USDA EXPORT VERIFICATION (EV) PROGRAM SPECIFIED PRODUCT REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS (SRM)-FREE BOVINE INEDIBLE RAW MATERIALS

1 Purpose

This USDA Export Verification (EV) Program for SRM-Free Bovine Inedible Raw Materials sets forth the requirements to produce SRM-free bovine inedible raw materials intended for use as an ingredient in U.S. animal feed, pet food, and other products that are offered for export to countries requiring the product to be free of bovine SRM.

2 Scope

This Program may be used by U.S. companies that supply bovine inedible raw materials intended for use as an ingredient in U.S. animal feed, pet food, and other products. Companies must meet the specified product requirements of this 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 Program*. The QSA Program ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system.

Inspections of rendering facilities that receive SRM-free bovine inedible raw materials produced under this Program are conducted by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services.

Note: For the purposes of this program, Bovine represents both beef and bison products.

3 Reference Documents

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

QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment Program*

Official Listing of Approved Companies to the EV Program

4 Requirements

4.1 U.S. companies must meet all applicable policies and procedures outlined in this document, QAD 1000 Procedure, and QAD 1002 Procedure.

4.2 Harvest facilities must implement a QSA-EV Program to meet the requirements of this document.

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

5.1 Production records must be maintained for a minimum of three years.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 The company must also maintain the date that suppliers were removed from the suppliers listing.

6 Specified Product Requirements

6.1 For Canada - bovine SRMs must be removed from inedible raw materials. The following materials from cattle and bison are specified risk materials for Canada: the brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia of cattle 30 months of age and older; the tonsils of all cattle and bison; and the distal ileum of all cattle and bison. (9 CFR 310.22). In addition to the exclusion of SRMs, raw materials intended for production of bone-derived gelatin for export to Canada must be derived from carcasses that have passed FSIS post-mortem inspection.

6.2 For the European Union - product must be derived from carcasses that have passed FSIS post-mortem inspection. Bovine SRMs must be removed from inedible raw materials. For the purposes of this program, the following materials from cattle and bison are specified risk materials for the European Union: 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 cattle and 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 cattle and bison. In addition, product must not be derived from mechanically separated meat.

6.3 For bovine blood exported to Canada, product must be collected in a manner to ensure the blood is free of SRMs.

6.3.1 If a penetrating stunner is used, and if animals are 30 months of age or older, the knock hole must be plugged with edible (food grade) grease or a plastic screw.

6.3.2 If a penetrating stunner is used, and the age of the animals has been verified at the time of harvest, blood may be collected without plugging the knock hole.

6.3.3 If the age of the animals is not known at the time of harvest, and the dentition process occurs after the point of sticking, all knock holes must be plugged on all animals to ensure conformance.

6.3.4 A corrective and preventive action plan must be in place to address contamination of blood with SRM material, in the event this occurs.

Note 1: The faceplate of all animals, regardless of age, must be scraped clean of any obvious contamination.

Note 2: If an animal has to be stunned two or more times, the entire head of the animal must be bagged.

7 Shipping Documentation

7.1 Shipping documentation is not required when conforming product is delivered to an onsite rendering facility that is in conjunction with the harvest or processing facility.

7.2 Shipping documentation is required when conforming product is delivered to an offsite rendering facility that is not in conjunction with the harvest or processing facility.

7.2.1 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:

7.2.1.1 Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and

7.2.1.2 Contain the following statement: “Product meets EV Program requirements for production of SRM-free bovine inedible raw materials.” The statement must identify the country. (For example: “Product meets EV Program requirements for production of SRM-free bovine inedible raw materials for Canada.”)

7.3 Shipping documentation is required when conforming product is delivered to a facility for inclusion in animal feed, pet food, and/or other products.

7.3.1 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:

7.3.1.1 Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and

7.3.1.2 Contain the following statement: "Product meets EV Program requirements for SRM-free bovine inedible raw materials." The statement must identify the country. (For example: "Product meets EV Program requirements for production of SRM-free bovine inedible raw materials for Canada.")

8 Product Lists

8.1 Companies must maintain an SRM-Free product list.

8.2 The product list must:

8.2.1 Be in the approved Excel format.

8.2.2 Provide the following information for each item on the list.

8.2.2.1 FSIS Establishment Number

8.2.2.2 Establishment Name

8.2.2.3 Establishment Location (City and State)

8.2.2.4 Type of Facility (Slaughter, fabricator, processor); and

8.2.2.5 Description of product

8.2.3 Be divided by country.

8.2.4 The product list should be submitted to QAD.AuditService@usda.gov for initial review and approval and when changes are made.

9 Listing of Approved Programs

Only U.S. companies that have an approved USDA QSA Program that meets the specified product requirements for SRM-free bovine inedible raw materials are listed on the *Official Listing of Approved Companies to the EV Program for SRM-Free Bovine Inedible Raw Materials*.

Jeff Waite, Branch Chief
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