

# Inspections Stiffened For Imported Meat

Foreign meat entering the United States will be inspected only in federally inspected plants or in "official import inspection establishments" approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as the result of a regulations change announced recently.

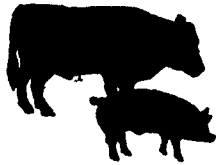
Until now, there have been no fixed standards for import inspection points. USDA officials said the amendment to Federal meat inspection regulations will mean more efficient and thorough examination of imported meat, because these checks will only be conducted in approved facilities. New facilities will be subject to the new approval requirements

beginning Nov. 17. Establishments with existing facilities will be given one year to comply with the new requirements, officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said.

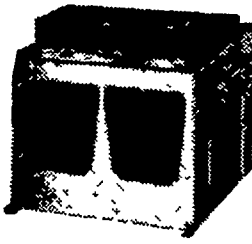
Imported meat is re-inspected upon entry into the United States as a secondary check on product wholesomeness. The exporting country must first have an inspection program equal to USDA's before being eligible to ship meat to the U.S. Inspectors employed by the foreign governments then provide continuous inspection for all meat prepared for export to the United States. The effectiveness

of these inspectors in periodically checked by USDA's 19-man veterinary foreign review staff.

USDA based the amendment, which was published in the Federal Register Oct. 17, on 14 public comments received after a proposal to adopt similar regulations was published in the Federal Register Dec. 4. Some wording changes were made to



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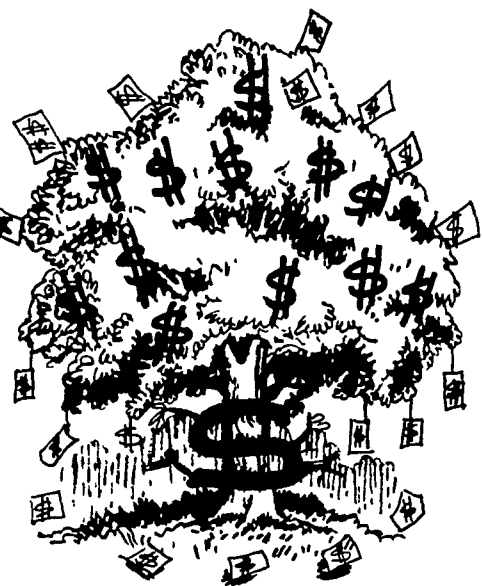


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clarify intent in several sections of the proposal. Copies of the amendment are

available from APHIS, Room 4342-South, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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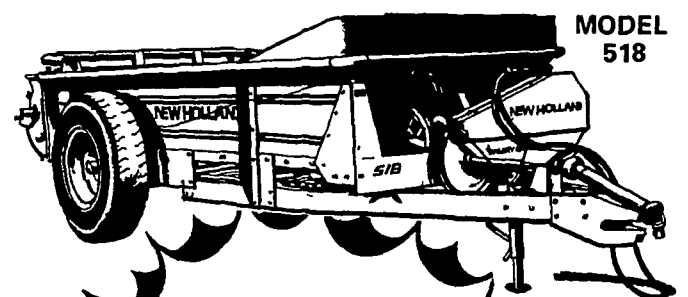
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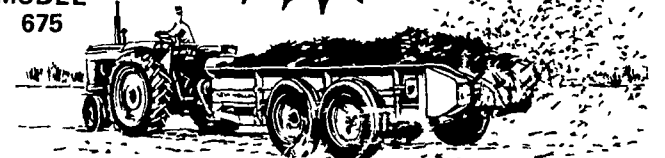
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