



## Verification for the European Union High Quality Beef Quota

### 1 Purpose

This document outlines the procedure to verify that cattle and beef carcasses have met the requirements of the European Union (EU) High Quality Beef (HQB) quota as defined in *European Commission Regulation No. 620/2009, Annex 1*.

### 2 Scope

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Livestock and Seed (LS) Program, Grading and Verification Division (GVD) conducts the verification activities for the EU HQB quota.

### 3 References

*European Commission Regulation No. 620/2009, Annex 1, Requirements for products under the tariff quota referred to in Article 1(1)*

*GVD 1001 Procedure, USDA Process Verified Program*

*GVD 1013C Form, AMS Statement of Verification for High Quality Beef*

*GVD 1040 Procedure, Livestock Feeding Claims Audit Program*

*GVD 1040A Form, AMS Declaration of Carcass Evaluation*

*Official Listing of Approved Sources of Non-Hormone Treated Cattle*

*Official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef*

*FSIS Form 2630-9, Certificate of Authenticity*

### 4 Responsibilities

#### 4.1 The GVD is responsible for the following:

- a) Conducting audits of the USDA-approved service providers and feedlots in accordance with *GVD 1001 Procedure* and/or *GVD 1040 Procedure*. The audits verify feeding practices and rations to ensure conformance to the EU HQB quota.
- b) Verifying feeding practices and records to ensure conformance to the EU HQB quota.
- c) Issuing *GVD 1013C Form* for cattle and beef carcasses that conform to the EU HQB quota.

#### 4.2 GVD employees conduct evaluations of carcasses intended for use under the EU HQB quota.

#### 4.3 Slaughter facilities are responsible for the following:

- a) Submitting documents and records, including a copy of the signed *GVD 1040A Form*, to the GVD to verify conformance to the EU HQB quota;
- b) Providing the *GVD 1040A Form* to GVD employees prior to carcasses being evaluated; and
- c) Providing the signed *GVD 1013C Form* to the FSIS employee to facilitate the signing of the *FSIS Form 2630-9*.

#### 4.4 USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) employees are responsible for signing the *FSIS Form 2630-9*.

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## **5 Procedures (Sections 5.1 through 5.4)**

### **5.1 General Requirements**

- 5.1.1 Cattle must be from a USDA-approved NHTC Program, as listed on the *Official Listing of Approved Sources of Non-Hormone Treated Cattle*, **as well as** a USDA approved LFCA Program, as listed on the *Official Listing of Approved Companies to the Livestock Feeding Claims Audit Program*.
- 5.1.2 Cattle must be verified as conforming to the feeding practices and rations of the EU HQB quota in accordance with Section 5.2 below.
- 5.1.3 All carcasses exported under the EU HQB quota must be evaluated in accordance with Section 5.3 below.

### **5.2 Verification of Feeding Practices and Rations**

- 5.2.1 The GVD receives and reviews documents (e.g. feeding affidavits) on a lot-by-lot basis to verify that cattle are derived from a feedlot approved under the *GVD 1040 Procedure*. The feedlot may be approved by the GVD or an USDA-approved service provider.

### **5.3 AMS Declaration of Carcass Evaluation**

- 5.3.1 GVD employees evaluate each lot of carcasses intended for use under the EU HQB quota. Carcasses are evaluated using the *Official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef*.
- 5.3.2 GVD employees complete and sign *GVD 1040A Form* for each lot of carcasses evaluated.
- 5.3.3 The GVD receives the signed *GVD 1040A Form* and verifies that carcasses are from cattle verified as meeting the feeding practices and rations as outlined in Section 5.2.

### **5.4 AMS Statement of Verification**

- 5.4.1 Once cattle and beef carcasses are determined to conform to the EU HQB quota, the GVD issues *GVD 1013C Form*.
- 5.4.2 The GVD provides an electronic copy of the signed *GVD 1013C Form* to the slaughter facility.
- 5.4.3 The signed *GVD 1013C Form* must be presented to the FSIS employee to facilitate the signing of *FSIS Form 2630-9*.