

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of International Trade  
Canada

Dear Minister Freeland:

I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the representatives of the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America (individually a "Party" and collectively the "Parties") during the negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement:

Building on previous work by the Parties' regulatory authorities to the greatest extent possible, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall conduct, in cooperation with the responsible Canadian regulatory authorities, an assessment of equivalency of the Canadian food-safety regulatory system and the U.S. food-safety regulatory system as those systems are applied to products defined as "Milk Products" in the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

Building on previous work by the Parties' regulatory authorities to the greatest extent possible, the responsible Canadian regulatory authorities shall conduct, in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, an assessment of equivalency of the U.S. food-safety regulatory system and the Canadian food-safety regulatory system as those systems are applied to products defined as "Milk Products" in the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance<sup>1</sup>.

Each assessment of equivalency is to assess the public health outcomes delivered by the food-safety regulatory system of the other Party, as applied to the relevant products.

The Parties shall begin discussions on the planning of the assessments immediately, with a view to completing each respective assessment by the end of 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> The Parties recognize that the technical work for the assessment of each other's food safety systems for certain products that are not defined as "Milk Products" in the Grade "A" Pasteurized Milk Ordinance has been completed through a separate Food Safety Systems Recognition Arrangement process between the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and responsible Canadian regulatory authorities.

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I have the honor to propose that this letter and your letter in reply, equally valid in French and English, confirming that your government shares this understanding, constitutes an understanding between the United States and Canada, which shall enter into effect on the date of your letter in reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Froman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "F".

Ambassador Michael B.G. Froman



4 February 2016

Ambassador Michael B. Froman  
United States Trade Representative  
United States of America

Dear Ambassador Froman,

I am pleased to acknowledge your letter of February 4, 2016, which reads as follows:

“I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the representatives of the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America (individually a “Party” and collectively the “Parties”) during the negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement:

Building on previous work by the Parties’ regulatory authorities to the greatest extent possible, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall conduct, in cooperation with the responsible Canadian regulatory authorities, an assessment of equivalency of the Canadian food-safety regulatory system and the U.S. food-safety regulatory system as those systems are applied to products defined as “Milk Products” in the Grade “A” Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.

Building on previous work by the Parties’ regulatory authorities to the greatest extent possible, the responsible Canadian regulatory authorities shall conduct, in cooperation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, an assessment of equivalency of the U.S. food-safety regulatory system and the Canadian food-safety regulatory system as those systems are applied to products defined as “Milk Products” in the Grade “A” Pasteurized Milk Ordinance<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The Parties recognize that the technical work for the assessment of each other’s food safety systems for certain products that are not defined as “Milk Products” in the Grade “A” Pasteurized Milk Ordinance has been completed through a separate Food Safety Systems Recognition Arrangement process between the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and responsible Canadian regulatory authorities.



Each assessment of equivalency is to assess the public health outcomes delivered by the food-safety regulatory system of the other Party, as applied to the relevant products.

The Parties shall begin discussions on the planning of the assessments immediately, with a view to completing each respective assessment by the end of 2017.

I have the honor to propose that this letter and your letter in reply, equally valid in French and English, confirming that your government shares this understanding constitutes an understanding between the United States and Canada which shall enter into effect on the date of your letter in reply.”

I have the further honour to confirm that Canada shares this understanding and that your letter and this letter in reply, equally valid in French and English, constitutes an understanding between the United States and Canada, which shall enter into effect on the date of this letter in reply.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland  
Minister of International Trade  
Canada