



The American Companies

"News Flash"

April 24, 2009

U.S. vs. European Union: Negotiations on U.S. Beef Dispute Continue Talks Progress, US Delays Imposition of Additional Duties

The US Trade Representative has announced a last-minute, 2 week delay in the imposition of punitive (100%) duties on the amended list of food products (FR Jan 15, 2009) originating in the EU.

This delay is based on a *perception of progress* in the most recent round of negotiations in these long-standing discussions related to EU trade restrictions on US beef containing hormones. Both sides seek a breakthrough in this politically-sensitive controversy that dates back to 1988.

The increased-duty action was originally scheduled to go into effect on March 23, but delayed until April 23. This most recent 2 week delay pushes the proposed action to May 9.

The original text of the proposed action, and list of products, was published in the January 15 Federal Register. The first delay was published in the FR on March 18.

The 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>

The American Companies released a News Flash on March 23 covering this subject, with background information and direct links to the March 18 FR:
<http://www.shipamerican.com/newsletter/PDF/NF03232009.pdf>

For a link to Wednesday's informative press release from the Office of the Trade Representative please open the following link:
http://www.ustr.gov/Document_Library/Press_Releases/2009/April/United_States_Trade_Representative_Ron_Kirk_Announces_Delay_of_Trade_Action_in_Beef_Hormones_Dispute.html?ht=

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