

Softwood Lumber

Korea requires all Canadian softwood lumber exports to be kiln dried and heat treated in order to eliminate plant pests. Canada is pressing Korea to accept an alternative means of reducing plant health risks that is more economically sound.

Tomatoes

British Columbia exporters would like to export tomatoes. However, Korea prohibits Canadian tomatoes based on the presence of tobacco blue mould (TBM) in Canada. British Columbia is free of TBM and, in addition, tomatoes are not carriers of TBM. Canada is proposing mitigating measures to eliminate any phytosanitary risk based on biological data supplied earlier to Korea.

Seed Potatoes

Korea prohibits imports of Canadian seed potatoes due to concerns about a variety of phytosanitary diseases. Canada has proposed risk mitigating measures, and discussions between technical officials are continuing.

Seal Meat

Korea does not list seal meat for human consumption in its Food Code. Canada has made numerous representations to Korean authorities to have seal meat approved for human consumption. As a result of continuing pressure, in 2002 Korea indicated that it would seek agreement from the Korean National Assembly to include seal meat in the Food Code.

Poultry

Canada continues to object to Korean animal health import requirements for poultry.

Bottled Water

Canada remains concerned about Korea's trade-restrictive, government-mandated shelf-life requirements and onerous testing requirements for bottled water. Canada will continue to make representations in an effort to resolve these issues.

Government Procurement

On September 1, 2001, a Canada-Korea Telecommunications Equipment Procurement Agreement was implemented. This agreement provided Canadian suppliers with non-discriminatory access to procurements by Korea Telecom (KT), Korea's state-owned telecommunications services provider. In 2002, the Korean government sold all its interest in KT and petitioned Canada to remove all references to KT from the agreement. Canada is reviewing this request.

Chinese Taipei (Taiwan)

Overview

In 2002, Canadian goods exports to Chinese Taipei totalled \$1.1 million. Chinese Taipei ranked fifth among Canada's export markets in the Asia-Pacific region, accounting for 5.6% of our total exports to the region. Canada's goods imports from Chinese Taipei in 2002 totalled \$4.2 billion. Chinese Taipei's economy remains very dependent on trade. It is a major exporter, as well as a major source of investment for the region, particularly to China and Southeast Asia, and it is growing as an important regional importer. This has given strong impetus to trade and market liberalization, though domestic political pressures continue to lead to protectionist measures that affect agricultural and agri-food imports.

WTO Accession

Chinese Taipei officially joined the WTO on January 1, 2002. As Chinese Taipei is a prominent export market for Canadian suppliers, its formal membership in the international rules-based trading system is an important development. Chinese Taipei has undertaken significant reforms and liberalization in order to bring its economic and trade regime into line with the WTO framework. A key outcome will be the disappearance of preferential market access previously accorded to U.S. suppliers in a number of product areas, as Chinese Taipei is now bound by the WTO principle of non-discrimination.