

## 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)***

This Export Verification Program (EVP) provides the specified products processing requirements and requirements for facilities for the export of beef, beef offal and their products to Japan from Austria. This EVP comes in addition to the Austrian and EU regulations but might include some relevant domestic requirements. The Veterinary Services of the Federal Republic of Austria, hereafter called “the competent authority” is responsible to overseeing the implementation of the EVP in Austria.

#### **1 Purpose**

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

- 1.1 Ensure removal from cattle carcasses of all tissues ineligible for export to Japan;
- 1.2 Prevent cross contamination of eligible beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan from ineligible tissues during slaughter and/or processing;
- 1.4 Enable verification of compliance with Japanese import condition relating to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in addition to Austrian and EU domestic requirements.

#### **2 Scope**

This EVP applies to Austrian facilities producing beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan from Austria. The facilities shall meet the specified processing requirements and requirements for facilities for beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan from Austria. These facilities shall be designated and listed by the competent authority in accordance 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 Austria or imported into Austria 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 individual documents recording the exact date of birth and identification information of each animal.
- 3.4 All carcasses over 30 months of age shall be clearly identified by obligatory labelling.
- 3.5 An identification mark (i.e. by labelling) allowing the verification that the beef, beef offal and their products are eligible for export to Japan is applied on all products at each level of processing.
- 3.6 Records and identification information through the process shall be sufficient to trace:
  - 3.6.1 Beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan to carcasses;
  - 3.6.2 Individual carcasses to individual animal;
  - 3.6.3 Individual animal to farm of origin (obligatory bovine identification system).

#### 4 Specified Products Requirements

- 4.1 Beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan shall consist exclusively of meat, offal and their products, which the MHLW and the competent authority recognize as eligible for export to Japan.
- 4.2 Beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan shall not include any Specified Risk Material (SRM) as defined by the enforced Japanese regulation, that is to say beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan shall not include any of the following tissues:
  - 4.2.1 Tonsils (including palatine and lingual tonsils) from all cattle;
  - 4.2.2 Distal ileum (two meters from connection to caecum) from all cattle;
  - 4.2.3 Spinal cord from cattle over 30 months of age;
  - 4.2.4 Head (except for hygienically removed tongues, skin and cheek meat) from cattle over 30 months of age;
  - 4.2.5 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 over 30 months of age.
- 4.3 Beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan, and the carcasses and cattle from which they are derived should be traceable according to production records.

#### 5 Processing requirements

- 5.1 Beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan shall be processed using procedures ensuring compliance with point 4 and integrated into the facility HACCP/SSOP.
    - 5.1.1 Beef, beef offal and their products derives from (an) establishment(s) implementing a program based on the HACCP principles in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 852/2004.
  - 5.2 Verification activities for age requirements as described above must be conducted at the slaughter and processing levels.
  - 5.3 Beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan shall be processed in a manner to ensure the hygienic removal of the SRM as described above in point 4.2. and to prevent any cross-contamination by these SRM or by any beef or beef offal NOT eligible for export to Japan.
  - 5.4 The facility HACCP/SSOP shall include regular internal verification activities that allow to control the specified requirements of this EVP are effectively implemented and met.
  - 5.5 The exported beef, beef offal and their products to Japan derived from cattle must be derived from either:
    - 5.5.1 Cattle that were born and raised only in Austria, or from animals legally imported into Austria from a country recognized by the Japanese animal health authorities as:
      - a. The third free-countries for cloven-hoofed animals and meat as authorized by Japan. A link to the current list of these eligible countries will be available on Animal Health Requirements (AHR);
      - b. The eligible BSE-affected countries as identified by Japan. A link to the current list of these eligible countries will be available on AHR;
- Or
- 5.5.2 Beef, beef offal and their products legally imported into Austria from a designated facility in a country recognized by Japan as eligible to export bovine beef, beef offal and their products to Japan and shipped directly to Austria ports of entry. If transported through countries other than the eligible third-free countries or eligible BSE-affected countries, as identified on the current lists available on AHR, the imported beef, beef offal and their products must be

transported in an officially sealed container. Once inspected and passed 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 shipment of imported beef, beef offal and their products must transfer directly to the designated facility in Austria.

## **6 Designated facilities for export to Japan**

- 6.1 The designated facilities for export beef, beef offal and their products to Japan from Austria shall be facilities (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants and cold stores) approved by the competent authority following an on-site inspection. The approval of the designated facilities is under the responsibility of the competent authority in accordance with the MHLW.
- 6.2 The designated facilities shall meet the specified products and processing requirements for beef, beef offal and their products for export from Austria to Japan.
- 6.3 The designated facilities for export to Japan shall be listed by the competent authority. The competent authority shall provide annually to the MHLW an official listing of the designated facilities for export beef, beef offal and their products to Japan. The competent authority will keep the MHLW informed of any amendments as regards additions, delisting and address or activity change at the listed facilities.
- 6.4 The designated facilities for export beef, beef offal and their products to Japan from Austria are responsible for the compliance with all requirements outlined in this procedure and the Austrian and EU regulations.
- 6.5 All necessary information to verify the enforcement of the EVP by the designated facilities shall be available to the competent authority review.

## **7 Export certificate**

- 7.1 Beef, beef offal and their products for export to Japan shall be accompanied by an export certificate issued by the competent authority 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 "Austria Export Verification Program - Japan" were fulfilled".

## **8 Audit and import inspection of the MHLW**

- 8.1 The MHLW may conduct on-site audits of the Austrian inspection system including visit of the competent authority, designated facilities that export beef, beef offal and their products 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 competent authority shall take appropriate measures including corrective and/or preventive action.

**These requirements for beef, beef offal and their products for export from Austria to Japan will go into effect on July 31st, 2023.**