictions imposed for several years upon unprocessed pork from Canada. According to New Zealand import data, in the year ending October 2002, Canadian exports declined 21% over the previous year.

Canada's position is that the measures are scientifically unjustified. We have been pursuing the issue at the technical level. In February 2002, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency agreed to conduct more scientific research on PRRS. This is expected to be completed later this year.

Canada made high-level representations objecting to New Zealand's requirements on the grounds that these are more trade-restrictive than necessary and not based on science. Canada is working with New Zealand technical authorities to find the earliest possible, mutually acceptable solution.

Trout

In December 1998, New Zealand imposed a "temporary" ban on the import of trout. Since then, the ban has been extended several times. In October 2001, New Zealand announced the replacement of the existing Customs Import (Trout) Prohibition Order 1998 with an entirely new one, which will be in force through November 7, 2004. New Zealand claims that the ban is for conservation reasons. Canada's position is that New Zealand has provided no scientific information to justify the ban on conservation or any other grounds, and that it is inconsistent with New Zealand's international trade obligations. Canada would like New Zealand to remove the ban.

Salmon

In 1995, New Zealand approved the import of headless, gutted, wild, ocean-caught Pacific salmon products from Canada, based on the conclusion of a 1994 risk analysis document. However, New Zealand maintains a number of sanitary-related post-entry restrictions that discourage imports from Canada, including a requirement that imported salmon and char, in bulk form, be processed in plants that are not certified for export. These restrictions effectively prevent Canada from exporting salmon in bulk for

further processing in New Zealand. Indeed, there are currently no New Zealand plants able to process Canadian salmon. Canada is working at the technical level to address outstanding fish health concerns.

Southeast Asia

SINGAPORE

Overview

With one of the world's most open economies, Singapore already presents few barriers to Canadian exports, the most notable exceptions being alcohol and tobacco. The same open policy also extends to immigration as the Singapore government actively encourages foreign talent to live and work in the city state. Singapore is therefore a popular Southeast Asian destination for Canadian businesses and individuals.

Singapore continues to offer significant opportunities for Canadian exports of goods, services and technology. In 2002, Canadian exports of goods to Singapore were \$513 million, and imports from Singapore were \$988 million, while trade in services between the two countries for the year 2000 was \$829 million. Already the region's premier transportation hub, Singapore is investing heavily to position itself as a Southeast Asian hub for information and communications technology, financial services, life sciences and cultural industries. To support the development of these knowledge-based industries, Singapore in 2001 converted the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore into a statutory board under the Ministry of Law.

In 2002, Canada and Singapore commenced negotiations toward a bilateral free trade agreement. The Canada-Singapore Free Trade Agreement, when complete, will improve the ability of Canadian firms to export to and invest in Singapore in those areas still subject to protection.