



## Canada Beef Export Federation

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# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FEDERATION WELCOMES OIE CLASSIFICATION OF CANADA AS CONTROLLED RISK COUNTRY

*Calgary, Alberta, May 22, 2007 –*

The announcement today that Canada has been officially categorized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a Controlled BSE Risk country is welcomed by the Canada Beef Export Federation.

“This is a very important development on the road to trade recovery for the Canadian beef industry,” says Ted Haney, President of the Federation. “The OIE and, through it, the OIE international membership, has confirmed Canada’s Controlled Risk status for BSE. Under the OIE guidelines, Canada is eligible to export all edible beef products derived from all ages of cattle to all markets in the world.

“This eligibility is based on Canada’s current protocols related to import controls, feed manufacturing, cattle production, beef processing and surveillance testing,” he says. “It is important to note that the World Trade Organization (WTO) has officially recognized the OIE as the standard-setting body against which all trade disputes involving animal health will be adjudicated. As such, it is with the combined authority of the OIE and the WTO that Canada may increasingly assert our trade rights and our partners’ trade obligations. The objective and scientific process used to establish Canada’s Controlled Risk status will provide confidence and motivation for foreign regulators to restore trade in markets that are closed and normalize trade in markets that are restricted.”

In the short term, the Federation believes that the OIE designation will be helpful in reestablishing trade with Taiwan and South Korea as well as improving access to Hong Kong. Clarification of Canada’s trade rights will also be helpful in negotiations with Russia and Mainland China. We look forward to expansion of access for Canadian beef based on OIE guidelines in Japan, Mexico, the Philippines, Vietnam, and many other international markets.

The Federation would like to applaud the decisions to normalize trade in Canadian beef products prior to OIE classification by Macau, Cuba, New Zealand, Bermuda and Barbados as well as the European Union and the many other countries which did not close to Canadian beef.

The Federation operates offices in the key international markets of Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the People's Republic of China (including Hong Kong) and Mexico.

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