

FAQs:

Cooperative Interstate Shipment

What is the Cooperative Interstate Shipment agreement (CIS)?

CIS is a program that U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Services (FSIS) and state meat inspection programs manage jointly. Establishments enrolled in CIS may sell products across state lines.

• When did the program take effect?

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) signed an agreement with FSIS on April 8, 2014. CIS was established by the 2008 Farm Bill and finalized in 2011 by the USDA. Indiana is the fourth state (preceded by Ohio, Wisconsin and North Dakota) to enroll.

• Will products have a USDA mark of inspection?

Yes. Products under CIS inspection will bear a USDA, federal mark. The change will require BOAH's approval for all product labels, as any other label change.

• Which BOAH-inspected facilities may apply for CIS approval?

State-inspected plants must:

1. Be in compliance with all state and federal meat inspection laws and regulations.
2. Employ fewer than 25 production workers. Special provisions exist for those that employ 25 to 35 workers.

• Is a plant required to participate?

No, this is a voluntary program for establishments that want to sell their products across state lines, have producers who want to direct market their meat products elsewhere, and/or have distributors who wish to sell their products in other states.

• When can interstate product shipments begin?

Plants must complete the approval process before exporting products. An approval requires some paperwork, an additional site visit and assessment by FSIS and BOAH, as well as label changes to affected products. Only products processed under CIS-and labeled as such-may be exported to other states.

• How do plants get more information and participate?

Plants can obtain more information from their area supervisor, online at www.boah.in.gov, or by calling the BOAH at 317-544-2400.