

# Canada Challenges COOL Through WTO

by **Ann Bagel Storck**, published on *Meatingplace.com*

(Dec. 2, 2008) — The Canadian government has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization against the United States over mandatory country-of-origin labeling.

The complaint alleges that COOL will impose unnecessary costs on meatpackers using Canadian animals and that the law could lead to more extensive and restrictive labeling requirements in other countries.

“We believe that the country-of-origin legislation is creating undue trade restrictions to the detriment of Canadian exporters,” Canadian Trade Minister Stockwell Day said in a statement.

The filing initiates a consultation period between the United States and Canada to work on a resolution to the dispute. If those discussions fail to resolve the issue, the matter can be referred to a WTO dispute settlement panel.

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