

**APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to Implement Increased Inspection and User Fees at the U.S./Canada Border Effective November 24<sup>th</sup>**

Effective November 24, 2006, the exemption from user fees for commercial vessels, commercial trucks, commercial railroad cars, commercial aircraft, and international air passengers entering the United States from Canada will be removed. All are now subject to inspection and user fees regardless if they are transporting APHIS goods or not.

A user fee of \$5.25 per crossing or \$105.00 for the year will be charged to each truck in fiscal years 2006 and 2007. This user fee for trucks will be charged **in addition to** the \$5.00 user fee or \$100.00 for the year currently in place.

A user fee of \$7.50 per crossing will be charged for each loaded rail car in fiscal year 2006. This will be raised to \$7.75 for these same rail cars in fiscal year 2007.

Tables listing all of the applicable user fees are listed in the official notice, available online at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/E6-14128.htm>.

These changes were recently published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) in the *Federal Register* as an interim rule amending the foreign quarantine and user fee regulations. The amendment removes exemptions from inspection for imported fruits and vegetables grown in Canada as well as the exemptions from user fees for commercial transportation vessels/trucks/railroad cars/aircraft, and international air passengers entering the United States from Canada.

APHIS states that they are taking this action in part because they are not recovering the costs of current inspection activities at the U.S./Canada border. Further, APHIS data shows an increasing number of interceptions on the U.S./Canada border of prohibited material that originated in regions other than Canada that presents a high risk of introducing plant pests or animal diseases into the United States.

APHIS will consider comments received on or before November 24, 2006, when at that time, another document including discussion of any comments received and any amendments made to the interim rule will be published in the *Federal Register*.

For further information contact Mr. Alan S. Green, Executive Director, Plant Health Programs, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 36, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-8261.

We, at NGJ, will immediately notify you as any development occurs.

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compliance.us@ngjensen.com  
3050 Metro Drive, Suite #300  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55425

Telephone: (952) 854-7363 Facsimile: (952) 854-5931

[www.ngjensen.com](http://www.ngjensen.com)

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