



# NEWS RELEASE

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## NMA WELCOMES KOREAN BEEF AGREEMENT

OAKLAND, CA – National Meat Association applauds news that an agreement has been reached with South Korea for the importation of U.S. beef.

“Given the constraints, this is a very good agreement,” said NMA CEO & Executive Director Barry Carpenter, who was on hand to assist the U.S. negotiating team in Seoul, South Korea during negotiations earlier this month.

The deal means that trade in U.S. beef will begin again sometime next month. This will mark the first time that U.S. beef has entered the East Asian country since trade was halted last October.

Protocols of the agreement make virtually all U.S. beef eligible for export to Korea, because they are consistent with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines. Also, the U.S. food safety system received approval, although there will be a 90-day phase-in after the market opens, during which time the Korean government may still send auditors to examine some plants.

“The most important aspect of this new agreement is the reduced risk of failure,” Carpenter said. “There are few opportunities for the types of technical non-compliance that caused the problems the last time Korea re-opened to U.S. beef.”

National Meat Association is a non-profit trade association. Since 1946, NMA has represented meat packers and processors, equipment manufacturers and food suppliers who provide services to the meat industry. The association has members throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia and Mexico.