

**AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD ADMINISTRATIVE
MONETARY PENALTIES ACT**

DECISION

In the matter of an application for a review of the facts of a violation of section 40 of the *Health of Animals Regulations*, alleged by the Respondent, and requested by the Applicant pursuant to paragraph 9(2)(c) of the *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act*.

Quynh Ngo, Applicant

-and-

Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Respondent

CHAIRMAN BARTON

Decision

Following a review of the written submission of the Applicant (not having received the report of the Respondent within the prescribed time limit under the *Rules of the Review Tribunal (Agriculture and Agri-Food)* or a request by the Respondent for an extension of the time limit for filing its report) the Tribunal, by order, determines the Applicant committed the violation and is liable for payment of the penalty in the amount of \$200.00 to the Respondent within 30 days after the day on which this decision is served.

REASONS

The Applicant did not request an oral hearing.

The Notice of Violation dated August 1, 2004, alleges that the Applicant, on or about 23:30 hours on the 1st day of August, 2004, at Pearson Arpt., in the province of Ontario, committed a violation, namely: "Import an animal by-product, to wit: meat, without the prescribed requirements" contrary to section 40 of the *Health of Animals Regulations* which states:

40. No person shall import into Canada an animal by-product, manure or a thing containing an animal by-product or manure except in accordance with this Part.

In general, *Part IV* of the *Health of Animals Regulations* permits importation into Canada of most animal by-products, if the country of origin is the United States. If the country of origin is other than the United States, importation into Canada is only permitted (except for certain specified products such as gluestock and bone meal, for which there are other specific requirements) if the importer meets one of the following four prescribed requirements of *Part IV* of the *Health of Animals Regulations*, namely:

1. Under subsection 41(2) if the country of origin has a disease-free designation and the importer produces a certificate signed by an official of the government of the country of origin that shows that the country of origin is the designated country referred to in the disease-free designation.

2. The importer meets the requirements of subsection 52(1) which provides as follows:

52(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Part, a person may import an animal by-product if the person produces a document that shows the details of the treatment of the animal by-product and the inspector is satisfied, based on the source of the document, the information contained in the document and any other relevant information available to the inspector and, where necessary, on an inspection of the animal by-product, that the importation of the animal by-product into Canada would not, or would not be likely to, result in the introduction into Canada, or the spread within Canada, of a vector, disease or toxic substance.

3. The importer has acquired an import permit pursuant to subsection 52(2).
4. The importer has presented the animal by-product for inspection and a satisfactory inspection has been carried out under paragraph 41.1(1)(a) which states as follows:

41.1(1) Notwithstanding section 41, a person may import into Canada an animal by-product or a thing containing an animal by-product, other than a thing described in section 45, 46, 47, 47.1, 49, 50, 51, 51.2 or 53, if

(a) an inspector is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the animal by-product is processed in a manner which would prevent the introduction into Canada of any reportable disease or any other serious epizootic disease to which the species that produced the animal by-product is susceptible and which can be transmitted by the animal by-product, provided that the animal by-product or the thing containing the animal by-product is not intended for use as animal food or as an ingredient in animal food.

There is no evidence to indicate any documentation was produced or that an inspection took place.

In her request for review, the Applicant admits importing a piece of sausage into Canada from Vietnam. The Applicant was unaware of the presence of the sausage in her luggage as it had been put there by a family member as a gift for another family member.

The Tribunal acknowledges the Applicant was not aware of the sausage in her luggage, but this lack of knowledge, unfortunately, is not a defence by reason of subsection 18(1) of the *Agriculture and Agri-Food Administrative Monetary Penalties Act* which states as follows:

18.(1) A person named in a notice of violation does not have a defence by reason that the person

(a) exercised due diligence to prevent the violation; or

(b) reasonably and honestly believed in the existence of the facts that, if true, would exonerate the person.

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Based on the admission of the Applicant, the Tribunal has no option but to find the Applicant committed the violation and is responsible for the regulated fine of \$200.00.

Dated at Ottawa this 2nd day of September, 2004.

Thomas S. Barton, Q.C., Chairman