

# 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, allowing for a wider sales market.

## **Will products have a USDA mark of inspection?**

Yes. Products under CIS inspection will bear a USDA, federal mark, not the state legend. 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?**

To participate, state-inspected plants must:

1. Have never been under federal inspection
2. Be in compliance with all state and federal meat inspection laws and regulations
3. Employ fewer than 25 production workers. Special provision exists for those that employ 25 to 35 workers.

Facilities do not have any additional expense to participate.

## **Is a plant required to participate?**

No, CIS is a voluntary program that allows establishments to sell products across state lines, accommodate producers who want to direct-market their meat products elsewhere, and/or supply distributors who wish to sell their products in other states.

## **Who will be my inspector under this program?**

A BOAH employee will still be the regular inspector. A federal coordinator will also conduct additional, less-frequent scheduled and unscheduled inspections.

## **When can interstate product shipments begin?**

Plants must complete the approval process before exporting products. 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.

## **What are the benefits of CIS?**

- To Plant Owners: Opportunity to expand through distribution of products in interstate commerce, and remain under state inspection by BOAH.
- To State Program: Indiana's inspection program receives additional federal funding for each CIS-enrolled facility.

## **How do plants enroll or get more information?**

Plant owners/managers should call the BOAH central office at 317-544-2400 or go online: [www.in.gov/boah](http://www.in.gov/boah)

USDA - Food Safety Inspection Service:

[www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/inspection/state-inspection-programs/cis](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/inspection/state-inspection-programs/cis)



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