



PROCEDURES FOR GRADING BEEF CARCASSES FOR EXPORT

Purpose

This Instruction defines Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch procedures for grading beef carcasses for export.

Applicant Responsibility

1. Must request an exemption prior to requesting grading services (See MGC Instruction 106).
2. Must declare, in advance, to the AMS agent which procedure (5th Rib, 6th Rib or Opposite Side) will be followed. No mixing or switching of procedures shall be allowed.

5th and 6th\6th and 7th Rib Procedure

1. Quality Grade.
 - a. Marbling requirements for carcasses ribbed at the 5th-6th or 6th-7th ribs will be the same as for carcasses ribbed normally (12th-13th ribs) for the Choice, Select, and Standard grades and one (1) degree lower (Moderate) for the Prime grade.
 - b. Lean maturity requirements for carcasses ribbed at the 5th-6th or 6th-7th ribs will be the same as for carcasses ribbed normally (12th-13th ribs) for all grades.
 - c. These evaluations will be based on the appearance of the cut surface of the longissimus dorsi muscle only.
2. Yield Grade
 - a. Carcass weight and percentage of kidney, pelvic, and heart fat will be evaluated the same as for all carcasses.
 - b. Preliminary yield grade for carcasses ribbed at the 5th or 6th rib will be based on the thickness of fat over the 12th-13th rib as determined by a probe. The probe shall be made at a point to correspond to three-fourths of the length of the ribeye from its chine bone end. This measurement shall be adjusted, as necessary, as detailed in the beef carcass yield grade standards.
 - c. Ribeye area determination for 5th-6th Rib Procedure will be the area of the longissimus dorsi muscle multiplied by 2.5.
 - d. Ribeye area determination for 6th-7th Rib Procedure will be the area of the

longissimus dorsi muscle multiplied by 2.0.

- e. Adjustments for ribeye area shall be limited to one yield grade from what would be considered normal for the weight, for either procedure.

3. Roller Branding

- a. When carcasses are graded at the 5th or 6th rib, these provisions are exceptions to normal grading provisions for export purposes only.
- b. The grade identification and roller brand will be applied only to those portions of the carcass to be exported.
- c. The roller brand shall contain the word "EXPORT" between the grade designations.

4. Opposite Side Procedure

- a. Carcasses may be graded based on the characteristics of one side at the 12th rib (normal requirements); and the opposite side may be separated at the 5th-6th or 6th-7th ribs instead of the 12th-13th ribs and shipped.
- b. Carcasses graded by this procedure may have the grade designation and roller brand applied in the normal manner.

11th Rib Procedure

1. Quality Grade

- a. Marbling and lean maturity requirements for carcasses ribbed at the 11th-12th ribs will be the same as for carcasses ribbed normally (12th-13th ribs).
- b. These evaluations will be based on the appearance of the cut surface of the longissimus dorsi (ribeye) muscle only.
- c. No appeals of the grade will be allowed unless the carcass is ribbed between the 12th and 13th rib.

2. Yield Grade

- a. Yield grading is not an option under this procedure. Carcasses using this procedure will be quality graded only.

3. Roller Branding

- a. When carcasses are graded at the 11th rib for export, these provisions are exceptions to normal roller branding provisions for export purposes only.
- b. The grade identification and roller brand will be applied only to those portions of the carcass to be exported.

- c. The roller brand shall contain the word "EXPORT" between the grade designations.
- d. No portion of a carcass can be roller branded for grade under these procedures unless it is to be exported

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