



## USDA Export Verification (EV) Program Specified Product Requirements for Bovine

### 1 Purpose

This document provides the specified product requirements for marketing U.S. bovine meat and meat products under the USDA Export Verification (EV) Program for Bovine. This Program facilitates the international trade of U.S. bovine meat and meat products for those countries that require the vertebral column to be removed from animals 30 months of age and older.

### 2 Scope

These requirements apply to U.S. suppliers (slaughterers, fabricators, and processors) of bovine meat and meat products offered for export to countries that require the vertebral column to be removed from animals 30 months of age and older. Suppliers must meet the specified product requirements for Bovine under the EV Program through an approved USDA QSA Program. The requirements for the QSA Program are defined in *ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*. The QSA Program ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system.

Only companies with an approved USDA QSA Program for the EV Program for Bovine may label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements for Bovine under the EV Program.

### 3 Reference Documents

*ARC 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Program General Policies and Procedures*

*ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*

*EV Program Additional Requirements*

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/export\\_information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/export_information/index.asp)

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/arc/bevlisting.htm>

### 4 Specified Product Requirements

4.1 Bovine meat and meat products must meet the following requirements:

- 4.1.1 Slaughter, dressing, and processing procedures must ensure the hygienic removal of the brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (including the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wing of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia from cattle 30 months of age and older, and the tonsils and distal ileum of the small intestine from cattle regardless of age, to prevent the contamination of these tissues with beef products being produced for export to countries included in the EV Program for Bovine.

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**NOTE: The meat cannot be derived from animals imported from Canada for immediate slaughter. This applies to product intended for export to Colombia and Peru only.**

4.2 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:

4.2.1 Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and

4.2.2 Contain one of the following applicable statements:

4.2.2.1 "Product meets EV Program requirements for Bovine or the specified country" - This statement is used for finished items that are eligible for export.

4.2.2.2 "Product meets EV Program requirements for Bovine or the specified country, excluding final fabrication requirements" - This statement is used for items that must be further fabricated to meet all requirements prior to being eligible for export.

## **5 Listing of Approved Programs**

U.S. suppliers who generate products that meet the specified product requirements for Bovine are listed on the *Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA Bovine EV Programs*.

## **6 Responsibilities**

U.S. suppliers must meet all policies and procedures outlined in this Procedure, *ARC 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Program General Policies and Procedures*, and *ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*.