



Canadian Food
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments

Canadian Food Inspection Agency



Our vision:

To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission:

Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.

CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY

*"Agriculture and Food Border Controls –
a Canadian Perspective"*

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Canada

Overview of the CFIA

Mandate

- Created in 1997, the CFIA is mandated to safeguard Canada's food supply and the plants and animals upon which safe and high-quality food depends.
- In carrying out this mandate, the CFIA is committed to serving Canadians by providing protection from preventable health risks, delivering a fair and effective regulatory regime, sustaining the plant and animal resource base, and promoting the security of Canada's food supply.

CFIA CONTINUUM

IMPORT

Agricultural
Inputs

Plant
Protection

Animal
Health

Food

EXPORT



FOOD SAFETY

INSPECTIONS

Establishment Inspection

Product Inspection

Establishment Registration

Licensing

Certification

Enforcement



Overview of the CFIA

Mandate

- Accordingly, the CFIA is the Government of Canada's key science-based regulator for the following:

food safety*
animal health
plant protection

* In partnership with Health Canada

Overview of the CFIA Legislation

Plant protection act

Health of animals act

Seeds act,

Feeds act

Fertilizer act

Canadian food inspection act

Plant breeders' rights act

Administrative monetary
penalties act

Canada Agricultural Products
Act

Meat Inspection Act

Fish Inspection Act

Consumer Packaging and
Labelling Act *

Food and Drugs Act *

* As it relates to food

Plus *29 sets of Regulations*



FOOD SAFETY

BUREAU OF FOOD SAFETY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Food Safety Investigations Program

Fair Labelling Practices Program





FOOD SAFETY

**Food Recall and Emergency Response (FRER)
coordinates the response to urgent
or emergency food safety matters**



FOOD RECALLS

Enhanced surveillance systems

Greater consumer awareness

Updated detection methods

**Revised Health Canada food safety
standards and policies**

Regulated Sectors

Food

Meat and Poultry

Fish & Seafood

Eggs

Dairy

Fruit & Vegetables

Honey

Maple

Other prepared and packaged foods



FOOD SAFETY

INSPECTIONS

- ❖ Establishment Inspection ❖ Product Inspection ❖
- ❖ Establishment Registration ❖
- ❖ Licensing ❖
- ❖ Certification ❖
- ❖ Enforcement ❖





FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS

Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)

- ❖ food safety assurance method which is designed to reduce food safety hazards through prevention

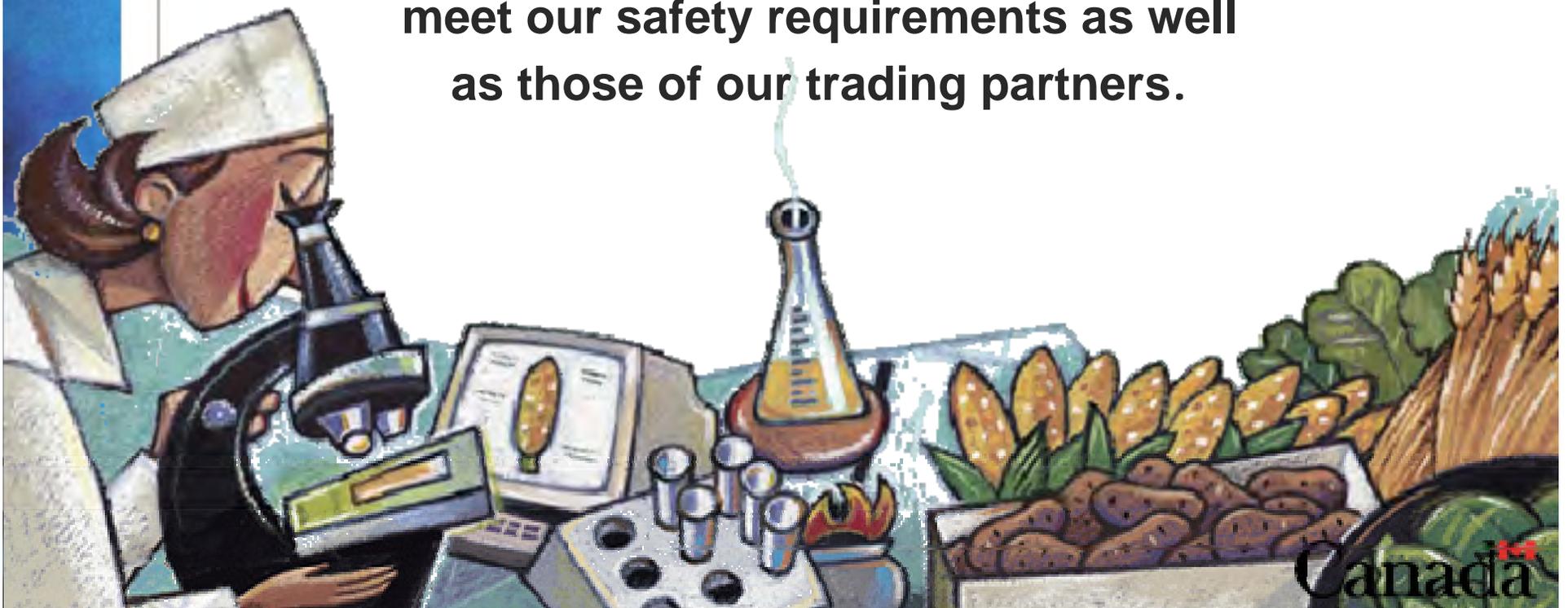
Food Safety Enhancement Program (FSEP)

Quality Management Program (QMP)



LABORATORIES

Laboratories provide scientific support to monitor the safety and quality of food, to protect consumers and to certify that Canadian imports and exports meet our safety requirements as well as those of our trading partners.





REGULATING BIOTECHNOLOGY

“Safety Comes First”

CFIA is responsible for carrying out environmental assessments on all agricultural products, including new products derived from biotechnology.

Health Canada is responsible for assessing all new foods, including those derived from biotechnology.



Co-operative Framework

- CBSA- CFIA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- Inter Agency Communication
- Linkages through the National Import Managers
- Coordination through the Area Import Co-ordinators

Roles

CBSA

Travellers inspection
Initial inspection to identify CFIA
regulated goods
Cargo holds
Seize/destroy/Re-export
Refer CFIA violations
Collection of Data
Approve Low Risk CFIA
Regulated goods
Release goods

CFIA

Regulation & Policy
development
Risk Analysis
Trade compliance
Documentation review (ISCs)
to approve High Risk CFIA
Regulated goods
Foreign Inspections
Post border Inspections



CFIA Risk Assessment

Science based.

Origin and commodity based.

Pathway risk- ex:wood packaging.

Risk communicated to CBSA.





Risks Food

Food related concerns

- Biological hazards: bacteria, parasites, viruses, etc.
- Chemical hazards: toxins, pesticides, antibiotic residues, heavy metal, allergens, etc.
- Physical hazards: glass, metal pieces, insects, etc.

When the CFIA has concerns related to an imported food product, a food recall process is initiated and an « **Border lookout** » is issued. ***



Risks Animals and Animal Products (Including Food Containing Animal Products)

Examples of foreign animal diseases

- Foot and mouth disease (FMD)
- Newcastle disease (NCD)
- Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)
- Hog cholera (classical swine fever)



Risks Plants and Plant Products (including certain foods)

Examples of foreign plant pests / Diseases

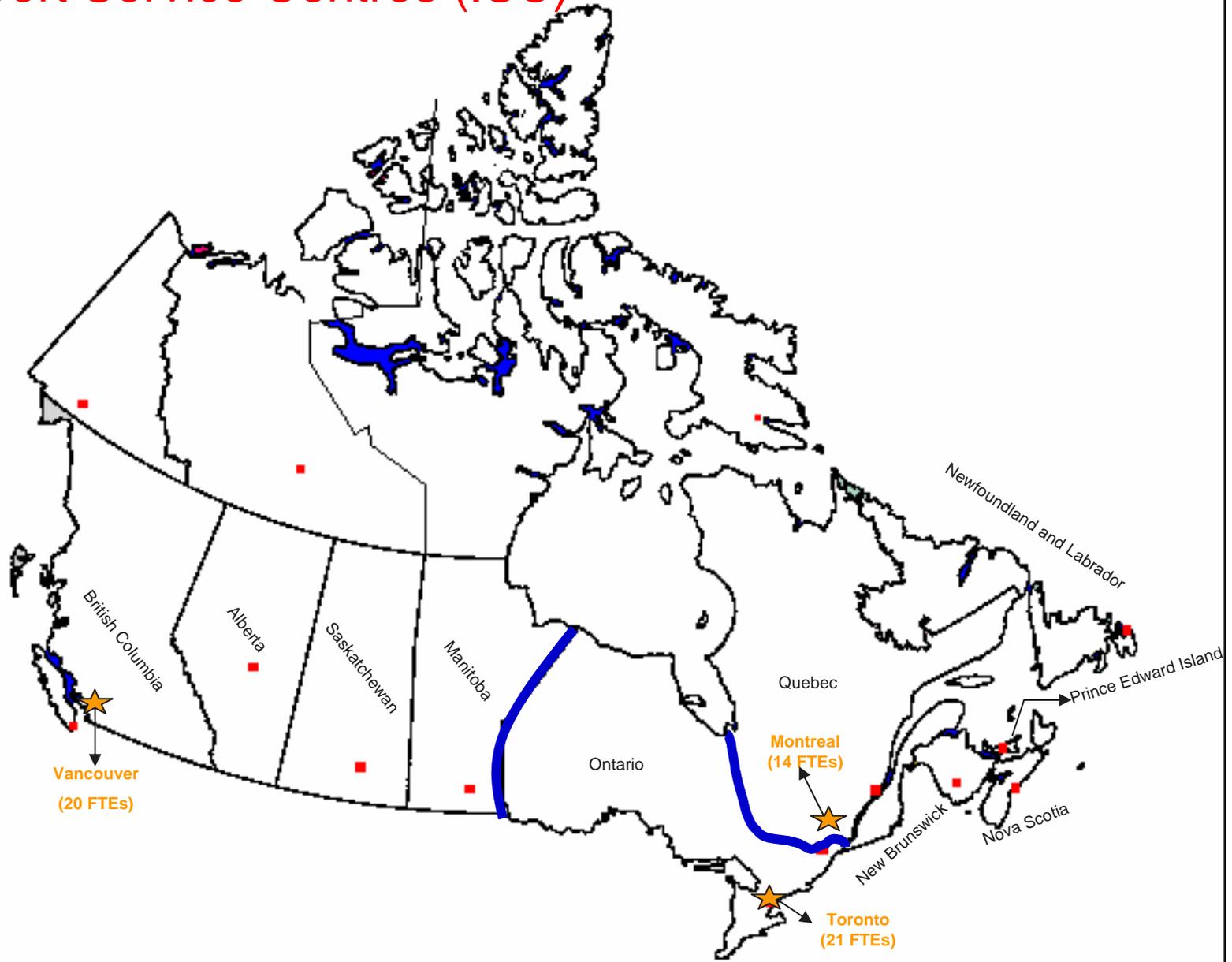
- Brown Spruce Long Horned Beetle
- Asian Long Horned Beetle
- Plum Pox
- Emerald Ash Borer
- Golden Nematode



CFIA IMPORT SERVICE CENTRE

- CFIA processing occurs at a remote site
- Allows product to be released by CBSA in a timely manner
- Single window service for the importing community (20hrs/7 days a week)
- 3 ISC's review documentation and recommend release- ie: whether the entry is made on paper or electronically.

Import Service Centres (ISC)





CFIA Import Process

When AIRS states Refer to CFIA-ISC

- Broker/importer presents an entry package either by:
 1. Paper or
 2. Electronically via the CBSA's Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).
- CFIA's ISC renders a decision.
- CBSA releases or refuses the goods.



CFIA Import Process

Import Service Centres (ISC)

- Eastern ISC:** Located in Montreal (Anjou)
Tel:1 (877) 493-0468 / Fax: 1 (514) 493-4103
Open from 07:00 to 23:00 (eastern standard time)
- Central ISC:** Located in Toronto
Tel:1 (800) 835-4486 / Fax:1 (416) 661-5767
Open from 07:00 to 24:00 (eastern standard time)
- Western ISC:** Located in Vancouver
Tel:1 (888) 732-6222 / Fax:1 (604)- 666-1577
Open from 10:00 to 03:00 (eastern standard time)



Commodities needing CFIA release approval prior to release by CBSA

- Live Animals and Animal Products, Feed
- Plants and Plant Products, Fertilizer, Seed
- Meat & Poultry products, Dairy, Egg, Shellfish & Honey
- Fresh Fruit & Vegetable – Depends on Origin
- Border lookouts – can be issued for any reason (ex: Spinach/ E. Coli concern)



CFIA AUTOMATED IMPORT SYSTEM

OBJECTIVE

To provide an automated system for the management of all imported products regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency



AIS COMPONENTS

- Reference (**AIRS**)
- Electronic link with Customs (**EDI**)
- Control & Tracking (**ICTS**)



CFIA Import Process

- the back bone of the CFIA import system is the Automated Import Reference System (AIRS) and the CFIA's Import Service Centres (ISC's).
- AIRS is a resource tool for CBSA, importers and the general public.
- Customs Brokers are required to use AIRS to set up their entry package when presenting CFIA regulated goods for presentation to CBSA-CFIA.

AIRS

BASIC OPERATION

- AIRS allows users to query commodities by various means:
 - Textual (keyword) description
 - HS Code
- Once a high-level description is provided, user is prompted for lower levels of detail.
- As policies change, AIRS is updated





CFIA Import Process

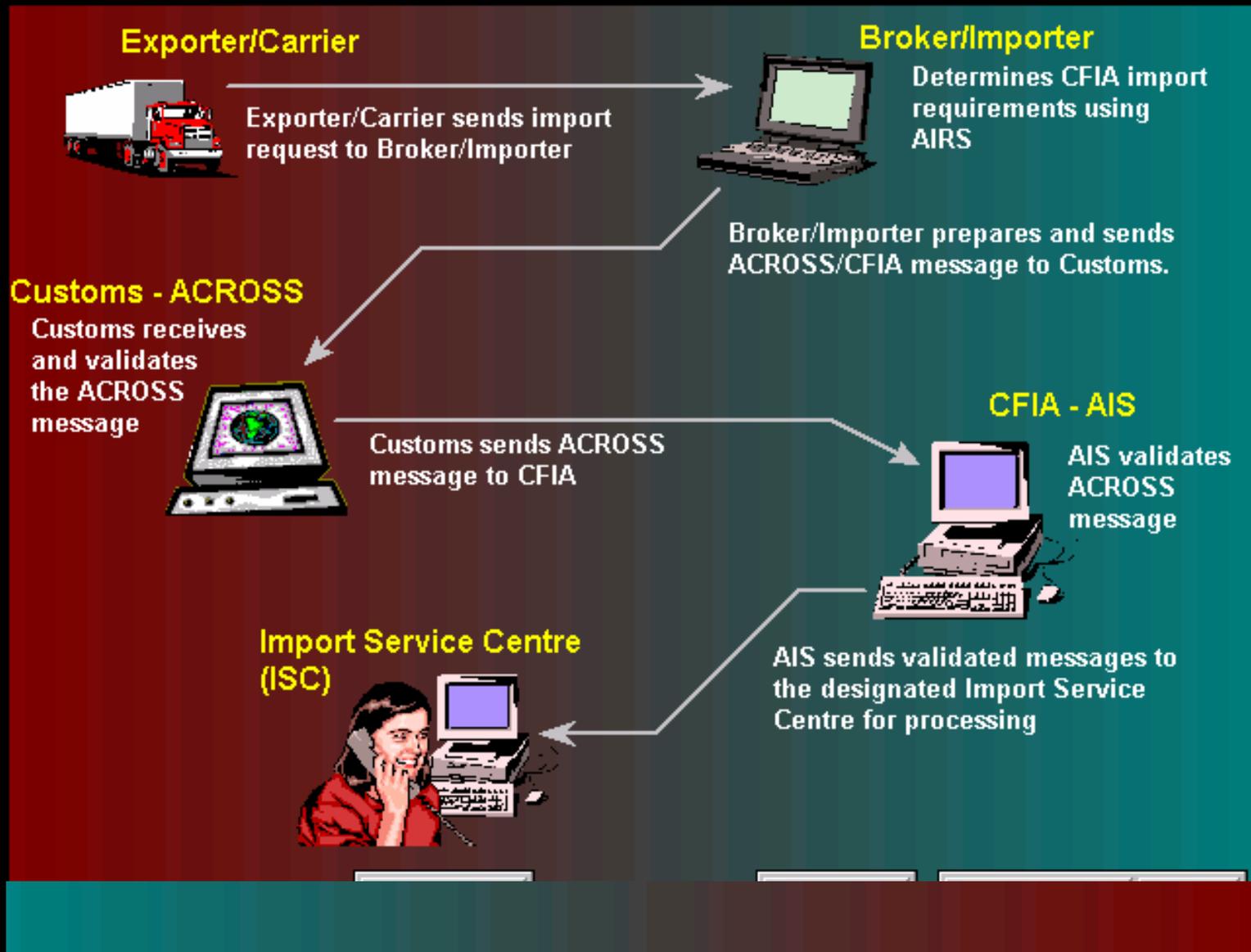
AIRS – Recommendations to Customs

- Approved
- Approved with « must be accompanied by the following documents/registrations »
- Refuse Entry
- Refer to CFIA- ISC
- Refer to CFIA- VET INSPECTION
- No CFIA Requirements
- CBSA Inspection

ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE

- CBSA's Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) communicates with the CFIA's AIRS to make a release, refuse or "Refer to CFIA" decision.
- Enables processing of Electronic Data for CFIA approval/release





Import Service Centre (ISC)



The CFIA Import Service Centre processes the request

Broker / Importer / Carrier

Receives release notification message



Shipment Delivered

Customs - ACROSS

ACROSS processes the returned message



Customs sends the ACROSS-CFIA message to the Customs Inspector

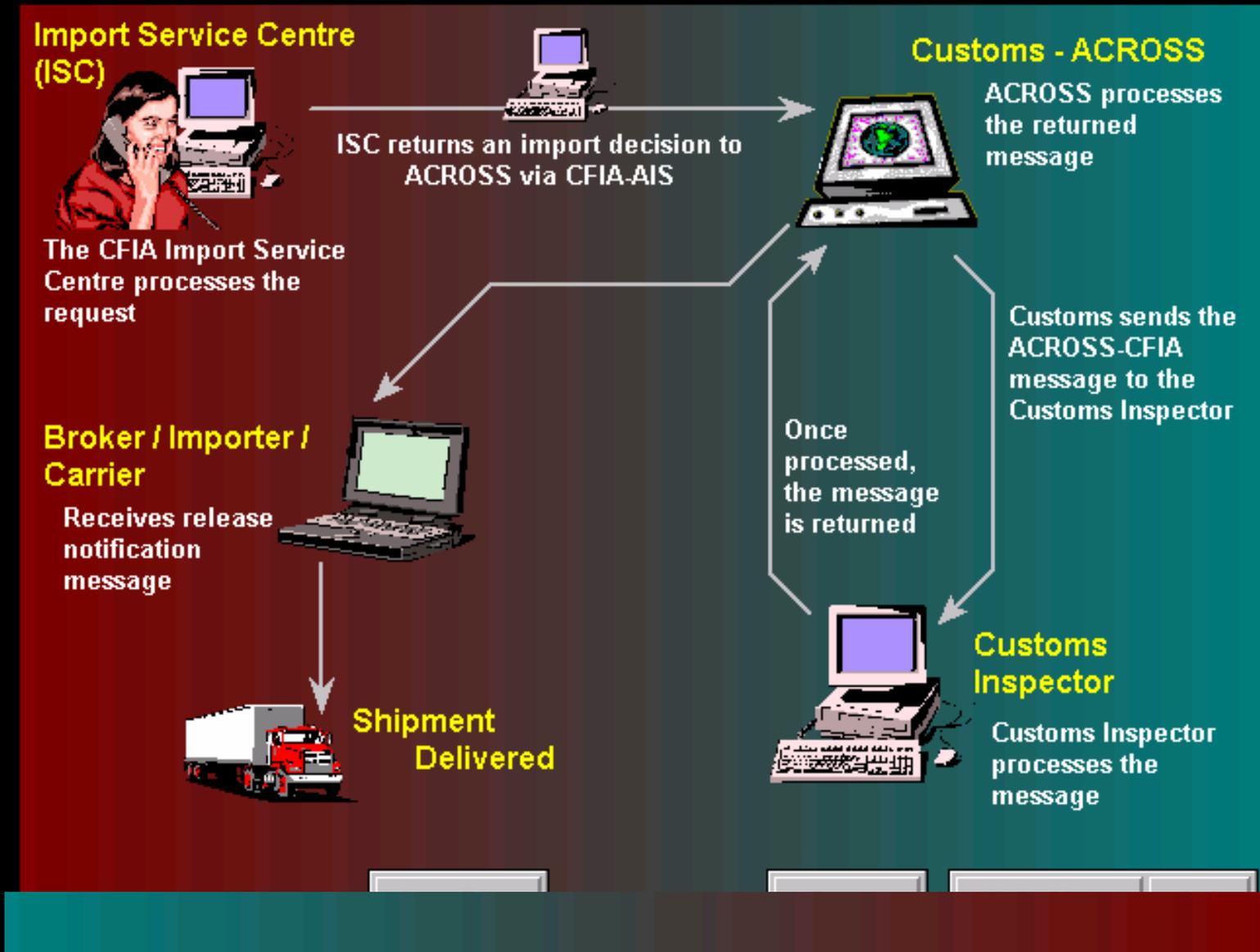
Once processed, the message is returned

Customs Inspector

Customs Inspector processes the message



ISC returns an import decision to ACROSS via CFIA-AIS





ENFORCEMENT

- AMPs Act passed in December, 1995
- Remedial / not punitive – decriminalized
- Intermediate enforcement action
- All investigations completed as if going to court

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Canada

Food Safety & Labelling

- The Food and Drugs Act and Regulations (FDA & R), and the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act and Regulations (CPLA & R) place the legal responsibility on the importer to ensure that the imported product conforms to all requirements of these Acts and Regulations. For example:
- **Section A.01.044** of the Food & Drug Regulations (FDR) states: “Subject to section A.01.044, **no person shall import into Canada for sale a food...which in Canada would constitute a violation** of the Act or these Regulations. SOR/92-626, s. 2(F).”



Food Safety & Labelling

These can be found on the CFIA website:

1. “Guide to Importing Foods Commercially (GIFC)”
2. “Good Importing Practices (GIP’s)”
3. The “Guide to Food Labelling and Advertising”

FUTURE RELEASE PROCESS

- E- Manifest: Mandatory pre-arrival notification when CBSA implements mandatory Advance Commercial Information at ports of entry.
- All Import data will be provided electronically to all Government Departments via CBSA's Single Window interface.



Export

- Importer informs a Canadian supplier he needs a certificate to export the product to the other country.
- Supplier contacts the nearest CFIA office to obtain certification. CFIA office locations can be found in the Blue pages or on the internet.
- CFIA verifies the importing country's requirements for the product.
- If it's possible to meet the requirements, CFIA performs an inspection and issues the required certificate – but only if the importer's product meets the requirements.



INTERNET ADDRESS:

www.inspection.gc.ca