

**ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR BEEF, BEEF OFFAL AND THEIR PRODUCTS TO BE  
EXPORTED TO JAPAN FROM AUSTRIA**

Animal health requirements for beef, beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Austria are as follows:

**1 Definitions**

For the purpose of the animal health requirements.

**1.1 “cattle” means**

Bovine (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus* only).

**1.2 “beef” means**

All parts of cattle that meet the specified product requirements stated in the Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of beef, beef offal and their products eligible for export from Austria to Japan Export Verification Program (EVP Beef 2023) (item 4 in Annex 3).

**1.3 “the exported beef to Japan” means**

Beef, beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Austria.

**1.4 “outbreak” means**

Detection of specific pathogen, antigen or antibody of the disease as well as appearance of animal showing clinical signs of the diseases.

**1.5 “the Japanese animal health authority” means**

Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

**1.6 “the competent authority of Austria” means**

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection of Austria.

**1.7 “the third free countries” means**

Countries or zones approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the export of meat etc. derived from cloven-hoofed animals to Japan as listed in item 1 to 3 in Annex 2.

**1.8 "the specified countries" means**

Countries or zones approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan to export beef to Japan other than the third free countries as listed in item 4 in Annex 2.

**1.9 "the designated facilities" means**

The slaughterhouses, processing/cutting and storage facilities, etc. which are designated by the competent authority of Austria (in case of item 2. of Annex 1), the competent authority of the third free or the specified countries listed in Annex 2) as facilities which meet the requirements in Annex 1, Annex 3 and Annex 4 and are registered to handle the exported beef to Japan.

**1.10 "WOAH" means**

The World Organisation for Animal Health, formally called the Office International des Epizooties.

**1.11 "cohorts of BSE cases" means**

As defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH), cattle which, during their first year of life, were reared with the BSE case during its first year of life, and which investigation showed consumed the same potentially contaminated feed during that period, or if the results of the investigation are inconclusive, all cattle born in the same herd as, and within 12 months of the birth of, the BSE case.

**2 General requirements**

**2.1** Austria is free from Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Rinderpest, and vaccination against FMD and Rinderpest is legally prohibited in Austria.

**2.2** Importation of cloven-hoofed animals that have been vaccinated against FMD and Rinderpest is prohibited in Austria.

**2.3** The competent authority of Austria maintains measures to prevent introduction, control spread, and detect Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE); these measures include SRM removal, effective feed ban, and surveillance program. In case the competent authority of Austria intends to amend or abolish the regulations or measures on BSE, the competent authority of Austria must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the fact in advance.

**3 Requirements for the exported beef to Japan**

**3.1** Cattle slaughtered for the production of the exported beef to Japan (hereinafter referred

to as "the slaughtered cattle") must have been born and raised only in Austria, or directly and legally imported from and via the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, and raised in Austria, and completely meet all the requirements in item 1 of Annex 1.

Beef that completely meet all the requirements in item 2 of Annex 1 and that is legally and directly imported from or is legally imported from and via the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries except in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the third free or specified country and accompanied by the certificate issued by the third or specified country, can be used for the production of the exported beef to Japan.

**3.2** The slaughtered cattle were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or cohorts of BSE cases as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH)

**3.3** The exported beef to Japan has been handled only at the designated facilities which fulfill all requirements in Annex 1.

**3.4** The slaughtered cattle must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of ante-mortem inspections conducted by official veterinary inspectors and post-mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or official auxiliary inspectors of the competent authority of Austria (in case of item 2 of Annex 1, the competent authority of the third free countries or the specified countries) at the designated facilities.

**3.5** The exported beef to Japan has been handled at the designated facilities in such a way as to keep it from being contaminated with any causative agents of animal infectious diseases until shipment to Japan.

#### **4 Notification of the designated facilities**

**4.1** The competent authority of Austria must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number and function of the designated facilities in advance of the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities. The list of the designated facilities will be maintained and updated by the competent authority of Austria as changes in facility status occur and the competent authority of Austria must notify the Japanese animal health authority accordingly.

**4.2** The competent authority of Austria must confirm through ordinary monitoring or periodic audit that the designated Austrian facilities are fulfilling the required conditions in Annex 1, Annex 3 and Annex 4.

**4.3** If the competent authority of Austria identifies a serious noncompliance with the conditions in Annex 1, Annex 3 and Annex 4 during ordinary monitoring or periodic audits of the designated facilities, the competent authority of Austria must immediately stop issuing certifications of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities, and must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number and function of the said facilities. Thereafter, the competent authority of Austria is to revoke the designation of the said facilities. After verifying that acceptable corrective actions have been taken and informing the Japanese animal health authority of the corrective actions taken by the competent authority of Austria, the competent authority of Austria may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities.

**4.4** The exported beef to Japan must be slaughtered, produced and/or stored only in the designated facilities.

## **5 Requirements for the shipment**

**5.1** Clean and sanitary wrappings and/or containers such as cardboard boxes must be used to pack the exported beef to Japan.

**5.2** If an outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Austria, the competent authority of Austria must immediately stop issuing certification of the exported beef to Japan and notify the fact to the Japanese animal health authority.

If the exported beef to Japan has been certified and then en route to Japan at the time when outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Austria, the shipment will be prohibited from entering Japan, except where the competent authority of Austria can demonstrate that the shipment definitely bears no relation (such as, time of shipment, region of origin, route of transit) to the outbreak of the said diseases.

**5.3** If a BSE case is detected in Austria and it is epidemiologically related to the exported beef to Japan, the competent authority of Austria must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authority with the relevant information.

**5.4** In case of an outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest in the third free countries or the specified countries or zones listed in Annex 2, the competent authority of Austria must immediately

suspend the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from all the designated facilities which handle cloven-hoofed animals and their meat imported from the said country or zone and inform the Japanese animal health authority of the shipment suspension. The exported beef to Japan which is then en route to Japan must be prohibited from entering into Japan, except for the one which has no epidemiological link to the outbreak of the said diseases.

**5.5** The shipment of the exported beef to Japan described in the 5.4 may be resumed either after the Japanese animal health authority confirms that the concerned country or zone listed in Annex 2 is free from the said diseases or if the competent authority of Austria suspends the utilization of cloven-hoofed animals and their meat imported from the concerned country or zone listed in Annex 2 in the designated facilities and informs the Japanese animal health authority of the said suspension. (However, this item is not applicable to consignment of beef that is epidemiologically related to the outbreak of the said diseases.)

**5.6** In the case where the exported beef to Japan is en route to third countries, the exported beef to Japan must be stored in an enclosed ocean/air vessel container. The container must be sealed by the competent authority of Austria. The seal must be apparently distinguishable from those of the other countries/regions than Austria. In case the seal with the container has been broken or removed prior to the time of import inspection after arrival in Japan, the exported beef to Japan in question may be prohibited from being imported into Japan.

## **6 Audit by the Japanese animal health authority**

**6.1** The Japanese animal health authorities can evaluate compliance with the regulatory requirements of Austria and the Animal Health Requirements in this document by a system audit on representative samples of designated facilities. This audit may include audit of relevant records of designated facilities.

**6.2** When the audit mentioned in 6.1 above etc. finds that the animal health requirements and Austrian regulatory requirements have not been met at the designated facilities, the competent authority of Austria must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities. Thereafter, the competent authority of Austria is to revoke the designation of the said facilities. After verifying that acceptable corrective actions have been taken and informing the Japanese animal health authority of the corrective actions taken by the competent authority of Austria, the competent authority of Austria may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities.

**6.3** A system-wide problem such as repeated serious noncompliance may result in the suspension of the animal health requirements.

## **7 Requirements for casings**

In case the exported beef product to Japan uses natural casings, the natural casings must satisfy all the requirements stipulated in Annex 4.

## **8 Issue of veterinary health certificate**

**8.1** The competent authority of Austria must be responsible for issuing the veterinary health certificate for the beef to be exported to Japan, attesting the following items in detail in English, after confirming the beef to be exported to Japan complies with the animal health requirements:

- a) Name, address, function and approval number of the designated facilities (in case the relevant procedures such as slaughtering and processing were not done at the same designated facilities, each of the facilities at which the beef to be exported to Japan have been dealt with must be described on this certificate).
- b) Date of slaughter, processing/cutting and packaging (including whether casing is used or not and the kind of casings (natural or artificial))
- c) Date, authority name and place of issue of the veterinary health certificate, and name and title of signer.
- d) Identification number of the seal applied to the container (in case the container is sealed by an official seal in accordance with item 5.6).
- e) Each required condition of Items 3.1 to 3.5.

**8.2** These animal health requirements for beef, beef offal, and their products to be exported to Japan from Austria come into effect since 31 July 2023.

## **Annex 1. Requirements for the designated facilities**

- 1** Cloven-hoofed animals which can be handled at the designated facilities must be born and raised only in Austria (except for cervid animals epidemiologically related to the outbreak of Chronic wasting disease (CWD), and except for pigs epidemiologically related to the outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) or Classical swine fever (CSF)) or must be accompanied by the certificate issued by the third free or specified country and must be directly imported to Austria from and via the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, meet all of the following requirements 1.1 to 1.5.
  - 1.1** The said imported animals must be born and raised only in the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2.
  - 1.2** The slaughtered cattle were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or cohorts of BSE cases, as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH),
  - 1.3** The said imported animals must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of export inspection conducted by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries.
  - 1.4** The said imported animals must be legally imported to Austria from and via the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, and must be accompanied by veterinary health certificates issued by the government authorities of the said country.
  - 1.5** The said imported animals must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by official inspector of the competent authority of Austria.
- 2** The meat etc. which can be handled at the designated facilities must originate from cloven-hoofed animals that were born and raised only in Austria (except for deer meat etc. epidemiologically related to the outbreak of CWD, and except for pig meat etc. epidemiologically related to the outbreak of ASF or CSF), and must be handled only at the designated facilities in Austria, or must be directly imported to Austria from and via the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, except in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the third free

or specified country and accompanied by the certificate issued by the third free or specified country, must meet all of the following requirements 2.1 to 2.6.

- 2.1** The imported meat etc. must be derived from cloven-hoofed animals that were born and raised only in the third free countries or the specified countries.
  - 2.2** The imported meat etc. must be derived from cattle which were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or cohorts of BSE cases as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH).
  - 2.3** The imported meat must be derived from slaughtered cattle which meet SRM removals imposed on beef for export to Japan from the country where the cattle was imported.
  - 2.4** The imported meat etc. must be handled only at the designated facilities in the third free countries or the specified countries and be derived from cloven-hoofed animals that were free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by official veterinary inspectors of the competent authority of the third free countries or the specified countries.
  - 2.5** The imported meat etc. must be legally imported to Austria from and via the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, except in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the third free or specified country, and must be accompanied by veterinary health certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries. In case of the importation from EU member state, the imported meat etc must be derived from animals that were free from any evidence of infectious notifiable animal diseases as a result of ante mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian and post mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or official auxiliary inspectors under the supervision of the official veterinarian of the said EU member state at the designated facilities.
  - 2.6** The imported meat etc. must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the competent authority of Austria or EU member states or inspection conducted by the competent authority of another EU member state prior to the dispatch of the meat. The imported meat etc. must be directly carried into the designated facilities in Austria after the said inspection.
- 3** If the designated facilities are storage facilities and satisfy the following conditions, they can



be designated as storage facilities to handle the exported beef to Japan. In this case the said designated facilities may be used only for the temporary storage of final products until shipment.

- 3.1** The exported beef to Japan which is handled in the storage facilities must be completely wrapped and boxed, and must be completely segregated from any meat etc. other than products complying with item 2 above.
- 3.2** The exported beef to Japan must be handled to prevent cross contamination with any meat etc. other than products complying with item 2 above.
- 4** The species, quantities, production areas and date of handling (and, in case of handling animals or meat imported from the third free countries or the specified countries, the name of the country/zone of origin and date of import) must be recorded on the original records at the designated facilities. The original records must be kept for at least two years at the designated facilities.
- 5** In case of an outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest in a third free country or a specified country, the competent authority of Austria must immediately suspend the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from all the designated facilities which handle cattle and beef imported from the said third free country or the specified country and inform the Japanese animal health authority of the suspension.
  - 5.1** The exported beef to Japan that is then on route to Japan may be prohibited from being released into Japan, unless the shipment has been demonstrated to have no epidemiological relation to the outbreak of the said diseases (FMD and Rinderpest).
  - 5.2** The shipping of the exported beef to Japan described above can be resumed either in the case that the Japanese animal health authority has confirmed that the third free countries or the specified countries concerned are free from the said diseases (FMD and Rinderpest) or in the case that the competent authority of Austria suspended the entrance of cloven-hoofed animals and their meat etc. into the designated facilities from the said third free countries or the specified countries and informed the Japanese animal health authority of the said prohibition. (In any case, no shipment must be permitted of beef that is epidemiologically related to the outbreak of the said diseases (FMD and Rinderpest).)

**Annex 2. The third free countries and the specified countries**

**1.** The third free countries in respect of cloven-hoofed animals (other than cervid animals and pigs) and their meat etc. (Countries or zones approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD and BSE and eligible to export to Japan by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

**2.** The third free countries in respect of cervid animals and deer meat etc. (countries or zones approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD and CWD and eligible to export to Japan by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

**3.** The third free countries in respect of pigs and pig meat etc. (countries or zones approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD, ASF and CSF and eligible to export to Japan by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

**4.** The specified countries for export beef, sheep meat etc. or goat meat etc. to Japan other than the third free countries

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/eligible-bse-country.html>

**Annex 3. Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of beef, beef offal and their products  
eligible for export from Austria to Japan Export Verification Program (EVP Beef 2023**

#### **Annex 4. Additional animal health requirements for casings used for the exported beef, beef offal and their products to Japan from Austria**

In case the exported beef, beef offal and their products to Japan from Austria use casings, the competent authority of Austria must issue the kind of casing (natural or artificial) on the certificate.

##### **In case the natural casings are derived from cattle, sheep and goat:**

1. The natural casings must be derived from ruminants which were born and raised in the countries other than the countries listed in following URL.

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/bse.html>

2. The natural casings are free from any infectious diseases in ruminants as a result of ante-mortem veterinary inspections conducted by official inspectors and post-mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or official auxiliary inspector under the supervision of the official veterinarian of competent authority of Austria.
  - a) If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are imported from the third countries, the natural casings must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the official inspectors of the competent authority of Austria or EU member states or confirmation of the health certificates issued by the government of the country of origin.
  - b) If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are originated from another EU member state, the ante- and post-mortem inspection is conducted by the competent authority of the EU member state responsible at dispatch prior to shipment to Austria.
3. In the case that the natural casings are derived from the ruminants originated from the countries other than the countries free from Rinderpest and FMD (<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>), they must be, after processing, salted for at least 30 days with dry salt (NaCl), saturated brine ( $A_w < 0.80$ ), or phosphate supplemented dry salt containing 86.5 percent NaCl, 10.7 percent  $Na_2HPO_4$  and 2.8 percent  $Na_3PO_4$  (weight/weight/weight) in the sealed container and must be kept at a temperature of greater than 12°C during this entire period.
4. Natural casings have been handled only at the facilities approved (hereinafter referred to as “approved casing facilities”) by the competent authority of Austria as the ones which handle only casings described in items 1, 2 and 3. (In case of the casings imported from the third countries, this provision must apply to the casing facilities in the exporting countries.)
5. The competent authority of Austria must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number of the Austrian approved casing facilities in advance.

6. The competent authority of Austria must issue veterinary health certificates for the exported meat products using natural casings to Japan, stating the following items in English:
  - 1) Items 1, 2 and 3
  - 2) The kind of casings (natural or artificial), country of origin (name of the country where animals to be used for production of casings were born and raised) and animal species
  - 3) Name, address, and approval number of approved casing facilities

**In case the natural casings are derived from pig:**

1. The natural casings are free from any animal infectious diseases as a result of ante-mortem veterinary inspections conducted by official inspectors and post-mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or official auxiliary inspector under the supervision of the official veterinarian of the competent authority of Austria.
  - a) If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are imported from the third countries, the natural casings must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the official inspectors of competent authority of Austria or EU member states or confirmation of the health certificates issued by the government of the country of origin.
  - b) If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are originated from another EU member state, the ante- and post- mortem inspection is conducted by the competent authority of the EU member state responsible at dispatch prior to shipment.
2. In the case that the natural casings are derived from the animals originated from the countries other than the countries free from Rinderpest, FMD, CSF and ASF (<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>), they must be, after processing, salted for at least 30 days either with phosphate supplemented dry salt or saturated brine (Aw < 0.80) containing 86.5 percent NaCl, 10.7 percent Na<sub>2</sub>HPO<sub>4</sub> and 2.8 percent Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (weight/weight/weight) in the sealed container and must be kept at a temperature of greater than 20°C during this entire period.
3. The natural casings have been handled only at the facilities approved (hereinafter referred to as “approved casing facilities”) by the animal health authority of Austria as the ones which handle only natural casings described in items 1 and 2. (In case of the natural casings imported from the third countries, this provision must apply to the casing facilities in the exporting countries.)
4. The competent authority of Austria must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number of the Austrian approved casing facilities in advance.

5. The competent authority of Austria must issue veterinary health certificates for the exported meat products using natural casing to Japan, stating the following items in English:
  - 1) Items 1 and 2
  - 2) The kind of casings (natural or artificial), country of origin (name of the country where animals to be used for production of casings were born and raised)
  - 3) Name, address and approval number of Austrian approved casing facilities