



EV Program for Japan – Clarification of Specified Product Requirements

December 30, 2005
(Revised and Effective July 25, 2006)

Within all quality management systems opportunities for continuous improvement exist and when identified must be address with corrective action. During the recent plant reviews conducted by the joint Government of Japan and USDA audit teams; AMS was provided with specific areas that require immediate corrective action. Please review the following issues and revise your Quality System Assessment, Export Verification (QSA/EV) for Japan program to address the following areas, as necessary.

1. QSA/EV for Japan Program Manuals

Plants must provide FSIS officials with a copy of their approved QSA/EV Program for Japan manual. The manual may be provided in either electronic or a hard copy format.

2. Canadian Cattle with Birthdates Verified by CFIA

Suppliers of Canadian age-verified cattle based solely on CFIA verified birth dates must be included on the plant's approved suppliers listing.

3. Removal of SRM's

Removal of the spinal cord must be conducted prior to the final FSIS inspection station.

Vertebral columns from carcasses of cattle 20 months of age or younger must be removed during fabrication of product destined for Japan. The removal of the vertebral columns must be conducted in the same manner as the plant's current documented procedures for removal of the vertebral columns from carcasses of cattle 30 months of age and older. Plants must include this procedure in their QSA/EV for Japan program.

4. Carcasses from Cattle 30 months of age or older

Carcasses from cattle aged 30 months or older must be segregated from carcasses destined for the QSA/EV for Japan program.

5. Offal – Hygienically removed of cheek meat

If a plant is saves cheek meat for export to Japan, the cheek meat must be removed from the head separate from other head meat and tissues. The cheek meat must not be commingled with head meat and tissues at any time.

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