

## **Regulatory Alert: USDA Eliminates COOL for Beef and Pork**

### **March 3, 2016**

On March 2, 2016, the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a final rule to remove beef and pork from mandatory country of origin labeling requirements (COOL). AMS issued the regulation to conform with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016. The final rule became effective immediately. The repeal of COOL for beef and pork was enacted by Congress to respond to the case brought by Canada and Mexico before the World Trade Organization that the United States lost.

### **Summary**

#### **What products are no longer covered by mandatory COOL?**

Muscle cut beef and pork, and ground beef and pork.

#### **Is COOL completely repealed?**

No, COOL still applies to other covered commodities.

#### **Are other meats still subject to COOL?**

Yes. COOL still applies to muscle cuts of lamb and goat as well as ground lamb and goat.

#### **Is chicken still covered under COOL?**

Yes. Ground chicken and muscle cuts of chicken are subject to COOL.

#### **What about seafood, produce, peanuts, pecans, ginseng and macadamia nuts?**

Fish and shellfish, produce, peanuts, pecans, ginseng and macadamia nuts are still subject to COOL.

#### **When can we stop labeling muscle cut beef and pork and ground beef and pork with COOL information?**

The rule went into effect on March 2, 2016. As of that date raw muscle cuts of beef and pork and ground beef and pork do not need to be labeled with COOL information, nor associated COOL records kept.

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