

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

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CANADA REQUESTS PANEL REVIEW FOR PORK
UNDER CHAPTER 19 OF THE CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced that Canada has, for the first time, formally requested a panel review under Chapter 19 of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. This follows the U.S. Department of Commerce's July 18 final determination of subsidy in the countervail action against Canadian imports of fresh, chilled or frozen pork.

The federal government has joined with the Canadian Meat Council, the Canadian Pork Council and the Government of Alberta in seeking this panel review.

A ruling by a panel under Chapter 19 of the Agreement is binding on both parties. Panels are made up of five members appointed by the two governments, and have 315 days to prepare a final decision.

"While this is not the first time a Chapter 19 panel has been requested, it is the first time the Government of Canada has taken an active role in such a request," Mr. Crosbie said. "The panel request we are making today confirms the federal government's determination to help the pork industry defend itself against the U.S. countervailing duty action."

The federal government has argued against the methodology used to determine the alleged subsidy on Canadian pork exports, as well as against the U.S. Department of Commerce view that the Canadian National Tripartite Hog Stabilization Program is countervailable.

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