

**No. 51749\***

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**United States of America  
and  
Colombia**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Colombia with respect to trade in beef and beef products (with annex). Bogota, 21 August 2006, and Washington, 21 August 2006**

**Entry into force:** *21 August 2006 by the exchange of the said letters, in accordance with their provisions*

**Authentic text:** *English*

**Registration with the Secretariat of the United Nations:** *United States of America, 4 March 2014*

*\*No UNTS volume number has yet been determined for this record. The Text(s) reproduced below, if attached, are the authentic texts of the agreement /action attachment as submitted for registration and publication to the Secretariat. For ease of reference they were sequentially paginated. Translations, if attached, are not final and are provided for information only.*

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**États-Unis d'Amérique  
et  
Colombie**

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord entre le Gouvernement des États-Unis d'Amérique et le Gouvernement de la Colombie concernant le commerce des viandes et denrées de viandes bovines (avec annexe). Bogota, 21 août 2006, et Washington, 21 août 2006**

**Entrée en vigueur :** *21 août 2006 par l'échange desdites lettres, conformément à leurs dispositions*

**Texte authentique :** *anglais*

**Enregistrement auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies :** *États-Unis d'Amérique, 4 mars 2014*

*\*Aucun numéro de volume n'a encore été attribué à ce dossier. Les textes disponibles qui sont reproduits ci-dessous sont les textes originaux de l'accord ou de l'action tels que soumis pour enregistrement. Par souci de clarté, leurs pages ont été numérotées. Les traductions qui accompagnent ces textes ne sont pas définitives et sont fournies uniquement à titre d'information.*

[ ENGLISH TEXT – TEXTE ANGLAIS ]

I

**Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo  
República de Colombia**

**Despacho Ministro**

**Bogotá, August 21, 2006**

**Ambassador Susan C. Schwab  
United States Trade Representative  
Washington, DC 20508**

**Dear Ambassador Schwab:**

**I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Governments of Colombia and the United States of America with respect to trade in beef and beef products of the United States, further to the exchange of letters between our Governments of February 28, 2006.**

**The Government of Colombia recognizes the measures that the United States has taken with regard to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), and confirms that, consistent with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, it shall permit, by no later than October 31, 2006, the importation of all beef and beef products of the United States, other than those listed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Annex to this letter, that are accompanied by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Export Certificate of Wholesomeness with the additional certification statements set out in the Annex to this letter. Such USDA FSIS Export Certificate of Wholesomeness with the additional certification statements set out in the Annex shall meet all the Government of Colombia's sanitary and health requirements.**

**The Governments of Colombia and the United States recall that the World Trade Organization Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures allows Members to adopt measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, subject to the requirement that these measures are not applied in a manner that would constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.**

**I have the honor to propose that this letter, including the Annex thereto, and your letter in reply, confirming that your Government shares this understanding, shall**

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**República de Colombia**

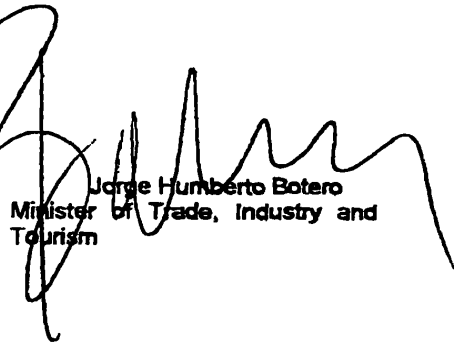
**Despacho Ministro**

constitute an agreement between our two Governments to enter into force on this day.

Sincerely,



**Andres Felipe Arias**  
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development



**Jorge Humberto Botero**  
Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Ministerio de Comercio, Industria y Turismo  
República de Colombia**

**Despacho Ministro**

**ANNEX**

**Additional Certification Statements on USDA FSIS Export Certificate of  
Wholesomeness  
to Accompany U.S. Exports of Beef and Beef Products to Colombia**

1. The United States has an active BSE surveillance program which meets or exceeds international standards established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).
2. The meat or meat products were derived from animals that were officially given an ante and post mortem inspection by Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection officials.
3. The meat or meat products were produced and handled in a manner which ensures that such products do not contain and are not contaminated with, the following specified risk materials: for cattle 30 months of age and older, the brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column, and dorsal root ganglia; and for any cattle regardless of age, the tonsils and distal ileum of the small intestine.
4. The meat or meat products were produced and handled in a manner which ensures that such products do not contain and are not contaminated with mechanically separated meat from the skull and vertebral column from cattle over 30 months of age.
5. The meat or meat products were derived from federally certified slaughter or processing facilities, operating under the supervision of the FSIS.
6. The slaughter or processing plant where the meat was processed has a HACCP system in place.
7. The meat or meat products are fit for human consumption.
8. The meat or meat products were packed in authorized containers bearing the mark of inspection that includes the number of the facility, and labeled to include the name of the product, lot number, net weight, and date of packing.
9. The meat or meat products are transported in containers or thermo refrigerated vehicles that are monitored to assure that they maintain appropriate refrigerated or frozen temperatures.
10. Trucks and containers have been properly washed and disinfected.

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**11. The feeding of ruminants with ruminant origin meat-and-bone meal and greaves is prohibited in the United States, and this prohibition has been effectively enforced.**

**12. The meat or meat products were obtained from cattle that were not subjected to a stunning process, prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process.**

**13. The meat or meat products were not derived from animals imported from Canada for immediate slaughter.**