



## **Eastern Border Transportation Coalition**

**2011 Fall Workshop**

**September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Courtyard by Marriott**

**Saratoga Springs, New York**

### ***“Connectivity Beyond the Borders”***

#### **8:30 AM - FDA- Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness**

Good Morning, Our mission at the FDA is to serve, protect and promote the health of all Americans by ensuring the safety of foods, cosmetics, drugs, biologics, tobacco, and medical devices. We are committed to excellence in pursuing our mission and maintaining the public trust. In doing so and recognizing the long history of collaboration between the US & Canada throughout the years which includes the US – Canada Free Trade Agreement & North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). We share the responsibility for the safety, security of our food and drug supply in an increasingly integrated and globalize world.

FDA is committed to being a facilitator as part of this initiative. Working with our partner agencies in Canada and using a risk management approach, where compatible, this should enable us to facilitate the legitimate flow of goods into the US and Canada and across our common border and at the same time ensure the physical security and economic competitiveness of our countries.

In the Division of Imports and Operations Policy, we are developing new and more efficient screening processes for all imported products. We recognize that the increased sharing of information will strengthen our ability to expedite the review and entry process of goods between our countries.

Our efforts are focused on future possibilities for the efficient movement of Canadian goods (including agricultural goods) into the United States. Sharing information and import requirement is an important first step in understanding agricultural import practices and it's also a step towards forming future partnerships or pilot projects between U.S. and Canada. Some of the

possibilities that we are looking into not only for agricultural commodities but for other regulated commodities as well include; pre-screening of products, regulatory comparability and joint US/Canada secured access systems.

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) provides a Voluntary Qualified Importer Program (VQIP) along with the Import Certifications, to expedite entry into the United States of imported food from eligible, qualified importers. To be eligible to participate in VQIP, an importer must offer food for importation from a facility that has a certification by an accredited third party in which foreign Governments can act as an accredited third party. FDA will qualify eligible importers to participate in VQIP based on risk considerations.

As I mentioned before, it is DIOP's goal to work together along with appropriate departments and agencies of both the Canadian and U.S. governments in addressing threats early (i.e. recent food-borne outbreaks), facilitate the trade between our borders through the incorporation of Other Government Agencies (OGA) requirements into trusted trader programs and/or establishment of new programs to expedite the clearance of goods subject to OGA requirements, eg. food products regulated by U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)/U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Health Canada/Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to ultimately achieve the mutual acceptance of FDA/USDA and CFIA inspections (eg. eliminate the re-inspection process for meat imports on both sides of the border).