

Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of Norwegian beef and beef offal eligible for export to Japan

Export Verification Program

This Export Verification Program (EVP) provides the specified products processing requirements and requirements for facilities for the export of beef and beef offal to Japan from Norway. This EVP comes in addition to the Norwegian and EU/EEA regulations but might include some relevant domestic requirements. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority is the competent authority overseeing the implementation of the EVP in Norway.

1. Purpose

This EVP describes the standards that slaughterhouses and processing facilities shall meet in producing beef and beef offal for export to Japan in order to meet the following objectives:

- Ensure removal from cattle carcasses of all tissues ineligible for export to Japan;
- Prevent cross contamination of eligible beef and beef offal for export to Japan from ineligible tissues during slaughter and/or processing;
- Ensure only cattle from 30 months of age or less are prepared and certified for export to Japan;
- Enable verification of compliance with Japan import condition relating to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in addition to Norwegian and EU/EEA domestic requirements.

2. Scope

This EVP applies to Norwegian facilities producing beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway. The facilities shall meet the specified processing requirements and requirements for facilities for beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway. These facilities shall be designated and listed by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) by agreement with the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

3. Identification and traceability records

3.1 Live cattle shall be domesticated bovine animals (*Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*) born and raised in Norway, or imported to Norway from countries eligible for export of beef and beef offal to Japan.

3.2 Live cattle shall be individually identified.

3.3 Live cattle shall be sent to slaughterhouses with correct recording in the Norwegian traceability system – “Husdyrregisteret”, including exact date of birth and identification information of each animal.

3.4 All carcasses complying with point 4.1 shall be clearly identified with a visible blue strip.

3.5 An identification mark allowing the verification that the beef and beef offal for export to Japan complies with point 4.1 is applied on the product at each level of processing.

3.6 Records and identification information through the process shall be sufficient to trace:

3.6.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan to carcasses;

3.6.2 Individual carcasses to individual animal;

3.6.3 Individual animal to farm records.

4. Specified Products Requirements

4.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall derive from cattle that are 30 months of age or younger at the time of slaughter.

4.2 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be exclusively meat, offal and their products which the MHLW and NFSA recognize as eligible for export to Japan.

4.3 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall not include any Specified Risk Material (SRM) as defined by the enforced Japanese regulation, that is to say beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall not include any of the following tissues:

4.3.1 Tonsils from all cattle;

4.3.2 Distal ileum (two meters from connection to caecum) from all cattle;

4.3.3 Spinal cord from cattle older than 30 months of age;

4.3.4 Head (except for hygienically removed tongues, skin and cheek meat) from cattle older than 30 month of age;

4.3.5 Vertebral column (excluding vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the cervical, lumbar and thoracic vertebrae, the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum) from cattle older than 30 months of age.

4.4 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan, and the carcasses and cattle from which they are derived should be traceable to production records.

5. Processing requirements

5.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be processed using procedures ensuring compliance with point 4 and integrated into the facility HACCP.

5.2 Verification activities for age requirements as described above in point 4.1 must be conducted at the slaughter and processing levels.

5.3 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be processed in a manner to ensure the hygienic removal of the SRM as described above in point 4.3. and to prevent any cross-contamination by these SRM.

5.4 The facility HACCP shall include internal verification activities that allow to control that the specified requirements of this EVP are effectively implemented and met.

6. Designated facilities for export to Japan

6.1 The designated facilities for export of beef and beef offal to Japan from Norway shall be facilities (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants, and cold stores) approved by the NFSA following an on-site inspection. The approval of the designated facilities is under the responsibility of the NFSA in accordance with the MHLW.

6.2 The designated facilities shall meet the specified products and processing requirements for beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway.

6.3 The designated facilities for export to Japan shall be listed by the NFSA; the NFSA shall provide annually to the MHLW an official listing of the designated facilities for export beef and beef offal to Japan. NFSA will keep the MHLW informed of any amendments or changes in the list of designated facilities.

6.4 The designated facilities for export of beef and beef offal to Japan from Norway are responsible for the compliance with all requirements outlined in this procedure and the Norwegian and EU/EEA regulations.

6.5 All necessary information to verify the enforcement of the EVP by the designated facilities shall be available to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for review.

7. Export certificate

7.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be accompanied by an export certificate issued by the NFSA when exported to Japan.

7.2 The export certificate shall include the information as required by the Food Sanitation Act of Japan.

7.3 The export certificate shall mention the following statement: "All the required conditions described in the EVP were fulfilled".

8. Audit and import inspection of the MHLW

8.1 The MHLW may conduct on-site audits of the Norwegian inspection system including visits of the NFSA designated facilities that export beef and beef offal to Japan and relevant facilities.

8.2 If non-compliance with these standards is found as a result of the audit or the import inspection of the MHLW, the NFSA shall take appropriate measures including corrective and/or preventive action.

These requirements for beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway will go into effect on February 2nd, 2016.