



Export Verification (EV) Programs Additional Requirements

(Revised and Effective July 15, 2015)

Within all quality management systems, opportunities for continuous improvement exist and when identified must be addressed. Please review the following requirements, and ensure that your USDA Quality System Assessment, Export Verification (QSA-EV) Program addresses each requirement, as applicable.

1 QSA-EV Program Manuals

Approved programs must provide FSIS officials access to the approved QSA-EV Program quality manual. Access to the manual may be provided in either electronic or a paper format.

2 QSA-EV Program Audit Reports

Approved programs must include a documented procedure to ensure that QSA-EV Program audit reports are available to and discussed with FSIS officials during scheduled weekly FSIS meetings. Records to show conformance must be maintained.

3 QSA LT 30 Carcass Identification

In order to assure segregation and prevent commingling between meat eligible for export and meat not eligible for export under a QSA LT 30 program, establishment operators must have written procedures to identify the carcasses of bovine animals aged 30 months or older and to maintain the identity of the carcasses and meat products derived from these animals from the point at which the age is determined until the products are packaged and appropriately labeled or the carcass is removed from the establishment.

4 Company's Supplier Listing

Approved programs must include a company supplier listing if QSA-EV Program product is received from another supplier approved under the QSA-EV Program. In addition, the company must require their supplier to provide an AMS Statement of Verification as defined in Section 7 for each load of product received.

The company supplier listing must:

- a) Identify the supplier's name and FSIS establishment number;
- b) Identify the date a supplier is added to the list;
- c) Identify the date a listed supplier is no longer supplying product; and
- d) Be submitted to the QA Division (ev.export@ams.usda.gov or 202-354-5207) for review when changes are made.

The company must review the Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRD3105269> to ensure that the supplier is listed as an eligible supplier for the specific country.



5 Product List

Approved programs must include a list of all eligible product items intended for shipment to countries requiring a QSA EV Program. In signing FSIS Form 9060-6, the exporter is attesting to, among other things, the eligibility of all the listed products. Products that are not required to be produced under an EV Program shall not be listed on the approved product list.

The product list must:

- a) Identify all eligible beef, veal, and lamb items intended for shipment;
- b) Provide the following information for each item on the list:
 - FSIS Establishment Number;
 - Establishment Name;
 - Establishment Location (City and State);
 - Type of Facility (slaughter, fabricator, processor, cold storage);
 - Product Name;
 - Product Code which must be specific to the country(s) if applicable based on production practices and program requirements; and
 - Description of Product (IMPS item number or NAMP Meat Buyers Guide item number, or other detailed description);
- c) Be divided by country;
- d) Be in the approved Excel format. The approved format is available on the QA Division EV Program website at: www.ams.usda.gov/LSEVProgram; and
- e) Be submitted to the QA Division (ev.export@ams.usda.gov or 202-354-5207) for initial review and approval and when changes are made.

6 AMS Statement of Verification for Product Intended for Further Processing

For all countries requiring an EV Program, product shipped for further processing from one eligible supplier to another eligible supplier must be accompanied with an AMS Statement of Verification for Product Intended for Further Processing. This AMS Statement of Verification identifies the product categories produced for the specific country(s) under the company's approved EV Program.

The company supplying products intended for further processing must request an AMS Statement of Verification for Product Intended for Further Processing. A copy of this Statement must accompany each shipment of product intended for further processing. If the product categories produced for the specific country(s) under the company's approved EV Program changes, then the company must request a new AMS Statement of Verification for Product Intended for Further Processing. Requests for the AMS Statement of Verification for Product Intended for Further Processing must be submitted via email to EV.Export@ams.usda.gov or via fax at 202-354-5207.



Receiving companies must review the Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRD3105269> to ensure that the supplier is listed as an eligible supplier for the specific country. Additionally, the products must be identified as meeting the EV Program requirement for the specific country.

7 Hygienic Removal of SRM's for EV Programs

The spinal cord of cattle aged 30 months or older is designated an SRM and must be removed in its entirety. Lifting the cord out of the vertebral canal can be achieved using a knife or other specialized tools.

Separate knives or other tools, including vacuums, must be provided for exclusive use in removing and handling of spinal cords of cattle aged 30 months or older. These knives/tools, as well as steels must be identified by a color coding or other visual system.

Note: The spinal cord of cattle less than 30 months of age is not designated as a SRM but, nevertheless, must still be completely removed from all split carcasses as required by the specific countries export verification program.

8 Internal Audits – QSA LT 30 - Japan

The company must conduct internal audits at planned intervals.

The internal audits must determine whether the QMS

- a) Conforms to the planned arrangements, to the requirements of this Procedure, and to the QMS requirements established by the company; and
- b) Is effectively implemented and maintained.

The company must have a documented procedure which defines

- a) The planning of an audit program, which must consider the status and importance of the processes and areas to be audited, as well as the results of the previous audit;
- b) The audit criteria, scope, frequency, and methods;
- c) The selection criteria of the auditors and conduct of auditors which must ensure objectivity and impartiality of the audit process (Auditors must not audit their own work.);
- d) The responsibilities for planning and conducting audits;
- e) The reporting of results;
- f) The follow-up activities (Follow-up activities must include the verification of the actions taken and the reporting of the verification results.); and
- g) The maintenance of records.

Within the area being audited, management must ensure that actions are taken without undue delay to eliminate detected non-conformances and their causes.

The company must maintain records of the internal audits.



9 Age Verification Requirements

In order to meet the LT30 requirements for all EV and QSA LT30 Programs, age verification must be conducted. There are two methods approved for age verification, Dentition or Age Verification through an AMS approved PVP or QSA Program.

- **Dentition** must be conducted by trained company employees, and overseen by FSIS Officials at the establishment.
- **Age Verification** documentation must be provided by an AMS approved PVP or QSA Program that includes Age Verification as a point. Acceptable forms of documentation include birth records or affidavits supplied by the approved company.

NOTE: Unverified producer affidavits are not acceptable methods of Age Verification documentation and cannot be used as a source of Age Verification under the EV and QSA LT30 Programs.