

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** July 26, 2024

**Report Number:** CA2024-0028

**Report Name:** Canada Reimplements Temporary Import Requirements for US Romaine Lettuce

**Country:** Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Vegetables, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

**Prepared By:** Alexandria Watters

**Approved By:** Tacarra Birmingham

**Report Highlights:**

Beginning September 26, 2024, Canada will once again require additional import requirements for U.S. origin romaine lettuce. These temporary requirements will be in effect until December 18, 2024. During this time, the conditions for import of U.S. leafy greens will require that any imported romaine lettuce and/or salad mixes containing romaine lettuce must contain additional attestations on Proof of Origin that it was grown outside the Salinas Valley counties of Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, San Benito, or Monterey, or conduct CFIA approved sampling and testing with a negative E. coli O157:H7 result.

Since 2019, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has implemented additional import requirements during the Fall period for U.S. romaine lettuce. Specific testing requirements for *E. coli* O157:H7 have been implemented since 2020 for romaine lettuce originating from the Salinas Valley counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito. CFIA is once again implementing [additional import requirements](#) for the period of September 26, 2024 to December 18, 2024.

For Fall 2024, importers must provide either:

1. Proof of Origin, that the U.S. romaine lettuce and/or salad mixes containing romaine lettuce do not contain romaine lettuce grown in the counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, or San Benito; or,
2. Should a Proof of Origin not be provided, or should the romaine lettuce and/or salad mixes contain romaine grown in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, or San Benito, the following import requirements apply:
  - a. Preventive control plan which includes a written procedure for *E. coli* sampling and testing.
  - b. An importer attestation (CFIA Form 5961) attesting that there is a Certificate of Analysis for each shipment, sampling and testing has been conducted in accordance with their Safe Food for Canadian license conditions, and *E. coli* O157:H7 was not detected.
  - c. Each shipment must contain the relevant Certificate of Analysis.
  - d. The product must have been [sampled and tested](#) for *E. coli* using one of two CFIA-approved sampling protocols and according to the CFIA-approved testing conditions.

In addition, the general import requirements for U.S. leafy greens remain in place during this period. Any California-grown romaine lettuce exported to Canada must be handled by a certified member of the California Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement. Any Arizona-grown romaine lettuce exported to Canada must be handled by a certified member of the Arizona Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.