



USDA Export Verification (EV) Program: Specified Product Requirements for Bovine - Japan

1 Purpose

This document provides the specified product requirements for marketing U.S. Bovine items to Japan under the USDA Export Verification (EV) Program for animals of all ages. This program facilitates the international trade of U.S. Bovine meat and meat products and provides the additional requirements for the USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) for marketing bovine meat to Japan.

2 Scope

These requirements apply to U.S. suppliers (harvesters, fabricators, and processors) of bovine meat and meat products including fresh, frozen, bone-in, boneless, offal, variety meat items, and processed meat products that are eligible for export to Japan as listed on the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) website. Suppliers who wish to label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements for bovine under this program must meet these requirements through an approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program. The requirements for the USDA QSA Program are defined in QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment Program*. The QSA Program ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system, and that product is identified and traceable through the system.

Only companies with an approved USDA QSA Program for the EV Program may label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements for export. As an alternative to the USDA QSA Program, companies may apply the requirements of the USDA Process Verified Program (PVP) to meet the specified product requirements. The requirements of the USDA Process Verified Program are defined in QAD 1001 Procedure: *USDA Process Verified Program*.

3 References

QAD 1000 Procedure: *Quality Systems Verification Programs, General Policies and Procedures*

QAD 1001 Procedure: *USDA Process Verified Program*

QAD 1002 Procedure: *Quality System Assessment Program*

QAD 1030: *EV Programs Additional Requirements*

[USDA FSIS: Export Library – Requirements by Country website](#)

[USDA AMS: Beef Exports to Japan website](#)



4 Specified Product Requirements

Bovine meat and meat products for export from the U.S. to Japan must be derived from animals that meet the following requirements, or from imported meat products into the U.S. that meet certain requirements:

- 4.1 The exported meat and meat products derived from beef (bovine) to Japan must be derived from (A) animals that were born and raised only in the U.S., or from animals legally imported into the U.S. from a country recognized by the Japanese animal health authorities as the third free countries for cloven hooved animals and meat or the eligible countries in BSE affected countries as listed on the FSIS's Export Library website or (B) from meat legally imported into the U.S. from a designated facility in a country recognized by the Japanese animal health authorities as eligible to export bovine meat to Japan and shipped directly to the U.S port-of-entry. If transported through countries other than the third free countries or the eligible countries in BSE affected countries as identified on the current lists available on FSIS Export Library website, the imported meat must be transported in an officially sealed container. Once inspected and passed by FSIS, the shipment of imported meat must transfer directly to the designated facility in the U.S.
- 4.2 Removal of prohibited materials
 - 4.2.1 Beef and beef products mean all edible parts of cattle and products derived from such parts of cattle and are produced in a manner that ensures the hygienic removal of the specified risk materials (SRMs). With respect to heads, only tongues, cheek meat (Masseter Muscle), and skins of heads are eligible for export to Japan; all other parts of the head must be excluded from exports to Japan.
 - 4.2.2 Specified risk materials (SRMs) mean: tonsils and distal ileum from cattle of all ages; and brain, eyes, spinal cord, skull including head meat (but excluding cheek meat-Masseter Muscle), dorsal root ganglia, and vertebral column (excluding vertebrae of the tail, transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and wings of the sacrum) from cattle 30 months of age and older at the time of harvest.
- 4.3 For a listing of eligible products, refer to the [USDA FSIS: Export Library – Requirements by Country website](#).
- 4.4 Carcasses, bovine meat, and meat products must be uniquely identified and controlled up until the time of shipment.

5 Shipping Documentation

- 5.1 Identification of conforming product during shipment and delivery must be documented on the shipping documentation (bills of lading, shipping manifests, or letters of guarantee).



The shipping documentation must:

5.1.1 Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and

5.1.2 Contain the statement:

5.1.2.1 “Product Meets EV Program Requirements for Japan” – This statement is used for finished items that are eligible for export; or

5.1.2.2 “Product meets EV Program Requirements for Japan excluding final production/processing requirements” – This statement is used for items that must be further processed to meet all requirements prior to being eligible for export.

6 Responsibilities

U.S. suppliers must meet all policies and procedures outlined in this procedure, QAD 1000 Procedure: *Quality Systems Verification Programs, General Policies and Procedures*, and QAD 1002 Procedure: *Quality System Assessment Program*.

7 Listing of Approved Programs

Only U.S. suppliers that have an approved USDA QSA Program which meets the specified product requirements for this Program will be listed on the *Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA Japan Program*.

Jeff Waite, Branch Chief
Quality Assessment Division
Livestock and Poultry Program

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.
