

Country of Origin Labeling (COOL)

Effective September 30, 2008, the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills require Country of Origin Labeling for all of beef (including veal), lamb, pork, chicken, goat, perishable agricultural commodities (fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables), peanuts, pecans, ginseng, and macadamia nuts.

The rule prescribes specific criteria that must be met for a covered commodity to bear a "United States country of origin" declaration. In addition, the rule contains provisions for labeling covered commodities of foreign origin, meat products from multiple origins, ground meat products, as well as commingled covered commodities. To allow time for covered commodities that are already in the stream of commerce, the requirements of this rule will not apply to covered commodities produced or packaged before September, 30, 2008. The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service plans to conduct education and outreach activities during the six months following the rule's effective date to help the industry comply with the law. The full text of the interim final rule was published in the August 1, 2008, Federal Register.

Link to: [Federal Register](#)

For additional details about COOL covered commodities, labeling, marking and recordkeeping requirements, exemptions, implementation and enforcement, consult the following USDA resources:

Link to: [USDA COOL PowerPoint Presentation](#)

Link to: [Frequently Asked Questions about COOL Requirements](#)

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