

OFFICIAL: Sensitive



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

On the radar**s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)****Minister Collins and Assistant Minister Chisholm****Headline items**

North American Beef Review — The review final report has progressed. Further information can be provided on request through the Protected Enclave (Justine Saunders, **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 33(a)(iii)

s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47F(1)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47F(1)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Ag Media <Media@aff.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 24 July 2025 3:44 PM
To: s 22(1)(a)(ii); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: Ag Media; Wellington, Michelle
Subject: s 22(1)(a)(ii) TPs [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 22(1)(a)(ii),

As requested, please find some s 22(1)(a)(ii)-focussed TPs for your review.

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has today published its final review report for expanded market access for fresh beef imports from the United States (US).
- While the US has been able to export US origin beef to Australia since 2019, this expanded access will now include products sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico, which are legally imported and slaughtered in the US.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Both the s 22(1)(a)(ii) and the US Beef Reviews were based on rigorous science and risk-based import assessments and evaluations by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- This rigorous process ensures we can continue Australia's long history of effective biosecurity and food safety measures to protect our industries, people, and the environment.
- All imports from the US s 22(1)(a)(ii) will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- The department is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks – especially for animal diseases.
- The department has assessed the s 22(1)(a)(ii) US Beef market access requests over many years.
- The North American cattle supply chain is complex and involves the movement of thousands of cattle between the US and Mexico, and the US and Canada, each year.
- Because of the complexities this presents, the department undertook a detailed assessment to ensure that biosecurity and food safety requirements could be met.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media | s 22(1)(a)(ii) | s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

media@aff.gov.au

www.agriculture.gov.au



OFFICIAL

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 47E(d)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47E(d)

s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47E(d)



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**



Draft high-level timeline: key developments for reviews for certain (fresh and frozen) beef imports from the United States s 22(1)(a)(ii) (as at s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d))

Date	Development
14 September 2014	Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) status assessment of Mexico completed as Category 1.
28 May 2015	FSANZ BSE status assessment of United States (US) completed as Category 1.
10 December 2015	Commence review: Announced review of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu.
14 December 2016	Consultation draft review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu released for extended 90-day period.
30 August 2017	Finalise review: Final review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu released.
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2019	Competent Authority Assessment of US complete.
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2020	Request by US for expanded market access to enable imports of beef from bovines born and raised in Canada or Mexico and legally imported and slaughtered in the US.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

20 March 2024	Consultation draft review report of expanded market access for fresh beef and beef products from the US including sourced from cattle imported from Canada or Mexico released for 60 day period.
---------------	--

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

July 2025 <small>s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47E(d)</small> <small>s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47E</small>	Finalise review: Final review report of expanded market access for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from the US (including sourced from cattle imported from Canada or Mexico) released. s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)
--	--

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

DRAFT – Key Points – s 47E(d)

s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47E(d)

Release of final review report: *Fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products derived from bovines (cattle) born and raised in Canada or Mexico and legally imported and slaughtered in the United States (US Beef Review)*

Key points

- On **xx July 2025**, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) released its final review report for **expanded market access** for imports of certain fresh beef and beef products from the United States (US) (US Beef Review).
 - Specifically, this review covered import conditions for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US.
- US beef products sourced from cattle of US origin have had access to the Australian market since 2019.
- The review found that the US beef industry is well regulated and able to meet Australia's strict biosecurity import requirements for cattle imported into the US from Canada and Mexico.
- The review found that the new protocols in the US for the import of cattle from Canada and Mexico apply control measures which sufficiently address Australia's biosecurity concerns.
 - For example, enhanced traceability and disease management measures.
- The review followed the department's comprehensive technical evaluations over many years, under Australia's established import processes and strong biosecurity requirements.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- The department's decisions are:
 - Science and risk-based and will not compromise our biosecurity risk and enviable animal and human health status in Australia.
 - In line with international standards.
- Australia's cattle farmers benefit significantly from the rules-based international trading environment.
- As an exporting nation, it is important for Australia to assess other countries market access requests in a manner consistent with World Trade Organization rules and guidelines, along with Australia's established requirements for biosecurity and food safety.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**The Department's role**

- The department is responsible for assessing the biosecurity risks associated with the import of goods from overseas.
- The department undertakes regular reviews, and risk analyses may be conducted, in response to new information about biosecurity risks or to a new request to import particular goods.
- These evaluations are conducted in line with the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, Australia's established import risk assessment processes and requirements, and our international obligations.

If asked**Was industry consulted on the US Beef Review?**

- Yes, the department regularly engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
- There was also extensive consultation and engagement on the original 2017 review of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the US and Vanuatu with separate formal consultation periods.
- The draft US Beef Review final report was released for a 75 day public consultation from 20 March to 3 June 2024.
- The department received five stakeholder submissions, which were considered in finalising the final review report.

Why was there a delay in releasing the final report?

- The department has followed its standard risk-based and scientific review and evaluation process.
- This has included extensive engagement in finishing the review report and settling implementation arrangements.

Will the review outcomes increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia has a long history of effective biosecurity measures that protect our industries, people, and the environment from pests, diseases and their potential impacts.
- Australia takes a science-based approach to risk assessment and does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, through established import processes and our biosecurity requirements.
- The department imposes stringent import conditions to manage any biosecurity risks from imported fresh and frozen beef from approved countries, including the US that ensures Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

What happens next?

- The department will complete the administrative steps required to update [Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) (or BICON) database along with advice on the department's website.
- Once complete, Australian importers can apply for a permit to import fresh beef and beef products:
 - derived from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US, and

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**What assurances does the department have regarding the traceability, safety and biosecurity risk management of US beef that is sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle?**

- The department has systematically evaluated the assurance provided by revised US protocols for the importation of cattle from Canada and Mexico into the US.
- These protocols were recently strengthened in December 2024 and January 2025 to substantially increase traceability requirements and provide additional assurance regarding the management of bovine TB (tuberculosis) and brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*).
- The department accepts that the US regulatory systems provide, through these updated protocols, sufficient oversight to conclude that the risks posed by the importation of cattle from Canada and Mexico to the US, are adequately managed.
- In addition, the US' domestic cattle traceability system was evaluated in 2019 in a Competent Authority assessment that followed from the 2017 Beef Review.
- The US also places identification and traceability obligations on livestock imported from both Canada and Mexico.
- These obligations are set out in the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) importation protocols for cattle sourced from each country.
- The department has assessed these USDA-APHIS arrangements as effective at providing sufficient assurance that the biosecurity risks can be managed.
- Our review of food safety and biosecurity risks for fresh beef and beef products obtained from the US and Canada reflects a decade of joint analysis by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), which concludes that these risks can be managed to meet Australia's stringent requirements.

(IF RAISED)

- The US manages the trade in cattle from Mexico to mitigate the biosecurity risks to its industry.
- This has been demonstrated recently through the strong actions the US took in response to an outbreak of New World Screwworm fly in Mexico, which led to a suspension in trade which remains in place.

How will the recent avian influenza cases in US cattle impact the department's decision to import beef from the US?

- The department assessed implications that the avian influenza infection of dairy cattle in the US could have on the Australian industry.
- The department is satisfied that the US applies rigorous protocols to ensure no infected animals enter the export supply chain. This includes meeting Australia's biosecurity and food safety requirements.

Why is the department approving imports given the trade policy of the current US administration has a focus on tariffs?

- Tariffs are a separate matter managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- Arrangements relating to tariffs are not considered in this scientific review process.
- As a signatory to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) SPS Agreement (SPS Agreement), Australia has rights and obligations including assessing requests from our trading partners for access to the Australian market.
- Australia is a trading nation and is committed to the international rules-based trading system that also underpins and supports our extensive export industries.
- A decision to allow the importation of goods into Australia is made in view of Australia's responsibility, as a major exporter itself, to apply a fair and transparent approach to approvals under international rules-based order.

Has there been recent pressure to change how US beef is imported into Australia?

- The decision to allow the importation of US beef has been in place since 2017, with import conditions available since 2019.
- The US elected to not commence trade under these conditions and instead sought expanded access since 2020 for the importation of US beef derived from cattle sourced from Canada and Mexico and legally imported into the US.
- The department has been engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on the review of expanded access since this time.

Do you anticipate reactions from other trading partners?

- Our trading partners are familiar with the high and consistent standards applied to imported goods, having been through equivalent risk assessments and competent authority evaluations.

Will US and Canadian beef meet Australian Food Safety Standards?

- Food imported into Australia must be safe and compliant with Australia's food standards, including microbiological, contaminant, and residue limits.
- It is the importer's responsibility to obtain assurance from overseas suppliers that food is compliant.
- To verify compliance with these requirements, the department operates a risk-based Imported Food Inspection Scheme.
- Beef and beef products are risk classified and must be imported under foreign government certification.
- Countries wishing to export beef to Australia must undergo a country BSE food safety risk assessment which is conducted by FSANZ.
- FSANZ has completed assessments of the BSE status of Mexico, the US and Canada, with all being given category 1 status, which demonstrates they all have comprehensive and well-established controls in place.
- The department's food safety assessment has determined that the US and Canadian systems for the production and processing of raw beef and beef products provide an equivalent food safety outcome to that provided by the Australian system.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- In addition to certification, at-border testing will also apply to verify food safety and compliance with Australia's food standards, including testing for *Salmonella spp.* and shiga toxinogenic *Escherichia coli* for certain products and residue testing through an antimicrobial screen.

Will imported beef be labelled to identify country of origin?

- Imported food must comply with the *Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016*.
- The department checks compliance with this standard, when imported food is referred for inspection under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme.
- Once food is for sale on the Australian market, country of origin labelling requirements are enforced by the relevant state or territory fair trading regulator.

How much beef will be imported into Australia?

- The demand for US and Canadian beef in Australia is subject to a range of market factors.
- Australia currently exports more than 70% of its domestic agriculture production and has a healthy domestic fresh beef market, which may impact the demand for imported beef.
- The US is among the largest per capita consumers of beef in the world and is currently the largest national consumer of beef. Unlike Australia's beef industry, the majority of US beef production goes towards servicing their own domestic population.

(IF RAISED)

- Commercial considerations such as these are not in scope for scientific assessments conducted in accordance with the WTO SPS Agreement.

Background (for use if required)

- As a signatory to the SPS Agreement, Australia has an obligation to assess requests from our trading partners for access to the Australian market, as well as the right to establish import conditions to facilitate safe trade where Australia's biosecurity requirements can be met.
- Australia's import requirements for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef from approved countries were finalised in 2017 and a risk review was published.
 - This review was titled *Fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu – final review* (the 2017 beef review).
- The US has had import conditions available for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef since 2019 sourced from US origin cattle, but has elected not to commence trade and has instead sought expanded access.
 - Bovines are animals of the ox family, commonly referred to as cattle.
- On 20 March 2024, the department released a draft review of US Beef Review.
- Five submissions in response to the draft report—three from members of the public and two from industry stakeholders; the Australian Meat Industry Council and Cattle Australia.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- The US Beef Review final report will be published as an addendum to the 2017 beef review. It considers current and available information on bovine diseases relevant to fresh beef and beef products derived from bovines legally imported into the US from Canada or Mexico.
- The US, Canada and Mexico have all been assessed for the risks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or Mad Cow Disease.
- BSE is a transmissible and fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects cattle. Variant Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease (vCJD), a rare and fatal human neurodegenerative condition, results from exposure to BSE through eating contaminated beef or beef products.

s. 22(1)(a)(ii), s. 33(a)(iii), s. 47E(d)

Approval (to be updated)

Policy area (AS or above)		Media team	
Name/title		Name	
Date approved		Date seen	
Comments		Comments	

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PROTECTED

Whole-of-Government Talking Points for s 47E(d) (as at s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d))

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has published its final review report for **expanded market access** for fresh beef imports from the United States (US).
- While the US has been able to export US origin beef to Australia since 2019, this expanded access will now include products sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico which are legally imported and slaughtered in the US.
- Australia is a two-way trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.
- Import reviews for market access requests from our trading partners are routinely considered by the department.
- The US Beef Review finalisation is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessment and evaluations by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- This rigorous process ensures we can continue Australia's long history of effective biosecurity measures to protect our industries, people, and the environment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We do not compromise on our enviable biosecurity status or our food standards, ever.
- All imports from the US and Canada will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.
- Questions on the review should be referred to the department.

Background

US Beef Review: This review covered fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from bovines (cattle) born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US. The review found that the US beef industry is well regulated and able to meet Australia's strict biosecurity import requirements

This review builds on ongoing reviews for US beef since 2015 s 22(1)(a)(ii), and expands market access initially provided for US beef imports in 2019.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Next steps: The department is finalising administrative arrangements to update [Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) (or BICON) database. From 28 July 2025, Australian businesses will be able to apply for permit applications to import fresh beef and beef products:

PROTECTED

PROTECTED

- sourced from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US [*this is expanded access*], and

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Beef imports must meet all import conditions and health certification requirements.

DRAFT

PROTECTED

PROTECTED

Whole-of-Government Talking Points (as at s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d))**General**

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has published its final review report for **expanded market access** for fresh beef imports from the United States (US).
- While the US has been able to export US origin beef to Australia since 2019, this expanded access will now include products sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico which are legally imported and slaughtered in the US.
- Australia is an international trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.
- Import reviews for market access requests from our trading partners are routinely considered by the department.
- The US Beef Review finalisation is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessments and evaluations by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- This rigorous process ensures we can continue Australia's long history of effective biosecurity measures to protect our industries, people, and the environment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We do not compromise on our enviable biosecurity status or our food standards, ever.
- All imports from the US and Canada will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.
- Questions on the review should be referred to the department.

[If needed – if asked]**Farmers have raised concerns about traceability of cattle from Canada and especially Mexico into the US. How has this been addressed?**

- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- The department is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks – especially for animal diseases.

Is this US Beef Review related to US trade issues?

- The US initially requested expanded access to the Australian beef market in 2020, and Australia has been engaging with them on this matter since then to progress.
- Under international rules, Australia responds to market access requests from our trading partners in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations.

PROTECTED

PROTECTED

- Just as our trading partners respond to Australia's market access requests to them.

Will this increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, science-based risks assessments, import policies, or biosecurity requirements.

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- The department regularly and extensively engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
 - This engagement started in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the US and Vanuatu.
- The draft report for the US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024).
- The department received five submissions, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the final report.

Why has the review taken so long?

- Australia's first priority is to preserve our enviable biosecurity status.
- While we routinely receive requests for market access from our trading partners, each undergoes rigorous, science-based risk assessments and evaluations.
- The US has been able to export beef to Australia since 2019, however they did not commence trade at that time, and instead in 2020 they sought expanded access for the importation of US beef (sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle).
- The department has been engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on this review for expanded access, which has now been finalised.
 - This reflects standard process.

Background

US Beef Review: This review covered fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from bovines (cattle) born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US. The review found that the US beef industry is well regulated and able to meet Australia's strict biosecurity import requirements

This review builds on ongoing reviews for US beef since 2015 s 22(1)(a)(ii), and expands market access initially provided for US beef imports in 2019.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

PROTECTED

PROTECTED

Next steps: The department is finalising administrative arrangements to update [Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) (or BICON) database. From 28 July 2025, Australian businesses will be able to apply for permit applications to import fresh beef and beef products:

- sourced from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US [*this is the expanded access*], and

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Beef imports must meet all import conditions and health certification requirements.

DRAFT

PROTECTED

US Beef Import Review

Key facts

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has finalised its review for expanded market access for certain beef imports from the United States (US).
- The US Beef Review is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessments and evaluations by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- As an export-focused nation, Australia has always been a strong advocate for open and rules-based trade.
- The department routinely assesses market access requests from trading partners.
- Australia does not compromise its enviable biosecurity status or our food safety standards, which protect our industries, people, and the environment.

TALKING POINTS

- On 24 July 2025, the department published its final review report for expanded market access for fresh beef imports from the US.
- While the US has been able to export US origin beef to Australia since 2019, this expanded access will now include products sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico, which are legally imported and slaughtered in the US.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Australia is a two-way trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.

Contact Officer: Rochelle Prattley

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Responsible Division: Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD) G2

QB25-0000XX

Date updated: s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 1

- Import reviews for market access requests from trading partners are routinely considered by the department.
- We do not compromise on our enviable biosecurity status or our food standards, ever.
- These reviews involved rigorous science-based risk assessments and evaluations with extensive industry consultation.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- All imports from the US s 22(1)(a)(ii) will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.

Farmers have raised concerns about traceability of Cattle from Mexico into the US. How has this been addressed?

- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- The department is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks

Is this review related to US trade issues?

- The US initially requested expanded access to the Australian beef market in 2020 and Australia has been engaging with them on this matter since then to progress the issue.

- Under international rules, Australia responds to market access requests from our trading partners in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations.
- Just as our trading partners respond to Australia's market access requests to them.

Will this increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, science-based risks assessments, import policies, or biosecurity requirements.

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- The department regularly and extensively engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
 - This engagement started in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu.
- The draft report for the US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024).
- The department received five submissions, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the report.

Why has the review taken so long?

- Australia's first priority is to preserve our enviable biosecurity status.
- While we routinely receive requests for market access from our trading partners, each undergoes rigorous, science-based risk assessments and evaluations to ensure our biosecurity risks are managed.

Contact Officer: Rochelle Prattley

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Responsible Division: Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD) G2

QB25-0000XX

Date updated: s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 3

- The US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, however they did not commence trade at that time.
- Instead in 2020, the US sought expanded access the importation of beef sourced from cattle sourced from Canada and Mexico and, and legally imported into and slaughtered in the US.
- Consistent with standard practice, department has engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on the review of the expanded access request, which has now been finalised.

DRAFT

Contact Officer: Rochelle Prattley

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Responsible Division: Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD) G2

QB25-0000XX

Date updated: s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 4

s 22(a)(ii)

s 22(a)(ii)



Draft Timeline: key developments for reviews for certain beef imports from the United States s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key steps:

Generally, for exporting countries to access the Australian market, countries undergo a three-part import review process that identifies food safety and biosecurity risks, and applies conditions that exporting countries must meet.

1. Countries undergo a country Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) food safety risk assessment, which is conducted by Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ).
2. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) assesses the animal biosecurity risks associated with beef imports for access to Australia.
3. The department completes a competent authority assessment to determine the country's official animal health, export control, and supervision systems reliably meet Australia's biosecurity and food safety requirements.

Timeline:

Date	Development
14 September 2014	FSANZ BSE status assessment of Mexico completed as Category 1 ¹ .
28 May 2015	FSANZ BSE status assessment of United States (US) completed as Category 1.
10 December 2015	Commence review: Announced review of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu.
14 December 2016	Consultation draft review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand (NZ), US and Vanuatu released for 90 days.
30 August 2017	Finalise review: Final review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu released ² .
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2019	Competent Authority Assessment of US complete.
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2020	Request by US for expanded market access to enable imports of beef sourced from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US.

s 22(a)(ii)

¹ Category 1 demonstrates the country has comprehensive and well-established controls in place.

² Japan and NZ have market access. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date	Development
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) s 22(a)(ii)	
20 March 2024	Consultation draft review report of expanded market access for fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from the US (including sourced from cattle from Canada and Mexico) released for 60-day period. s 22(a)(ii)
24 July 2025	Finalise review: Final review report of expanded market access for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from the US (including sourced from cattle imported from Canada or Mexico) released. s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

Draft Timeline: key developments for reviews for certain beef imports from the United States s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key steps:

Generally, for exporting countries to access the Australian market, countries undergo a three-part import review process that identifies food safety and biosecurity risks, and applies conditions that exporting countries must meet.

1. Countries undergo a country Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) food safety risk assessment, which is conducted by Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ).
2. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) assesses the animal biosecurity risks associated with beef imports for access to Australia.
3. The department completes a competent authority assessment to determine the country's official animal health, export control, and supervision systems reliably meet Australia's biosecurity and food safety requirements.

Timeline:

Date	Development
14 September 2014	FSANZ BSE status assessment of Mexico completed as Category 1 ¹ .
28 May 2015	FSANZ BSE status assessment of United States (US) completed as Category 1.
10 December 2015	Commence review: Announced review of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu.
14 December 2016	Consultation draft review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand (NZ), US and Vanuatu released for 90 days.
30 August 2017	Finalise review: Final review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu released ² .
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2019	Competent Authority Assessment of US complete.
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2020	Request by US for expanded market access to enable imports of beef sourced from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US.

s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

¹ Category 1 demonstrates the country has comprehensive and well-established controls in place.

² Japan and NZ have market access. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date	Development
20 March 2024	Consultation draft review report of expanded market access for fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from the US (including sourced from cattle from Canada and Mexico) released for 60-day period.
s 22(1)(a)(ii)	
24 July 2025	Finalise review: Final review report of expanded market access for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from the US (including sourced from cattle imported from Canada or Mexico) released.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

DRAFT

Detailed Background

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

Release of final report: *Fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products derived from bovines born and raised in Canada or Mexico and legally imported and slaughtered in the United States of America (US Beef Review)*

Key points

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has published its final review report for **expanded market access** for fresh beef imports from the United States (US).
- While the US has been able to export US origin beef to Australia since 2019, this expanded access will now include products sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico, which are legally imported and slaughtered in the US.
- Australia is an international trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.
- Import reviews for market access requests from our trading partners are routinely considered by the department.
- The US Beef Review finalisation is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessments and evaluations by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- This rigorous process ensures we can continue Australia's long history of effective biosecurity measures to protect our industries, people, and the environment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We do not compromise on our enviable biosecurity status or our food standards, ever.
- All imports from the US and Canada will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.

Department's Role

- The department is responsible for assessing the biosecurity risks associated with the import of a range of goods from overseas.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**If asked****What are the next steps?**

- The department is finalising administrative arrangements to update [Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) (or BICON) database.
- From 28 July 2025, Australian businesses will be able to apply for permit applications to import fresh beef and beef products:
 - sourced from the US and from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US [*this is the expanded access*], and

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Beef imports must meet all import conditions and health certification requirements.

Farmers have raised concerns about traceability of cattle from Canada and especially Mexico into the US. How has this been addressed?

- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- The department is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks – especially for animal diseases.

Is this US Beef Review related to US trade issues?

- The US initially requested expanded access to the Australian beef market in 2020, and Australia has been engaging with them on this matter since then to progress.
- Under international rules, Australia responds to market access requests from our trading partners in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations.
- Just as our trading partners respond to Australia's market access requests to them.

Will this increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, science-based risks assessments, import policies, or biosecurity requirements.

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- The department regularly and extensively engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
 - This engagement started in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the US and Vanuatu.
- The draft report for the expanded access US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024).
- The department received five submissions, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the final report.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**Why has the review taken so long?**

- Australia's first priority is to preserve our enviable biosecurity status.
- While we routinely receive requests for market access from our trading partners, each undergoes rigorous, science-based risk assessments and evaluations.
- The US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, however they did not commence trade at that time, and instead in 2020 they sought expanded access for the importation of US beef (sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle).
- The department has been engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on this review for expanded access, which has now been finalised.
 - This reflects standard process.

Does the US provide an equivalent level of individual lifetime animal traceability for animals imported from Mexico to that of the Australian system?

- The US' domestic cattle traceability system was evaluated in 2019 in a Competent Authority assessment that followed from the 2017 Beef Review.
- The US also places identification and traceability obligations on livestock imported from both Canada and Mexico.
- These obligations are set out in the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) importation protocols for cattle sourced from each country.
- The department has assessed these USDA-APHIS arrangements as effective at providing sufficient assurance that the biosecurity risks can be managed.

The US imports cattle from Mexico (as well as Canada). How can the department be sure that these cattle have not originated in countries other than Mexico (such as other Central American countries)?

- The department has systematically evaluated the assurance provided by revised US protocols for the importation of cattle from Canada and Mexico into the US.
- These protocols were recently strengthened in December 2024 and January 2025 to substantially increase traceability requirements and provide additional assurance regarding the management of bovine TB (tuberculosis) and brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*).
- The department accepts that the US regulatory systems provide, through these updated protocols, sufficient oversight to conclude that the risks posed by the importation of cattle from Canada and Mexico to the US, are adequately managed.

(IF RAISED)

- The US manages the trade in cattle from Mexico to mitigate the biosecurity risks to its industry.
- This has been demonstrated recently through the strong actions the US took in response to an outbreak of New World Screwworm fly in Mexico, which led to a suspension in trade which remains in place.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**What assurances does the department have regarding the safety and biosecurity risk management of US beef that is sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle?**

- Recently revised US import protocols, alongside the US domestic livestock management, transport and processing requirements, have provided the department with the assurance that US beef sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle will have an equivalent food safety and biosecurity risk to beef that is sourced from US born and bred cattle.
- Our review of food safety and biosecurity risks for fresh beef and beef products obtained from the US and Canada reflects a decade of joint analysis by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), which concludes that these risks can be managed to meet Australia's stringent requirements.

What are the implications of this policy for market access into Australia?

- The US was granted conditions for market access to export beef to Australia in 2019 for products sourced from US-origin cattle.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Beef imports could impact negatively on Australian farmers, why allow it?

- Australia's cattle farmers benefit significantly from the rules-based international trading environment.
- In 2024, Australia exported A\$14.1 billion of beef to over 70 countries, with around 70 percent of the beef produced in Australia being exported, including A\$4.4 billion in beef products to the US.

Why is the department approving so many countries in a short space of time?

- We have been assessing both Canada and the US over several years.
- The North American cattle supply chain is complex and involves the movement of thousands of cattle between the US and Mexico, and the US and Canada, each year.
- Because of the complexities this presents, the department undertook a detailed assessment to ensure that biosecurity and food safety requirements could be met.

How will the recent HPAI cases in US cattle impact the department's decision to import beef from the US?

- The department conducted an assessment considering the implications that the HPAI infection of dairy cattle in the US could have on the Australian industry.
- The US applies rigorous protocols to ensure no infected animals enter the export supply chain. This includes meeting Australia's biosecurity and food safety requirements.
- Australia has a strong history of effective biosecurity measures that protect its industries, people, and the environment from diseases and their impacts.

Why is the department approving imports given the trade policy of the current US administration has a focus on tariffs?

- Tariffs are a separate matter managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- Australia is a trading nation and is committed to the international rules-based trading system that also underpins and supports our extensive export industries.
- As a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement), Australia has rights and obligations, including assessing requests from our trading partners for access to the Australian market.
- A decision to allow the importation of goods into Australia is made in view of Australia's responsibility, as a major exporter itself, to apply a fair and transparent approach to approvals under international rules-based order.
- Australia does not trade off on our strong biosecurity system.

Do you anticipate reactions from other trading partners?

- Our trading partners are familiar with the high and consistent standards applied to imported goods, having been through equivalent risk assessments and competent authority evaluations.

Will US and Canadian beef meet Australian Food Safety Standards?

- Food imported into Australia must be safe and compliant with Australia's food standards, including microbiological, contaminant, and residue limits.
 - It is the importer's responsibility to obtain assurance from overseas suppliers that food is compliant.
- To verify compliance with these requirements, the department operates a risk-based Imported Food Inspection Scheme.
- Beef and beef products are risk classified and must be imported under foreign government certification.
- Countries wishing to export beef to Australia must undergo a country BSE food safety risk assessment which is conducted by FSANZ.
- FSANZ has completed assessments of the BSE status of Mexico, the US and Canada, with all being given category 1 status, which demonstrates they all have comprehensive and well-established controls in place.
- The department's food safety assessment has determined that the US and Canadian systems for the production and processing of raw beef and beef products provide an equivalent food safety outcome to that provided by the Australian system.
- In addition to certification, at-border testing will also apply to verify food safety and compliance with Australia's food standards, including testing for *Salmonella spp.* and shiga toxinogenic *Escherichia coli* for certain products and residue testing through an antimicrobial screen.

Will imported beef be labelled to identify country of origin?

- Imported food must comply with the *Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016*.
- The department checks compliance with this standard, when imported food is referred for inspection under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme.
- Once food is for sale on the Australian market, country of origin labelling requirements are enforced by the relevant state or territory fair trading regulator.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**How much beef will be imported into Australia?**

- The demand for US and Canadian beef in Australia is subject to a range of market factors.
- Australia currently exports more than 70% of its domestic agriculture production and has a healthy domestic fresh beef market, which may impact the demand for imported beef.
- The US is among the largest per capita consumers of beef in the world and is currently the largest national consumer of beef.
- Unlike Australia's beef industry, the majority of US beef production goes towards servicing their own domestic population.

(IF RAISED)

- Commercial considerations such as these are not in scope for scientific assessments conducted in accordance with the WTO SPS Agreement.

Background (for use if required)

- As a signatory to the SPS Agreement, Australia has an obligation to assess requests from our trading partners for access to the Australian market, as well as the right to establish import conditions to facilitate safe trade where Australia's biosecurity requirements can be met. Import conditions will be published allowing stakeholders to apply for an import permit for US beef sourced from immediate slaughter and other-than-immediate slaughter bovines legally imported from Canada, and feeder and breeder bovines legally imported from Mexico. ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}
- Australia's import requirements for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef from approved countries were finalised in 2017. This review was titled *Fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu – final review* (the beef review).
- The US has had import conditions available for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef since 2019, but has elected not to commence trade and instead sought expanded access.
- On 20 March 2024, the department released a draft review report for fresh beef and beef products derived from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico and legally imported and slaughtered in the US for public consultation.
- We received five submissions in response to the draft report—three from members of the public and two from industry stakeholders; the Australian Meat Industry Council and Cattle Australia.
 - These raised various views and questions, which the department has considered and addressed, where appropriate, in the final report.
- This review is published as an addendum to the 2017 review of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the US and Vanuatu – final review. It considers current and available information on bovine diseases relevant to fresh beef and beef products derived from bovines legally imported into the US from Canada or Mexico.
- The US, Canada and Mexico have all been assessed for the risks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or Mad Cow Disease.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- BSE is a transmissible and fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects cattle. Variant Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease (vCJD), a rare and fatal human neurodegenerative condition, results from exposure to BSE through eating contaminated beef or beef products.

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

CONFIDENTIAL**Whole-of-Government Talking Points (as at s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d))****TALKING POINTS:**

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has published its final review for expanded market access for fresh beef imports from the United States (US).
- This review is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessment and evaluation by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand to ensure Australia's robust biosecurity measures are upheld.
- The review into US Beef Imports began in December 2015 under the Coalition Government, alongside a review into beef imports from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Vanuatu.
- This involved extensive assessment, consultation and evaluation, and in 2019, the US was granted beef access.
- While the US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, they have not done so. In 2020, they instead applied for expanded access to include beef sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico which is legally imported to and slaughtered in the US.
- In late 2024 and early 2025, the US introduced more robust movement controls which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- These strengthened controls have been rigorously assessed, and Australia is satisfied that they effectively manage biosecurity risks.
- Australia has a long history of effective biosecurity measures to protect our industries, people, and the environment. We do not compromise on our biosecurity status or our food standards.
- Australia is a two-way trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.
- Import reviews for market access requests from our trading partners are routinely considered by the department – we respond to requests in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations, just as our trading partners do for us.
- All imports from the US s 22(1)(a)(ii) will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.
- Questions on the review such as questions on process including audit requirements and detailed questions on traceability should be referred to the department.

CONFIDENTIAL**IF RAISED:**

The beef industry has raised concerns about traceability of Cattle from Mexico into the US. How has this been addressed?

- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- Australia is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks.

Is this review related to US trade issues?

- The US was granted beef access in 2019, and requested expanded access in 2020, well before the current US administration.
- Australia has been engaging with them on this matter since then, including under the former Coalition Government, to progress the issue.
- Under international rules, Australia responds to market access requests from our trading partners in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations.
- Just as our trading partners respond to Australia's market access requests.

Will this increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, science-based risks assessments, import policies, or biosecurity requirements.

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- Officials regularly and extensively engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
- This engagement started in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu.
- The draft report for the US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024). Five submissions were received, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the report.

Why has the review taken so long?

- We won't apologise for taking the time to preserve our biosecurity status – this is Australia's first priority.
- While we routinely receive requests for market access from our trading partners, each undergoes rigorous, science-based risk assessments and evaluations to ensure our biosecurity risks are managed.

CONFIDENTIAL

- The US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, however have chosen not to export.
- Instead in 2020, the US sought expanded access for the importation of beef from cattle sourced from Canada and Mexico and legally imported into and slaughtered in the US.
- Consistent with standard practice, Australia has engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on the review of the expanded access request, which has now been finalised.

s 33(a)(iii)

BACKGROUND:

US Beef Review: This review covered fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from bovines (cattle) born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US. The review found that the US beef industry is well regulated and able to meet Australia's strict biosecurity import requirements

This review builds on ongoing reviews for US beef since 2015 and Canadian beef since 2020, and expands market access initially provided for US beef imports in 2019.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Next steps: The department is finalising administrative arrangements to update [Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) (or BICON) database. From 28 July 2025, Australian businesses will be able to apply for permit applications to import fresh beef and beef products:

- from the US, and sourced from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US [*this is expanded access*], and

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Beef imports must meet all import conditions and health certification requirements.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

FINAL

Detailed Background

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

Release of final report: *Fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products derived from bovines born and raised in Canada or Mexico and legally imported and slaughtered in the United States of America (US Beef Review)*

Key points

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has published its final review report for **expanded market access** for fresh beef imports from the United States (US).
- While the US has been able to export US origin beef to Australia since 2019, this expanded access will now include products sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico, which are legally imported and slaughtered in the US.
- Australia is an international trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.
- Import reviews for market access requests from our trading partners are routinely considered by the department.
- The US Beef Review finalisation is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessments and evaluations by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- This rigorous process ensures we can continue Australia's long history of effective biosecurity measures to protect our industries, people, and the environment.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- We do not compromise on our enviable biosecurity status or our food standards, ever.
- All imports from the US and Canada will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.

Department's Role

- The department is responsible for assessing the biosecurity risks associated with the import of a range of goods from overseas.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**If asked****What are the next steps?**

- The department is finalising administrative arrangements to update [Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) (or BICON) database.
- From 28 July 2025, Australian businesses will be able to apply for permit applications to import fresh beef and beef products:
 - sourced from the US and from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US [*this is the expanded access*], and

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Beef imports must meet all import conditions and health certification requirements.

Farmers have raised concerns about traceability of cattle from Canada and especially Mexico into the US. How has this been addressed?

- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- The department is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks – especially for animal diseases.

Is this US Beef Review related to US trade issues?

- The US initially requested expanded access to the Australian beef market in 2020, and Australia has been engaging with them on this matter since then to progress.
- Under international rules, Australia responds to market access requests from our trading partners in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations.
- Just as our trading partners respond to Australia's market access requests to them.

Will this increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, science-based risks assessments, import policies, or biosecurity requirements.

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- The department regularly and extensively engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
 - This engagement started in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the US and Vanuatu.
- The draft report for the expanded access US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024).
- The department received five submissions, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the final report.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**Why has the review taken so long?**

- Australia's first priority is to preserve our enviable biosecurity status.
- While we routinely receive requests for market access from our trading partners, each undergoes rigorous, science-based risk assessments and evaluations.
- The US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, however they did not commence trade at that time, and instead in 2020 they sought expanded access for the importation of US beef (sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle).
- The department has been engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on this review for expanded access, which has now been finalised.
 - This reflects standard process.

Does the US provide an equivalent level of individual lifetime animal traceability for animals imported from Mexico to that of the Australian system?

- The US' domestic cattle traceability system was evaluated in 2019 in a Competent Authority assessment that followed from the 2017 Beef Review.
- The US also places identification and traceability obligations on livestock imported from both Canada and Mexico.
- These obligations are set out in the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) importation protocols for cattle sourced from each country.
- The department has assessed these USDA-APHIS arrangements as effective at providing sufficient assurance that the biosecurity risks can be managed.

The US imports cattle from Mexico (as well as Canada). How can the department be sure that these cattle have not originated in countries other than Mexico (such as other Central American countries)?

- The department has systematically evaluated the assurance provided by revised US protocols for the importation of cattle from Canada and Mexico into the US.
- These protocols were recently strengthened in December 2024 and January 2025 to substantially increase traceability requirements and provide additional assurance regarding the management of bovine TB (tuberculosis) and brucellosis (*Brucella melitensis*).
- The department accepts that the US regulatory systems provide, through these updated protocols, sufficient oversight to conclude that the risks posed by the importation of cattle from Canada and Mexico to the US, are adequately managed.

(IF RAISED)

- The US manages the trade in cattle from Mexico to mitigate the biosecurity risks to its industry.
- This has been demonstrated recently through the strong actions the US took in response to an outbreak of New World Screwworm fly in Mexico, which led to a suspension in trade which remains in place.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**What assurances does the department have regarding the safety and biosecurity risk management of US beef that is sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle?**

- Recently revised US import protocols, alongside the US domestic livestock management, transport and processing requirements, have provided the department with the assurance that US beef sourced from Canadian and Mexican cattle will have an equivalent food safety and biosecurity risk to beef that is sourced from US born and bred cattle.
- Our review of food safety and biosecurity risks for fresh beef and beef products obtained from the US and Canada reflects a decade of joint analysis by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), which concludes that these risks can be managed to meet Australia's stringent requirements.

What are the implications of this policy for market access into Australia?

- The US was granted conditions for market access to export beef to Australia in 2019 for products sourced from US-origin cattle.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Beef imports could impact negatively on Australian farmers, why allow it?

- Australia's cattle farmers benefit significantly from the rules-based international trading environment.
- In 2024, Australia exported A\$14.1 billion of beef to over 70 countries, with around 70 percent of the beef produced in Australia being exported, including A\$4.4 billion in beef products to the US.

Why is the department approving so many countries in a short space of time?

- We have been assessing both Canada and the US over several years.
- The North American cattle supply chain is complex and involves the movement of thousands of cattle between the US and Mexico, and the US and Canada, each year.
- Because of the complexities this presents, the department undertook a detailed assessment to ensure that biosecurity and food safety requirements could be met.

How will the recent HPAI cases in US cattle impact the department's decision to import beef from the US?

- The department conducted an assessment considering the implications that the HPAI infection of dairy cattle in the US could have on the Australian industry.
- The US applies rigorous protocols to ensure no infected animals enter the export supply chain. This includes meeting Australia's biosecurity and food safety requirements.
- Australia has a strong history of effective biosecurity measures that protect its industries, people, and the environment from diseases and their impacts.

Why is the department approving imports given the trade policy of the current US administration has a focus on tariffs?

- Tariffs are a separate matter managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- Australia is a trading nation and is committed to the international rules-based trading system that also underpins and supports our extensive export industries.
- As a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement), Australia has rights and obligations, including assessing requests from our trading partners for access to the Australian market.
- A decision to allow the importation of goods into Australia is made in view of Australia's responsibility, as a major exporter itself, to apply a fair and transparent approach to approvals under international rules-based order.
- Australia does not trade off on our strong biosecurity system.

Do you anticipate reactions from other trading partners?

- Our trading partners are familiar with the high and consistent standards applied to imported goods, having been through equivalent risk assessments and competent authority evaluations.

Will US and Canadian beef meet Australian Food Safety Standards?

- Food imported into Australia must be safe and compliant with Australia's food standards, including microbiological, contaminant, and residue limits.
 - It is the importer's responsibility to obtain assurance from overseas suppliers that food is compliant.
- To verify compliance with these requirements, the department operates a risk-based Imported Food Inspection Scheme.
- Beef and beef products are risk classified and must be imported under foreign government certification.
- Countries wishing to export beef to Australia must undergo a country BSE food safety risk assessment which is conducted by FSANZ.
- FSANZ has completed assessments of the BSE status of Mexico, the US and Canada, with all being given category 1 status, which demonstrates they all have comprehensive and well-established controls in place.
- The department's food safety assessment has determined that the US and Canadian systems for the production and processing of raw beef and beef products provide an equivalent food safety outcome to that provided by the Australian system.
- In addition to certification, at-border testing will also apply to verify food safety and compliance with Australia's food standards, including testing for *Salmonella spp.* and shiga toxinogenic *Escherichia coli* for certain products and residue testing through an antimicrobial screen.

Will imported beef be labelled to identify country of origin?

- Imported food must comply with the *Country of Origin Food Labelling Information Standard 2016*.
- The department checks compliance with this standard, when imported food is referred for inspection under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme.
- Once food is for sale on the Australian market, country of origin labelling requirements are enforced by the relevant state or territory fair trading regulator.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION**How much beef will be imported into Australia?**

- The demand for US and Canadian beef in Australia is subject to a range of market factors.
- Australia currently exports more than 70% of its domestic agriculture production and has a healthy domestic fresh beef market, which may impact the demand for imported beef.
- The US is among the largest per capita consumers of beef in the world and is currently the largest national consumer of beef.
- Unlike Australia's beef industry, the majority of US beef production goes towards servicing their own domestic population.

(IF RAISED)

- Commercial considerations such as these are not in scope for scientific assessments conducted in accordance with the WTO SPS Agreement.

Background (for use if required)

- As a signatory to the SPS Agreement, Australia has an obligation to assess requests from our trading partners for access to the Australian market, as well as the right to establish import conditions to facilitate safe trade where Australia's biosecurity requirements can be met. Import conditions will be published allowing stakeholders to apply for an import permit for US beef sourced from immediate slaughter and other-than-immediate slaughter bovines legally imported from Canada, and feeder and breeder bovines legally imported from Mexico. ^{s 22(1)(a)(ii)}
- Australia's import requirements for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef from approved countries were finalised in 2017. This review was titled *Fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu – final review* (the beef review).
- The US has had import conditions available for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef since 2019, but has elected not to commence trade and instead sought expanded access.
- On 20 March 2024, the department released a draft review report for fresh beef and beef products derived from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico and legally imported and slaughtered in the US for public consultation.
- We received five submissions in response to the draft report—three from members of the public and two from industry stakeholders; the Australian Meat Industry Council and Cattle Australia.
 - These raised various views and questions, which the department has considered and addressed, where appropriate, in the final report.
- This review is published as an addendum to the 2017 review of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the US and Vanuatu – final review. It considers current and available information on bovine diseases relevant to fresh beef and beef products derived from bovines legally imported into the US from Canada or Mexico.
- The US, Canada and Mexico have all been assessed for the risks of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or Mad Cow Disease.

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE NOT FOR EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- BSE is a transmissible and fatal neurodegenerative disease that affects cattle. Variant Creutzfeldt - Jakob disease (vCJD), a rare and fatal human neurodegenerative condition, results from exposure to BSE through eating contaminated beef or beef products.

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

US Beef Import Review

Key facts

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has finalised its review for expanded market access for certain beef imports from the United States (US).
- The US Beef Review is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessments and evaluations by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand.
- As an export-focused nation, Australia has always been a strong advocate for open and rules-based trade.
- The department routinely assesses market access requests from trading partners.
- Australia does not compromise its enviable biosecurity status or our food safety standards, which protect our industries, people, and the environment.

TALKING POINTS

- On 24 July 2025, the department published its final review report for expanded market access for fresh beef imports from the US.
- While the US has been able to export US origin beef to Australia since 2019, this expanded access will now include products sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico, which are legally imported and slaughtered in the US.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- Australia is a two-way trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.

Contact Officer: Rochelle Prattley

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: 22(1)(a)(ii)

Responsible Division: Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD) G2

QB25-0000XX

Date updated: s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 1

- Import reviews for market access requests from trading partners are routinely considered by the department.
- We do not compromise on our enviable biosecurity status or our food standards, ever.
- These reviews involved rigorous science-based risk assessments and evaluations with extensive industry consultation.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

- All imports from the US s 22(1)(a)(ii) will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.

Farmers have raised concerns about traceability of Cattle from Mexico into the US. How has this been addressed?

- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- The department is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks

Is this review related to US trade issues?

- The US initially requested expanded access to the Australian beef market in 2020 and Australia has been engaging with them on this matter since then to progress the issue.

- Under international rules, Australia responds to market access requests from our trading partners in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations.
- Just as our trading partners respond to Australia's market access requests to them.

Will this increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, science-based risks assessments, import policies, or biosecurity requirements.

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- The department regularly and extensively engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
 - This engagement started in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu.
- The draft report for the US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024).
- The department received five submissions, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the report.

Why has the review taken so long?

- Australia's first priority is to preserve our enviable biosecurity status.
- While we routinely receive requests for market access from our trading partners, each undergoes rigorous, science-based risk assessments and evaluations to ensure our biosecurity risks are managed.

Contact Officer: Rochelle Prattley

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Responsible Division: Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD) G2

QB25-0000XX

Date updated: s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 3

- The US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, however they did not commence trade at that time.
- Instead in 2020, the US sought expanded access the importation of beef sourced from cattle sourced from Canada and Mexico and, and legally imported into and slaughtered in the US.
- Consistent with standard practice, department has engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on the review of the expanded access request, which has now been finalised.

DRAFT

Contact Officer: Rochelle Prattley

Position: Assistant Secretary

Phone: s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Responsible Division: Biosecurity Animal Division (BAD) G2

QB25-0000XX

Date updated: s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 4

**FINAL Timeline: Reviews for beef imports from the United States s 22(1)(a)(ii)****Timeline:**

Date	Development
14 September 2014	FSANZ Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) status assessment of Mexico completed as Category 1 ¹ .
28 May 2015	FSANZ BSE status assessment of United States (US) completed as Category 1.
10 December 2015	Commence review: Announced review of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu.
14 December 2016	Consultation draft review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand (NZ), US and Vanuatu released for 90 days.
30 August 2017	Finalise review: Final review report of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, US and Vanuatu released ² .
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2019	Competent Authority Assessment of US complete and access for US fresh (chilled and frozen) beef granted.
s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d) 2020	Request by US for expanded market access to enable imports of beef sourced from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)**s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)****s 22(1)(a)(ii)**

20 March 2024

Consultation draft review report of expanded market access for fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from the US (including sourced from cattle from Canada and Mexico) released for 60-day period.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

¹ Category 1 demonstrates the country has comprehensive and well-established controls in place.

² Japan and NZ have market access. s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Date	Development
July 2025	Finalise review: Final review report of expanded market access for fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from the US (including sourced from cattle imported from Canada or Mexico) released.
24 July 2025	Competent Authority Assessment complete and expanded access for the US beef (fresh or chilled), including cattle born in Canada and Mexico s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Key steps:

Generally, for exporting countries to access the Australian market, countries undergo a three-part import review process that identifies food safety and biosecurity risks, and applies conditions that exporting countries must meet.

1. Countries undergo a country BSE food safety risk assessment, which is conducted by Food Safety Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ).
2. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) assesses the animal biosecurity risks associated with beef imports for access to Australia.
3. The department completes a competent authority assessment to determine the country's official animal health, export control, and supervision systems reliably meet Australia's biosecurity and food safety requirements.

CONFIDENTIAL**Whole-of-Government Talking Points (as at s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d))****KEY MESSAGES:**

1. The Albanese Labor Government will never compromise on biosecurity.
2. The US Beef Imports Review has undergone a rigorous science and risk-based assessment over the past decade.
3. The US has had beef access into Australia since 2019. Today's announcement will allow for expanded access to include beef sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico which is legally imported and slaughtered in the US.
4. In late 2024 and early 2025, the US introduced more robust movement controls which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
5. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is satisfied the strengthened control measures put in place by the US effectively manage biosecurity risks.
6. Australia stands for open and fair trade – our cattle industry has significantly benefited from this:
 - Aussie beef has had back-to-back record-breaking export years, last year worth \$14 billion. Supported by reinstated and improved market access, exports have increased 55% since we came to government, including to our largest market in the US and second largest in China.

TALKING POINTS:

- The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (department) has published its final review for expanded market access for fresh beef imports from the United States (US).
- This review is the culmination of a decade of science and risk-based import assessment and evaluation by the department and Food Standards Australia New Zealand to ensure Australia's robust biosecurity measures are upheld.
- The review into US Beef Imports began in December 2015 under the Coalition Government, alongside a review into beef imports from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand and Vanuatu.
- This involved extensive assessment, consultation and evaluation, and in 2019, the US was granted beef access.
- While the US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, they have not done so. In 2020, they instead applied for expanded access to include beef sourced from cattle born in Canada or Mexico which is legally imported to and slaughtered in the US.

CONFIDENTIAL

- In late 2024 and early 2025, the US introduced more robust movement controls which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- These strengthened controls have been rigorously assessed, and Australia is satisfied that they effectively manage biosecurity risks.
- Australia has a long history of effective biosecurity measures to protect our industries, people, and the environment. We do not compromise on our biosecurity status or our food standards.
- Australia is a two-way trading nation, and we continue to strongly advocate for an open and rules-based trading system.
 - Australia's own cattle industry benefits significantly from this system.
- Import reviews for market access requests from our trading partners are routinely considered by the department – we respond to requests in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations, just as our trading partners do for us.
- All imports from the US s 22(1)(a)(ii) will be subject to robust control measures to meet Australia's strict biosecurity requirements.
 - These measures and biosecurity risks will continue to be monitored.
- Questions on the review should be referred to the department.

IF RAISED:

The beef industry has raised concerns about traceability of Cattle from Mexico into the US. How has this been addressed?

- The US introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025, which means that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.
- Australia is satisfied that these strengthened controls effectively manage biosecurity risks.

Is this review related to US trade issues?

- The US was granted beef access in 2019, and requested expanded access in 2020, well before the current US administration.
- Australia has been engaging with them on this matter since then, including under the former Coalition Government, to progress the issue.
- Under international rules, Australia responds to market access requests from our trading partners in line with our World Trade Organisation obligations.
- Just as our trading partners respond to Australia's market access requests.

CONFIDENTIAL

Will this increase the biosecurity risks to Australia?

- Australia does not trade-off our strong biosecurity system, science-based risks assessments, import policies, or biosecurity requirements.

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- Officials regularly and extensively engaged key industry stakeholders, such as Cattle Australia, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Red Meat Advisory Council over many years.
- This engagement started in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu.
- The draft report for the US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024). Five submissions were received, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the report.

Why has the review taken so long?

- We won't apologise for taking the time to preserve our biosecurity status – this is Australia's first priority.
- While we routinely receive requests for market access from our trading partners, each undergoes rigorous, science-based risk assessments and evaluations to ensure our biosecurity risks are managed.
- The US has been eligible to export beef to Australia since 2019, however have chosen not to export.
- Instead in 2020, the US sought expanded access for the importation of beef from cattle sourced from Canada and Mexico and legally imported into and slaughtered in the US.
- Consistent with standard practice, Australia has engaged with the US and with domestic stakeholders on the review of the expanded access request, which has now been finalised.

s 33(a)(iii)

BACKGROUND:

US Beef Review: This review covered fresh (chilled and frozen) beef and beef products from bovines (cattle) born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US. The review found that the US beef industry is well regulated and able to meet Australia's strict biosecurity import requirements

CONFIDENTIAL

This review builds on ongoing reviews for US beef since 2015 and Canadian beef since 2020, and expands market access initially provided for US beef imports in 2019.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Next steps: The department is finalising administrative arrangements to update [Australia's Biosecurity Import Conditions](#) (or BICON) database. From 28 July 2025, Australian businesses will be able to apply for permit applications to import fresh beef and beef products:

- sourced from cattle born and raised in Canada or Mexico, and legally imported and slaughtered in the US [*this is expanded access*], and

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Beef imports must meet all import conditions and health certification requirements.

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

s 22(a)(ii)

From: Michelle Wellington
Sent: Thursday, 24 July 2025 7:17 AM
To: s 22(a)(ii)
Cc: Justine Saunders; Christie Sawczuk; Brant Smith
Subject: Additional Q&A
Attachments: US Beef Review_additional WOAG Talking Points_24072025.docx

Hi s 22(a)(ii)

Please find attached the additional questions and answers for US Beef Review.

All technical and process questions can be referred back to the department.

Kind regards,

Michelle Wellington PSM

Acting Chief Strategy, Performance and Engagement Officer | First Assistant Secretary |

s 22(a)(ii)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Strategy, Performance and Engagement Division | Strategy, Enterprise and Engagement Group
Brisbane Regional Office, 42-44 Qantas Drive, Eagle Farm, Queensland, 4000
GPO Box 858, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

We work flexibly at DAFF. If you have received an email from me outside of normal business hours, I'm sending it at a time that suits me. I'm not expecting you to read or reply until normal business hours.

agriculture.gov.au



The department acknowledges the traditional custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea, environment, water and community. We pay our respect to the traditional custodians, their culture, and elders both past and present.

----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Commonwealth of Australia (Commonwealth). The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Commonwealth. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages. Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Commonwealth is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered ----

Additional Q&A – US Beef Review

(Technical questions about the process and decision should be directed to the department).

Has the Australian industry been consulted?

- The department briefed industry ahead of the final release of the US Beef Review this week, and will continue to work closely with industry and other stakeholders.
- The consultation process for the US Beef Review is not inconsistent with usual process.

Background

Engagement with industry commenced in 2017, with an initial review for beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu.

The draft report for the US Beef Review was released for a 75-day public consultation period (from 20 March to 3 June 2024). Five submissions were received, which were considered thoroughly in finalising the report.

An industry stakeholder briefing was held on 23 July 2025.

Is the US traceability system equivalent to Australia's?

- While the US and Australia traceability systems are not identical, following rigorous science-based assessments, the department has determined the US system is equivalent to Australia's system (National Livestock Identification System), and effectively manages biosecurity risks to an appropriate level of protection.

Background

Industry had raised traceability as a concern during the consultation phase.

The US and Mexico introduced more robust movement controls in late 2024 and early 2025. These mean that all cattle, from Canada and Mexico, can be identified and traced to the farm and through the supply chain.

The department has assessed these arrangements as effective at providing sufficient assurance that the biosecurity risks can be managed.

Does Australia require regular audits of US regulatory systems for beef?

- The department concluded that US export regulatory systems provide assurance that Australia's import conditions can be met.

- This followed the department's thorough assessment of the US regulatory systems for beef exports, including in person audits by departmental officials of facilities, including abattoirs and cutting establishments.
- The department would re-evaluate these systems, if there were any significant changes with implications for food safety or biosecurity.

s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47E(d); s 47F(1); s 22(1)(a)(ii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii); s 47F(1)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)

s 33(a)(iii)