§ 327.5 Importer to make application for inspection of products for entry; information required; "streamlined" inspection procedures for Canadian product.

(a) Except for importers of Canadian products, each importer shall apply for inspection of any product offered for entry by contacting the Import Field Office covering the location where import inspection will take place. The Import Field Office will provide specific application instructions (See §301.2 (yyy)).

(b) The application should be made as long as possible in advance of the anticipated arrival of each consignment, except in case of consignments of products expressly exempted from inspection by §§327.16 and 327.17, and in the case of product imported from Canada.

(c) Except in the case of product imported from Canada, each application shall state the approximate date on which the consignment is due to arrive at such port in the United States, the name of the ship or other carrier transporting it, the name of the country from which the product was, or is to be, shipped, the place where inspection is desired in accordance with §327.6, the quantity and kind of product, and whether it is fresh, cured, canned or otherwise prepared. In case of consignments arriving in the United States by water, the application shall also state the port of first arrival in the United States.

(d) For participating Canadian establishments, an official of the Canadian meat inspection system shall contact...
the participating Import Field Office for an inspection assignment (See §301.2 (yy)).

(1) If the Automated Import Information System (AIIS) does not designate the consignment for reinspection, the consignment may be transported to its consignee for further distribution.

(2) If the AIIS designates the consignment for reinspection, the representative shall:
   (i) Select samples in accordance with USDA sampling tables.
   (ii) Identify and place samples in the vehicle for easy removal and reinspection by an import inspector.

(3) In the event that any one of the requirements provided in (d)(2) of this section is not met, reinspection of the consignment shall be conducted by a Program import inspector in accordance with established procedures provided in the regulations for other imported products.


§ 327.6 Products for importation; program inspection, time and place; application for approval of facilities as official import inspection establishment; refusal or withdrawal of approval; official numbers.

(a)(1) Except as provided in §§327.5(d)(1), 327.16 and 327.17, all products offered for entry from any foreign country shall be reinspected by a Program import inspector before they shall be allowed entry into the United States.

(2) Every lot of product shall routinely be given visual inspection by a Program import inspector for appearance and condition, and checked for certification and label compliance, except as provided in 327.5(d)(1).

(3) The computerized Automated Import Information System (AIIS) shall be consulted for reinspection instructions. The AIIS will assign reinspection levels and procedures based on established sampling plans or established sampling plans and established product and plant history.

(4) When the inspector deems it necessary, the inspector may sample and inspect lots not designated by AIIS.

(b) All products, required by this part to be inspected, shall be inspected only at an official establishment or at an official import inspection establishment approved by the Administrator as provided in this section. Such approved official import inspection establishments will be listed in the Directory of Meat and Poultry Inspection Program Establishments, Circuits and Officials, published by the Food Safety and Inspection Service. The listing will categorize the kind or kinds of product which may be inspected at each official import inspection establishment, based on the adequacy of the facilities for making such inspections and handling such products in a sanitary manner.

(c) Owners or operators of establishments, other than official establishments, who want to have import inspections made at their establishments, shall apply to the Administrator for approval of their establishments for such purpose. Application shall be made on a form furnished by the Program, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, and shall include all information called for by that form.

(d) Approval for Federal import inspection shall be in accordance with part 304 of this subchapter.

(e) Owners or operators of establishments at which import inspections of product are to be made shall furnish adequate sanitary facilities and equipment for examination of such product. The requirements of §§304.2(e), 307.1, 307.2 (b), (d), (f), (h), (k), and (l) and 416.1 through 416.6 of this chapter shall apply as conditions for approval of establishments as official import inspection establishments to the same extent and in the same manner as they apply with respect to official establishments.

(f) The Administrator is authorized to approve any establishment as an official import inspection establishment provided that an application has been filed and drawings have been submitted.

3 A copy of the sampling tables is available, upon request, from the Import Inspection Division, International Programs, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

4 For example: canned product, boneless meat, carcasses and cuts.