



**AMERICAN HEREFORD ASSOCIATION  
LIVE ANIMAL SPECIFICATION  
SPECIFICATION FOR CHARACTERISTICS OF  
CATTLE ELIGIBLE FOR APPROVED BEEF PROGRAMS  
CLAIMING HEREFORD INFLUENCE**

## **1 SCOPE**

This specification sets forth the requirements for live cattle which qualify for certification in approved beef programs claiming Hereford influence. Cattle may be qualified for these programs by meeting either the Genotype or Phenotype requirements specified below.

## **2 REQUIREMENTS**

**2.1 Genotype.** Cattle eligible for Hereford influence beef programs based on genotype must have positive identification (ear tags, tattoos, brands, etc.) and be traceable back to provable (e.g., registration papers) Hereford parentage. Qualifying cattle must be traceable to one registered parent or two registered grandparents. Programs which claim a specified percentage of Hereford heritage must use this method. Qualification can be based upon a signed affidavit provided by the cattle breeder that verifies the cattle are at least genetically  $\frac{1}{2}$  Hereford breeding and British bred (Angus, Red Angus, Shorthorn, Hereford, or South Devon). All genotype cattle must be the direct offspring of a registered Hereford bull or cow. This affidavit must be submitted to a representative of the American Hereford Association (AHA) prior to feedlot qualification. Cattle qualifying by genotype documentation must be presented for harvest as a unique lot separated from all phenotype qualified cattle and non-qualifying cattle and designated as “Genotype” cattle on the kill sheet.

**2.2 Phenotype.** Cattle eligible for certification in Hereford influence beef programs based on phenotype (appearance) must have a predominately (51%) white face. Cattle must exhibit white markings over the jaw, forehead, and muzzle. Cattle must have white markings on all three locations or they are unacceptable. Cattle must exhibit some or all of the traditional markings of a Hereford or Hereford/English crossbred animal such as white on the face and neck. White markings on any part of the hip, shoulder or side of the body such as spots, stripes, or belts are not acceptable. Cattle offered for qualification other than solid red, solid black, or roan with a predominately white face, such as yellow, gray, brown, brindle, or smoke are ineligible. Carcasses of certified live animals which display certain non-Hereford characteristics (e.g., dairy conformation, Holsteins, Brahman humps) will be excluded as specified in the carcass specifications for approved programs. Steers and heifers presented for AHA qualification must be of beef type breeding. Animals must express some evidence of muscle bulge. Although not limited to, this bulge is best observed in the large muscles of the round. An animal expressing dairy type breeding (dairy-type head, prominent “hook” bones, large “barrel-like” body, etc.) typically has muscles in the round which are semi-flat to concave or “dished” in appearance. Such animals are not acceptable. Cattle offered for qualification must not have an



excessive hump on the withers (protruding above the top line), excessively long ears (ears that project downward from the head) or an elongated head indicative of bos indicus genetics. The hump on the withers should not be confused with a crest on the neck, which is normal for many thick muscled cattle, particularly males. To qualify, cattle may be either horned or polled. Bulls, bullocks, or cows are not acceptable.

### 3 QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

**3.1 Genotype.** Compliance with genotypic requirements must be determined and controlled through a Quality Assessment Division (QAD) approved quality management program.

**3.2 Phenotype.** Three options are available to ensure that live animals comply with the specified requirements: (1) Continuous USDA supervision, (2) Ante-mortem lot inspection, and (3) program monitoring. Under the first two options, QAD personnel certify that the animals meet the specified requirements prior to harvest. Procedures for these two options will be developed on an individual plant basis and must be approved by the local QAD supervisor. Under option 3, the procedures described in 3.2.1 are followed.

#### 3.2.1 Program Monitoring Procedures.

##### Certified Hereford Beef (CHB) Harvest Monitoring Procedures

At the time of harvest the approved personnel must determine those animals that meet the CHB Live Animal Specifications and identify the carcasses of those animals with a “C” stamp. With regard to cattle that are genetically identified, the identity of the qualifying lot must be maintained until the “C” stamp is applied to the carcass.

Quality Assessment Division personnel must conduct unannounced, random checks of the AHA approved personnel to monitor compliance with these procedures. AHA approved personnel must be designated with a program specified helmet sticker. QAD personnel must observe the work of the approved plant employee for a period of two to five minutes. During that period defects must be recorded for any animal which is identified with a “C” stamp, but which fails to meet one or more of the specified requirements.

Frequency of observations must be determined according to the rate of harvest during a designated work shift as shown in Table 1. Any observations shown in Table II as defects must be recorded during each monitoring period.



**TABLE I. MONITORING FREQUENCY**

Harvest Rate	Frequency 1/
<u>Number of cattle/shift</u>	<u>Number of monitoring periods 2/</u>
Up to 500	2
501 – 1,000	4
1,001 – 1,500	6
1,501 – 2,000	8
Over 2,000	10

1/ The QAD personnel must randomly determine the times of actual observation before the beginning of the harvest shift.

2/ The QAD personnel must observe the work of the approved plant employee for a period of not less than 2 nor more than 5 minutes.



**TABLE II. LIVE ANIMAL AND CARCASS DEFECTS**

Defect Categories

Major	Minor	Defects
101		30 percent or less of the face is white.
	201	31 percent to 50 percent of the face is white.
102		Cattle with 50 percent white face are other than solid red, solid black, or roan.
	202	Cattle with 50 percent white face are light red and do not show additional Hereford markings.
103		Cattle with markings on the hip, shoulder, or side of the body including spots, stripes, or belts.
104		Presence of two or more of the following bos indicus indicators: excessive hump, excessive ears, or bos indicus head.
	204	Presence of one of the following bos indicus indicators: excessive hump, excessive ears, or bos indicus head.
105		Animal qualified which has predominant dairy characteristics.
	205	Animal qualified which has noticeable, but not predominant, dairy characteristics.
106		Non-approved plant employees performing live animal identification.
	206	Unidentified approved plant employee performing live animal identification.
107		Carcass in cooler with CHB roll that does not have a “C” stamp or a USDA “Accepted as Specified” stamp over the “grade schedule” marking.
	207	“C” stamp not placed on approved area of carcass
108		Identity of genetically qualified cattle is not maintained up to the point at which the “C” stamp is applied to the carcass.
109		Carcass of a bull, bullock, or cow identified with “C” stamp.



Defects 101, 201, 102, and 202 apply to cattle that are not genotype qualified. As long as no defects are observed under program monitoring the designated frequency of monitoring must continue.

However, observation of any major defect, two minor defects within a week, or three minor defects within four weeks, will immediately result in accelerated monitoring. Under accelerated monitoring the frequency of monitoring must be doubled. If no defects are observed during two weeks of accelerated monitoring, the plant must revert to the normal monitoring level. If any major defect or two minor defects are observed under accelerated monitoring the identification program must be placed under 100% QAD supervision for four weeks. After four weeks of 100% supervision, the program will revert to accelerated monitoring before going to normal monitoring.

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