

Animal Health Requirements for beef, beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Sweden

Animal Health Requirements for beef, beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Sweden 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 and beef offal and their products" means

meat and viscera derived from cattle which meet all conditions and specifications described in "Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of beef, beef offal and their products eligible for export to Japan – Export Verification Program" as attached in Annex 3.

1·(3) "the exported beef to Japan" means

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

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 authorities" means

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

1·(6) "the third free countries etc." means

countries and zones approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the export of meat etc. to Japan and that are listed in Annex 2.

1·(7) "the specified countries" means

countries approved by the Ministry of agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the export of beef and beef offal to Japan other than third free countries as listed in Annex 2 - 4.

1·(8) "the designated facilities" means

the slaughterhouses, meat processing facilities and storage facilities, etc. which are designated by the competent authorities of Sweden (or the government authorities of the third free countries etc. or the specified countries in case of Article 2-(2) of Annex 1) as facilities which meet all the requirements in Articles 1 to 4 of Annex 1, in Annex 3 and Annex 4 for the exported beef to Japan.

2. General requirements

2·(1) Sweden is free from Foot and mouth disease (FMD) and Rinderpest, and vaccination against FMD and Rinderpest is legally prohibited in Sweden.

2·(2) Importation of cloven-hoofed animals that have been vaccinated against FMD and Rinderpest is completely prohibited in Sweden.

2·(3) The Government of Sweden will continue to maintain measures to prevent introduction, control spread, and detect Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). These measures include SRM removal, effective feed ban, and a surveillance program. In case that the Government of Sweden intends to amend or abolish the regulations or measures on BSE, the Authorities of Sweden should inform the Japanese

animal health authorities of the fact in advance.

2·(4) The exported beef to Japan must be slaughtered, produced and stored only in the designated facilities.

3. Notification of the designated facilities

3·(1) The competent authorities of Sweden must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, activities, address and establishment number 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 authorities of Sweden as changes in facility status occur.

The competent authorities of Sweden must confirm through an ordinary monitoring or periodic audit that the designated facilities are fulfilling the required conditions in Annex 1, Annex 3 and Annex 4.

If during ordinary monitoring or periodic audits of the designated facilities, the competent authorities of Sweden identify a serious noncompliance with the conditions in Annex 1, Annex 3 and Annex 4 the competent authorities of Sweden must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities, and must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, activities, address and establishment number of the said facilities. Thereafter, the competent authorities of Sweden are to revoke the designation of the said facilities.

After verifying that acceptable corrective actions have been taken and informing the Japanese animal health authorities of the corrective actions taken by the competent authorities of Sweden, the competent authorities of Sweden may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities.

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

4. Requirements for shipment

4·(1) The exported beef to Japan must have been handled at the designated facilities in such a way as to prevent contamination with any causative agents of animal infectious diseases. Clean and sanitary wrappings and/or containers such as cardboard boxes must be used to pack the exported beef to Japan.

4·(2) If an outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Sweden, the competent authorities of Sweden must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan.

If the exported beef to Japan has been certified and in transit to Japan at the time of the outbreak, the shipment will be prohibited entry into Japan, except where the competent authorities of Sweden 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.

4·(3) If a BSE case is detected in Sweden and it is epidemiologically related to the exported beef to Japan, the competent authorities of Sweden must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authorities with the relevant information.

4·(4) In the case where the exported beef to Japan is transported to Japan by way of third countries, the exported beef to Japan must be stored in an enclosed ocean/air vessel container. The competent authorities of Sweden must close the container with an official seal, which is apparently distinguishable from those of the other countries/regions than Sweden. The form of official seal must be approved in advance by the Japanese animal health authorities. In case the official seal with the container had 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 to import into Japan.

5. Requirements for the exported beef to Japan

5·(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 Sweden, or directly and legally imported from the specified countries listed in Article 4 of Annex 2 and raised in Sweden, or directly and legally imported from the third free countries etc. (except for BSE affected countries/regions) listed in Article 1 of Annex 2 and raised in Sweden.

Beef, beef offal and their products that are directly and legally imported from the specified countries in Article 4 of Annex 2 or the third free countries etc. (except for BSE affected countries/regions) in Article 1 of Annex 2, excepts in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the specified countries or the third free countries etc. and accompanied by the certificate issued by the specified countries in Article 4 of Annex 2 or the third free countries etc. and completely meet all the requirements in Article 2 of Annex 1 can also be used for the production of the exported beef to Japan.

5·(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 for Animal Health (WOAH).

The "cohorts of BSE cases" are to be deleted in this Article 5·(2) from April 1, 2024.

5·(3) The slaughtered cattle were found to be sound and healthy 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 Sweden in the designated facilities at the time of slaughter.

5·(4) The exported beef to Japan has been handled at the designated facilities in such a way as to prevent contamination with any causative agents of animal infectious diseases until shipment to Japan.

6. Audit by the Japanese animal health authorities

6·(1) The Japanese animal health authorities can evaluate Sweden's regulatory system through a representative sample of the designated facilities etc. and audit the original relevant records etc. as part of a system audit of Sweden's regulatory requirements and these animal health requirements.

When it is found that the animal health requirements and Sweden's regulatory requirements have not been met at the designated facilities, the competent authorities of Sweden must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities.

If the competent authorities of Sweden verify corrective actions at the said facilities, the competent authorities of Sweden may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities after informing the Japanese animal health authorities of the corrective actions verified by the competent authorities of Sweden.

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

7. Requirements for casings

7·(1) 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 health certificate

8·(1) The competent authorities of Sweden must be responsible for issuing the health certificate for the exported beef to Japan, stating the following items in detail in English, after confirming the exported beef to Japan complies with the animal health requirements;

- (i) Name, address, activities and establishment number of the designated facilities (in case the relevant procedures such as slaughtering and processing were not done at the same designated facility, each of the facilities at which the beef to be exported to Japan has been dealt with must be described on this certificate)
- (ii) Period of slaughter, processing/cutting and packaging
- (iii) Whether casing is used, and the kind of casings (natural or artificial)
- (iv) In case natural casing is used, the details described in Annex 4
- (v) Origin of animals (in case cattle were imported from the third free countries or the specified countries)
- (vi) Date of import (in case cattle and beef were imported from the third free countries or the specified countries)
- (vii) Date, authority name and place of issue of the health certificate, and name and title of signer
- (viii) Identification number of the seal applied to the container (in case the container is sealed by the official seal approved by the Japanese animal health authorities in accordance with Article 4·(4)).
- (ix) Each required condition of Articles 5·(1) to 5·(4).

8·(2) These Animal health requirements for beef and beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Sweden come into effect from 27 December 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 Sweden (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 directly imported to Sweden from the third free countries etc. or the specified countries as listed in Annex 2 (in the case of cloven-hoofed animals other than deer and pigs, in Article 1 and Article 4 of Annex 2; in the case of deer, in Article 2 of Annex 2; in the case of pigs, in Article 3 of Annex 2) and meet all of the following requirements 1-(1) to (4).

1-(1) The said animals must be born and raised only in the third free countries etc. or the specified countries.

1-(2) The said animals must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of export inspection conducted by the animal health authorities of the third free countries etc. or the specified countries.

1-(3) The said animals must be directly imported to Sweden from the third free countries etc. without transiting through countries other than the said third countries etc. or the specified countries and must be accompanied by inspection certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries etc. or the specified countries.

1-(4) The said animals must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the animal health authorities of Sweden.

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 Sweden (except for cervid meat and viscera epidemiologically related to the outbreak of Chronic wasting disease (CWD), and except for pig- meat and -viscera epidemiologically related to the outbreak of ASF or CSF), and be handled only at the designated facilities in Sweden, or must be directly imported to Sweden from the third free countries etc. or the specified countries as listed in Annex 2 (in the case of the meat, etc. derived from cloven-hoofed animals other than deer and pigs, in countries listed in Article 1 and Article 4 of Annex 2; in the case of deer meat, etc., in countries listed in Article 2 of Annex 2; in the case of pig meat, etc. in Article 3 of Annex 2) and meet all of the following requirements 2-(1) to (4).

2-(1) The imported meat etc. must be derived from cloven-hoofed animals that were born and raised only in the third free countries etc. or the specified countries.

2-(2) The imported meat etc. must be handled only at the designated facilities in the third free countries etc. 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 veterinarians of the third free countries etc. or the specified countries.

2-(3) The imported meat etc. must be directly and legally imported to Sweden from the third free countries etc. or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries etc. or the specified countries, except in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the said third free countries etc. or the specified countries and must be accompanied by health certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries etc. or the specified countries.

2-(4) The imported meat etc. must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the competent authority and must be directly transferred into the designated facilities in Sweden 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 isolated from any meat etc. other than products which comply with Article 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 Article 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 etc. 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, Rinderpest, ASF or CSF in a third free country etc. or a specified country, the competent authorities of Sweden must immediately suspend the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from all the designated facilities which handle cloven-hoofed animals and their meat etc. (for ASF and CSF, limited to pigs and pig meat) imported from the said third free country etc. or the said specified country and inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the suspension.

The exported beef to Japan that is then en route to Japan may be prohibited from being released into Japan, except for beef that definitely has no epidemiological relation to the outbreak of the said diseases.

The shipping prohibition of the exported beef to Japan described above must be resumed either in case the Japanese animal health authorities has confirmed that the third free countries etc. concerned are free from the said diseases or in case the competent authorities of Sweden suspended the entrance of cloven-hoofed animals and their meat etc. into the designated facilities from the said third free countries etc. and informed the Japanese animal health authorities 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.)

Annex 2. The third free countries etc.

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 etc. in respect of cervid animals and deer meat (countries or zones approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD and Chronic wasting disease and eligible to export to Japan by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan or the Japanese animal health authorities)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:
<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

3. The third free countries etc. in respect of pigs and pig meat (countries or zones approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD, African swine fever and Classical swine fever and eligible to export to Japan by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan or the Japanese animal health authorities)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:
<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

4. The specified countries for export beef and beef offal 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. Requirements for the designated facilities by MHLW

**Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of beef, beef offal
and their products eligible for export from Sweden to Japan**

Export Verification Program EVP

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

In case the exported beef, beef offal and their products to Japan from Sweden use casings, the competent authority of Sweden 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 Sweden.

- 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 Sweden 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 Sweden.

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 Sweden 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 Sweden must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number of the Swedish approved casing facilities in advance.

6. The competent authority of Sweden must issue veterinary health certificates for the exported meat products using natural casing 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 Sweden.

- 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 Sweden or EU member states or confirmation of the health certificates issued by the government of the country of origin.

- b) If the natural casings to produce 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 ($A_w < 0.80$) 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 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 Sweden 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 Sweden must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number of the Sweden approved casing facilities in advance.

5. The competent authority of Sweden 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 Swedish approved casing facilities