



# The American Companies

## "News Flash"

March 23, 2009

### U.S. vs. European Union: The Beef Wars Continue

#### 100% Duty rates for new EC food items; others removed from list

The U.S. Trade Representative continues to negotiate with E.C. in the on-going dispute over the European ban on U.S. hormone-treated beef. The March 18 Federal Register announced several modifications to the standing list of EC products subject to 100% duty rates:

- a) A number of products were removed from list, effective March 23
- b) Certain other products have been added, effective date delayed until April 23
- c) the list of products covered was modified in regard to particular EC member states;
- d) the duty for Roquefort cheese was increased to 300%

The delay in adding the new products until April 23 is intended "to allow additional time to reach agreement with the EC on an interim solution that would provide benefits to the U.S. beef industry." Seen together with the decision to remove other products from the 'retaliation list' as scheduled (March 23) this can be seen as the most recent good faith effort to break the 10 year old stalemate.

The listed food items subject to the 100% rates include meat and animal products, Roquefort cheese, truffles, processed oats, chocolate, jam, preserved pears and peaches, fruit juices and mineral waters. To read this entry in the Federal Register click on the following link:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-5933.htm>

**All importers of food products from the European Community are strongly urged to open the link and review the list in detail.** The Compliance department of the American Companies is in the process of reviewing all importations over the past year to quantify the trade in the affected tariff numbers. We will certainly communicate those details and issues to clients as circumstances warrant. But your knowledge of your product line and prospective purchases make you as importer the best judge of the impact of these modifications.

For further information and background on this long-standing dispute from the office of the Trade Representative you can view the following [http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document\\_Library/Federal\\_Register\\_Notices/2009/January/asset\\_upload\\_file581\\_15288.pdf](http://www.ustr.gov/assets/Document_Library/Federal_Register_Notices/2009/January/asset_upload_file581_15288.pdf). For a detailed look into the complex health concerns underlying this difficult conflict between loyal trading partners, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hormonal\\_meat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hormonal_meat).

For other questions related to this issue, please call Jim Carroll, Corporate Compliance Manager, Client Support Services at the American Companies, direct phone 201-478-4682, or [jamesc@shipamerican.com](mailto:jamesc@shipamerican.com).

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