Robocom

Meat Packing in the United States and Canada **(Preview)**

An informative white paper highlighting the governing bodies, import/export regulations, traceability, record keeping, and good practices of meat packers

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Table of Contents

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The information within this white paper should not be used as an alternative to governmental regulatory or legal advice from an appropriately qualified professional. For answers to specific questions about any governmental regulatory or legal matter, consult an appropriately qualified professional.

1

Introduction

The complexities of a meat packer's supply chain in the United States and Canada pose a number of serious traceability challenges. Organizations that lose sight of the importance of record keeping, good traceability protocol, and maintaining proactive safety standards can face severe consequences, including high costs or fines due to a lack of efficiency or even recalls.

Every opportunity a business can take to better understand the nuances of its supply chain and optimize individual processes to reflect best practices and requirements, will improve its chance of maintaining government and public trust of its products and brand.

Different challenges arise at each process within a meat packer's robust and complex supply chain, as raw materials are transformed into products for consumption. To add to the complexity, responsibilities for identification and traceability move backward through the supply chain as well as forward. It is therefore important to understand that each challenge posed within the supply chain requires a different solution.

This white paper will discuss the nuances these challenges present, and explore how today's meat packer can best tackle these challenges and ensure sustained success.

Chapter 1: Meat Packing Governing Bodies in the U.S. and Canada

To better understand the meat packing supply chain, it is important to first examine the government bodies that reside over industry requirements and regulations. The following lists summarize the roles of the primary governing bodies within this industry, their responsibilities and their goals. For more information, please refer to the respective government websites.

This chapter covers the governing bodies of meat packing in the United States and Canada

Chapter 2: Canadian/US Import and Export Relations

Regulations and safety protocols extend beyond the moment a finished product is ready for market. Often packers and processors in the United States export their products across the border into Canada, a process that involves additional policies and regulations. To streamline this process, the United States and Canada have created the Regulatory Cooperation Council. This chapter will briefly summarize the Canadian approach to importing meat, and how the United States and Canada are working together to align and harmonize their regulations to minimize redundancies and inefficiencies within the import/export system.

This chapter covers:

Chapter 3: The Regulatory Cooperation Council and the Joint Action Plan

The United States and Canada are collaborating to ensure that the industry regulations and requirements facing meat packers in both countries are fair and consistent. The establishment of the Regulatory Cooperation Council is a significant step in delivering on this promise.

This chapter covers:

Chapter 4: The Traceability Challenges and Needs of Meat Packers

Traceability is absolutely vital for a meat packer to comply with the various policies and regulators discussed in the earlier chapters. When it comes to the complexity of a meat packer's supply chain, traceability challenges exist within essentially every process - both forward and backward across the supply chain. There are more steps to bringing a meat product to consumers than most other food products, and with more steps come more events that need to be tracked and traced. The breadth and scope of the traceability challenges facing today's meat packer, including maintaining compliance with the regulations and policies discussed earlier, are becoming nearly impossible to manage without the help of technology.

This chapter covers:

Chapter 5: Recalls for Meat Packers and the Importance of WMS

There is no instance where traceability is more valuable than in the event of a recall; the most dreaded challenge for any meat packer. There are a multitude of different circumstances that can trigger a recall in the meat packing industry, from labeling and packaging problems to different kinds of contaminations. Increased regulatory requirements, complexities in the meat packing supply chain like never before, and increased detection methods of potential breakouts all necessitate your organization to be exhaustively prepared for a potential recall. Doing so involves a number of crucial preventative measures and protocols. Written recall plans, notification templates, complete records, and frequent fire drills are just some of the tools your organization can employ to manage the fallout from a recall quickly and efficiently in order to reduce costs and protect your public reputation.

This chapter covers:

Preventative Measures:

Recall Planning:

Record Keeping:

Recall Communications:

Product Removal and Replenishment:

ABOUT ROBOCOM

Robocom Systems International has focused for nearly 30 years on developing and implementing Supply Chain Execution software solutions. Robocom's solutions include Warehouse Management, Transportation Management, Voice Technology, Order Management and Labor Management. Our investment in research and development is keenly focused on the needs of the business leaders responsible for the day-to-day results in warehousing, distribution centers and trucking operations. For more information, visit www.robocom.com

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