

## Taiwan to boost screening of US, Canadian beef over banned drug

Taipei - Taiwan said Thursday it will tighten screening of US and Canadian beef after a banned drug was found in some imports from these two nations.

Taiwan will lift from 5 per cent to 20 per cent the amount of beef imports from the US and Canada subject to testing, the Central News Agency quoted Health Minister Yang Jhih-liang as saying.

Also, Taiwan will require importers to present certificates saying the US and Canadian beef is free of the banned growth drug, ractopamine, which is trademarked as Paylean.

The substance makes pigs and cows develop muscle tissue faster.

Testing will return to the previous 5-per-cent level after a period in which no Paylean is founded in the imports, he said.

Many Taiwan supermarkets removed US beef from their shelves after the reports of the Paylean discovery.

In tests on Monday, out of 28 samples of imported beef, Paylean was found in eight US beef samples, as well as several samples of Canadian beef, the Department of Health said.

Paylean is banned in Taiwan, but is allowed in several countries, including the [UnitedStates](#).

On Sunday, the Office of the US Trade Representative urged Taiwan to revise its rules on Paylean residue, arguing that the US and 26 international agencies agree that small amount of Paylean residue in meat is harmless to consumers.