



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

Import-Export Issues within North America: A CFIA Perspective

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Introduction

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is a regulatory agency responsible for the safety of Canada's food supply and the protection of plant and animal health
- Through preventative measures and the delivery of inspection services, the Agency:
 - Manages public health risks associated with the food supply and the transmission of animal diseases to humans;
 - Protects the animal and plant resource base; and
 - Provides consumer protection and access to domestic and international markets

CFIA's operating environment is dynamic and complex

Changing consumer demands

Globalization and industry restructuring

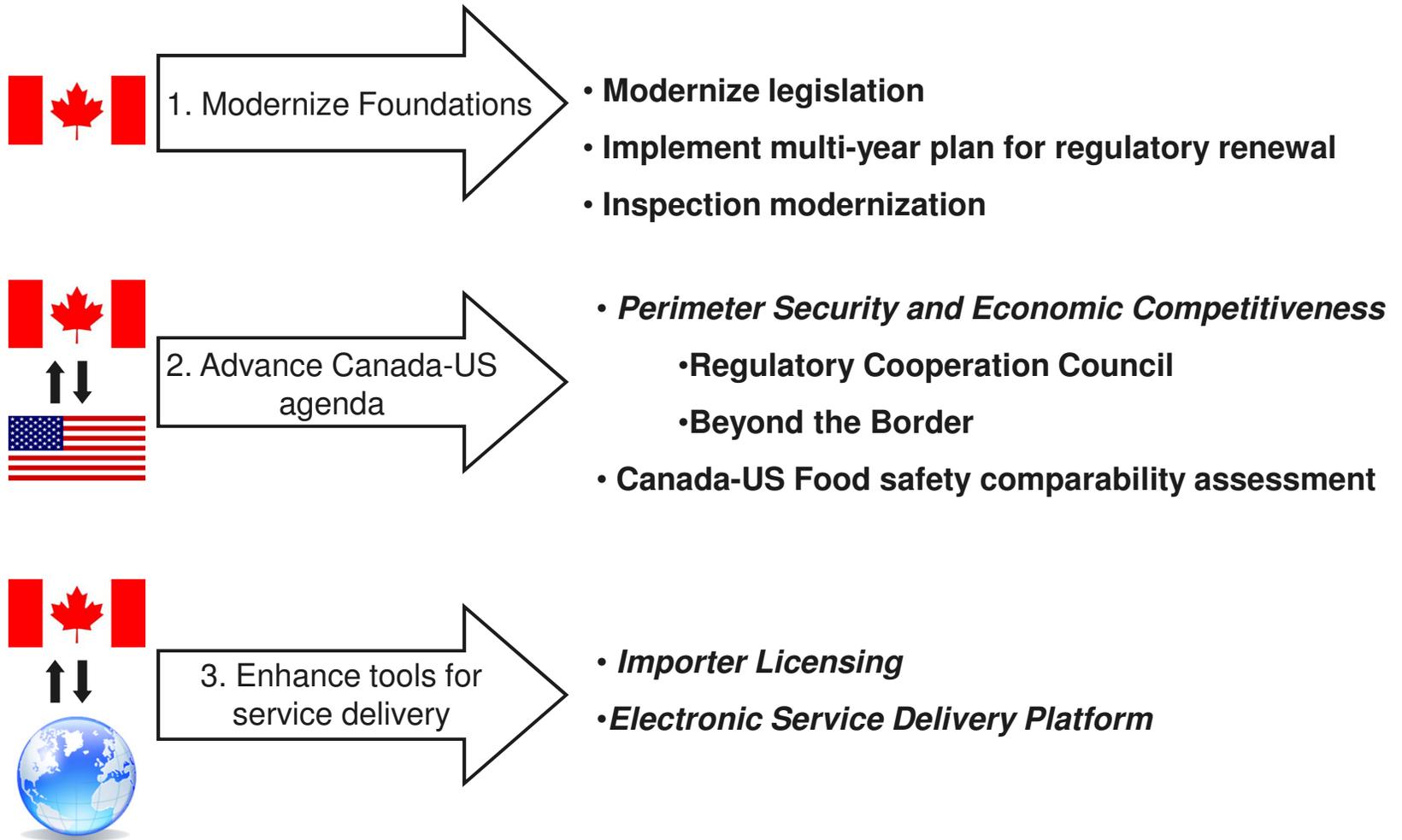
Science and technology

Fiscal constraint

- Greater demand for:
 - diverse product choices
 - assurances of product safety
 - information on product attributes
 - engagement in decision-making
- Consumer are driving industry to adapt
- Increased trade volume
 - imports and exports
- Integrated global supply chains
- Agri-industry global consolidation
- Emergence of new pathogens
- New agricultural technologies
- More complex production processes
- More rapid and sensitive testing methods

CFIA is moving forward with a change agenda

- Within a trade context, priorities include:



Legislative modernization is a priority



Modernize foundations

- The CFIA's current commodity-based legislative framework includes the *Meat Inspection Act*, *Fish Inspection Act*, *Canada Agricultural Products Act*, and the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act*
- Need to modernize and strengthen food legislation in Canada has been long recognized
 - Previous legislative attempts (Bills C-80, C-27, C-51)
 - Independent Investigator into the 2008 listeriosis outbreak recommended that government simplify and modernize food safety legislation
- The CFIA is working towards
 - Consolidating and simplifying the suite of commodity-based legislation
 - Modernizing legislation to apply preventative risk-based approaches across all commodities and keep pace with modern production practices, innovative technologies and new business practices
 - Updating authorities across all food commodities to facilitate consistent multi-commodity delivery of inspection and enforcement activities

Food safety modernization outcomes

Safer food and better protection for health and safety of Canadians

- Enhanced controls over imported food commodities
- Deterring deceptive practices, tampering, and hoaxes
- Simplified requirements to promote compliance
- Licensing and registration possible for all food commodities
- Tougher fines and penalties

More competitive Canadian businesses

- Reduced regulatory burden and improved inspection consistency
- Improved certification of exports for international market access

Regulatory Modernization

- Multi-year plan for regulatory renewal to provide more predictability and transparency in regulatory approaches, and be more responsive both to risks, and opportunities to innovate.
- In December 2011, a discussion paper was posted on the CFIA's website for consultation, outlining guiding principles for regulatory modernization:
 - Balance protection of public safety while maintaining confidence in the food inspection framework
 - Enabling an environment of improved business opportunity and consumer choice by facilitating innovation and competitiveness
 - Clear policy objectives established in consultation with partners including industry, consumers, small business, other departments and provinces
 - Appropriate balance between administrative cost and benefits derived from regulatory modernization
 - Consistent, integrated, outcomes-based, transparent regulation with performance measurement to maintain effectiveness
 - Enabling framework for modern and consistent inspection approaches
 - To the extent possible, harmonization with international standards and the frameworks of major trading partners



Canada/US Trade Issues

- Canada and the US have two of the most integrated economies in the world
 - \$649 billion in trade of goods and services (2010)
 - \$1.8 billion worth of goods and services crossing the border everyday
 - \$33 billion in trade of agricultural products (2010)
 - Canada purchased 13% of US agriculture exports
 - Canadian products made one-fifth of agriculture imports to the US
- Both countries have well-developed but very independent regulatory regimes that have created unnecessary impediments to cross-border trade
- Various organizations in Canada and the US require similar information during import and export processes but use different systems that, in some cases, are still paper based



Canada/US Trade Issues

- Since 9/11, enhanced security measures have posed significant challenges to many businesses exporting agri-food products
 - increased administrative burden
 - costly delays at the border
 - increased operating and compliance costs
 - reduced competitiveness
- Both countries recognize that joint policy and program measures can improve the flow of cross-border trade while at the same time maintaining safety and security

***Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness* builds on a long history of two-way trade**

- The Action Plan on Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness provides a roadmap for speeding up legitimate trade and travel across the Canada-U.S. border, while enhancing security.
- It aims to increase the efficiency of border processes and deepen regulatory cooperation resulting in:
 - administrative efficiencies (less paperwork)
 - regulatory alignment (streamlined requirements)
- Will not compromise health, safety, environmental protection, sovereignty or privacy - all of these will remain a priority

Several joint initiatives focus on efficient flow of agriculture and food products at the border

- **Pre-clearance**
 - Pre-clearance of fresh meat by reviewing certification information, as well as alternative approaches to inspection, avoiding re-inspection at the border
- **Trusted Trader Program**
 - CFIA pilot to enable company use of expedited lanes, providing documentation after entry and a pilot aimed at lowering inspection rates based on regulatory compliance history for a selected sector
- **Single Window Initiative**
 - Electronic submission and data exchange of customs information through a central window
- **Integrated Cargo Security Strategy**
 - Reduce duplicative inspection for goods from abroad that transit through Canada or the US
- **Certification requirements for meat and poultry**
 - Streamlining the meat/poultry certification process through the review of requirements
- **Perimeter approach to plant protection**
 - Development of joint standards and import control policies, including off-shore inspections and audits

CFIA is also advancing initiatives which will facilitate transactions at the border

- **Importer Licensing Initiative:** an automated license management system to electronically issue import licenses
 - A centralized portal will allow individuals and businesses to access their license information
 - Operational by 2012
- **Electronic Service Delivery Platform:** an electronic system to enable industry to more readily access CFIA programs and conduct regular business transactions.
 - Focus on electronic delivery of export certificates for plant health, terrestrial animal health, and meat and poultry
 - Electronic exchange of information will facilitate the pre-clearance decision process with international trading partners
 - Operational in 2016

Canada-US Food safety “comparability” assessment

- US food modernization initiative (FSMA) includes recognizing foreign food safety systems based on:
 - compliance history
 - benchmarking foreign food safety systems
 - in-country assessments
- USFDA and Canada initiated comparability assessment on January 25, 2012 to enhance the safety of the food supply in North America
- Government to government process, consistent with the principles established by the Codex Alimentarius
 - 2013 completion
- Will inform a comparability arrangement between the United States and Canada:
 - specify how U.S. and Canadian food safety regulators will interact under a status of comparability.



Reference

Canadian Food Inspection Agency website:

- <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>
- CFIA Multi-Year Regulatory Modernization Plan website:
 - <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/consultation/frame.shtml>
- RCC and BTB Action Plan website:
 - <http://actionplan.gc.ca/>