

## Canadian Quality Assurance<sup>®</sup> Program

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There are 2 major changes to the Canadian Quality Assurance program for 2007. The first change is the mandatory use of Detectable Needles beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. The Canadian Pork Council (CPC) Executive approved this new requirement for all CQA<sup>®</sup> Registered farms at their annual meeting this summer. While processing plants generally have metal detectors at one or more point on the line, the alloys found in commonly used disposable needles are often not identifiable by these machines, making it possible for needle fragments to slip through and into the food chain. Preventing broken needles remains the first priority. Producers are still required to have a protocol in place to avoid the needle breakage as well as a plan to follow in the event that a needle does break off and remain in a pig. Part of this plan must include reporting any pig with a suspected broken needle prior to shipping, regardless of the type of needle used.

It is important as an industry that we continue to reassure our customers that we are producing safe pork; food safety is very important to Canadian consumers as well as our customers abroad. The use of detectable needles is just one part of the efforts by the Canadian pork industry to control the hazard of broken needles.

The second change to the CQA<sup>®</sup> program for 2007 is regarding the CQA<sup>®</sup> Drug Use Policy. Phase 1 was implemented in October 2003 and required that all veterinary products used on CQA<sup>®</sup> Registered farms be approved for food producing animals in Canada. The allowable exception is for products obtained by a veterinarian under the emergency drug release program, through an investigational new drug certificate, or an active pharmaceutical ingredient (API). API's could be used but only when the same active ingredient could also be found in a product approved for food producing animals in Canada. The own-use provision of the Food and Drugs Act was also closed to CQA<sup>®</sup> producers through this policy during phase 1.

Phase 2 of the Drug Use Policy comes into effect January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 and will require that only compounded API's be used and only under the direction of a veterinarian. Producers are required to have a prescription for the API product and the prescribing veterinarian must ensure that the API has been identity tested according to guidelines proposed by the Canadian Association of Swine Veterinarians (CASV). In addition, only feed medications that have been approved for use in Canada and bear a Canadian drug identification number (DIN) may be used. All other requirements under Phase 1 remain the same for CQA Registered farms.

The National CQA<sup>®</sup> program can be found at [www.cqa-aqc.com](http://www.cqa-aqc.com) and includes further information, updates, blank record forms, and the manual. You can also contact Christine Orton, CQA<sup>®</sup> Coordinator for Ontario Pork, at 1-877-668-7675 or [christine.orton@ontariopork.on.ca](mailto:christine.orton@ontariopork.on.ca).