



USDA BEEF EXPORT VERIFICATION (EV) PROGRAM: SPECIFIED PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS FOR BISON (BUFFALO) – CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

1 Purpose

This document provides the specified product requirements for marketing U.S. bison (buffalo) to Canada and the European Union (EU) under the USDA Export Verification (EV) Program.

2 Scope

These requirements apply to U.S. suppliers (slaughterers, fabricators, or processors) of bison, bison products, and bison offal items that are eligible for export to Canada and/or the EU as listed on the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) export website. Suppliers must meet the specified product requirements for Canada and the EU under the EV Program through an approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program. The requirements for the QSA Program are defined in QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*. The QSA Program ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system.

Only suppliers with an approved USDA QSA Program for the EV Program for Canada and the EU may label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements for Canada and the EU under the EV Program.

3 References

QAD 1000 Procedure: *Quality Systems Verification Programs, General Policies and Procedures*

QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment Program*

QAD 1030: *EV Programs Additional Requirements*

[USDA FSIS: Export Library – Requirements by Country website](#)

[Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA Bovine EV Programs](#)

4 Specified Product Requirements for Live Animals (For European Union Only)

- 4.1 Production records must be maintained for a minimum of three years.
- 4.2 The company must provide evidence of regular veterinary visits to the farm or ranch. The frequency of these visits should at minimum be annually. The supplier must provide the harvest facility with an affidavit indicating that this requirement is met.



- 4.3 The company must maintain an approved suppliers listing. The approved suppliers listing must:
- a) Identify the supplier's name, address, and approval date; and
 - b) Be available to the USDA for review.
- 4.4 The company must maintain the date that suppliers were removed from the suppliers listing.

5 Specified Product Requirements

- 5.1 Bison (buffalo) and bison products must meet the following requirements:
- 5.1.1 For Canada - does not contain the following specified risk material (SRM): skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia, eyes, spinal cord, dorsal root ganglia, vertebral column, excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum, from bovine animals aged 30 months and older; and the distal ileum of the small intestine and tonsils from bovine animals of all ages. (9 CFR 310.22).
 - 5.1.2 For the EU - does not contain the following SRM: vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the cervical, thoracic, and lumbar vertebrae, and the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum) and the dorsal root ganglia of bison 30 months of age and older; and the skull (excluding the mandible), brain, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils, the last four meters of the small intestine, the caecum, and mesentery of all bison. In addition, product must not be derived from mechanically separated meat.

6 Shipping Documentation

- 6.1 Identification of conforming product during shipment and delivery must be documented on the shipping documentation (bills of lading, shipping manifests, or letters of guarantee). The shipping documentation must:
- 6.1.1 Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and
 - 6.1.2 Contain one of the following applicable statements:
 - 6.1.2.1 "Product Meets EV Program Requirements for Canada and the EU" - This statement is used for finished items that are eligible for export.



6.1.2.2 “Product meets EV Program Requirements for Canada and the EU excluding final fabrication requirements” - This statement is used for items that must be further fabricated to meet all requirements prior to being eligible for export.

7 Listing of Approved Programs

U.S. suppliers that have an approved USDA QSA Program and have demonstrated the ability to produce products in accordance with the EV Program for Canada and the EU will be listed on the *Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA Bovine EV Programs*. U.S. suppliers meeting clause 4.1.1 will be uniquely identified on the *Official Listing*.

8 Responsibilities

U.S. suppliers must meet all policies and procedures outlined in this procedure, QAD 1000 Procedure: *Quality Systems Verification Programs, General Policies and Procedures*, and QAD1002 Procedure: *Quality System Assessment Program*.

Jeff Waite, Branch Chief
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