



Schweiz / Suisse / Svizzera / Switzerland

Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of beef, beef offal and beef products 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 edible beef, beef offal and beef products to Japan from Switzerland. This EVP comes in addition to the Swiss regulations. The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) is the competent authority overseeing the implementation of the EVP in Switzerland.

1 Purpose

This EVP describes the standards that slaughterhouses and processing facilities shall meet in producing beef, beef offal and beef products 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, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan from ineligible tissues during slaughter and/or processing;
- Ensure that only cattle of 30 months of age or less are prepared and certified for export to Japan;
- Enable verification of compliance with Japan import conditions relating to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in addition to Swiss domestic requirements.

2 Scope

This EVP applies to Swiss facilities producing beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan from Switzerland. The facilities shall meet the specified processing requirements and requirements for facilities for beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan from Switzerland. These facilities shall be designated and listed by the FSVO in agreement with the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

3 Identification and traceability records

3.1 The exported beef, beef offal and their products to Japan derived from cattle must be derived from either:

3.1.1 Cattle (*Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*) that were born and raised only in Switzerland, or from animals legally imported into Switzerland from a country recognized by the Japanese animal health authorities as:

- i. 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 the Annex of Animal Health Requirements (AHR).
- ii. The eligible BSE-affected countries as identified by Japan. A link to the current list of these eligible countries will be available on the Annex of AHR.

3.1.2 Beef, beef offal and their products legally imported into Switzerland 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 Switzerland 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

- competent authority under the supervision of the FSVO, the shipment of imported beef, beef offal and their products must transfer directly to the designated facility in Switzerland.
- 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 complying with point 4.1 shall be clearly identified through records in the animal movement database (AMD).
 - 3.5 An identification mark allowing the verification that the beef, beef offal and beef product 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, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan back to individual carcasses;
 - 3.6.2 Individual carcasses to individual animals;
 - 3.6.3 Individual animals back to farm records.

4 Specified Products Requirements

- 4.1 Beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan shall be derived from cattle that are 30 months of age or less at the time of slaughter.
- 4.2 Beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan shall be exclusively meat, offal and their products, which the MHLW and FSVO recognize as eligible for export to Japan.
- 4.3 Beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan shall not include any Specified Risk Material (SRM) as defined by the Japanese regulations, that is to say beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan shall not include any of the following tissues:
 - 4.3.1 Tonsils (palatine and lingual 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 over 30 months of age;
 - 4.3.4 Head (except for hygienically removed tongues, cheek meat and hide) from cattle over 30 months 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 over 30 months of age.
- 4.4 Beef, beef offal and beef products 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, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan shall be processed using procedures ensuring compliance with point 4 and integrated into the facility HACCP/SSOP.
- 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, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan shall be processed in a manner to ensure the hygienic removal of the SRM as described above in point 4.3. and to prevent any cross-contamination by these SRM.
- 5.4 The facility HACCP/SSOP shall include internal verification procedures 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, beef offal and beef products to Japan from Switzerland shall be facilities (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants and cold stores) approved by the competent Swiss authority following an on-site inspection. The approval of the designated facilities is under the responsibility of the FSVO in accordance with the MHLW.
- 6.2 The designated facilities shall meet the specified products and processing requirements for beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan from Switzerland.
- 6.3 The designated facilities for export to Japan shall be listed by the FSVO; the FSVO shall provide to the MHLW an official listing of the designated facilities for the export of beef, beef offal and beef products to Japan. The FSVO will continuously inform the MHLW of any amendments or changes in the list of designated facilities.
- 6.4 The designated facilities for export beef, beef offal and beef products to Japan from Switzerland are responsible for the compliance with all requirements outlined in this procedure and the Swiss regulations.
- 6.5 All necessary information to verify the enforcement of the EVP by the designated facilities shall be available to the FSVO for review.

7 Export certificate

- 7.1 Beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan shall be accompanied by an export certificate authorized and validated under the responsibility of the FSVO and issued by the competent cantonal 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 contain the following statement: “The beef, beef offal and beef products meet the EVP requirements”.

8 Audit and import inspection of the MHLW

- 8.1 The MHLW may conduct on-site audits of the Swiss inspection system including visits of the FSVO, designated facilities that export beef, beef offal and beef 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 FSVO shall take appropriate measures including corrective and/or preventive action.

These requirements for beef, beef offal and beef products for export to Japan from Switzerland will go into effect on 30.10.2021