



Guidance Number:	GU7163DDA
Subject:	Guidance Document for the EV China Program (QAD 1030AA)
Distribution:	QAD Clients and Auditors
Author(s):	Steve Ross
Position:	Senior Ag Marketing Specialist

## 1 Scope

This document provides guidance for the Bovine Export Verification Program for China (QAD 1030AA). It is applicable to any operations that is a supplier to an approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) or Process Verified Program (PVP). Approved USDA programs must ensure that the requirements of this guidance are met.

## 2 Definitions

### **The following definitions apply to this document**

**Auction Market:** An operation where animals are purchased and sold. Also includes video and web operations.

**Backgrounder-Stocker:** An operation where animals are maintained, often on pasture or rangeland, to increase weight and maturity before being placed into a feedyard.

**Claim:** A specified process verified point within a PVP or a specified product requirement within a QSA Program.

**Company:** The approved USDA PVP or QSA Program that must meet the requirements.

**Dairy:** Place where dairy type calves are born. Bull calves are usually sold at a few days old to a dairy calf ranch.

**Dairy Calf Ranch:** An operation that receives dairy calves from the birth dairy farms to increase weight and maturity before being placed into a feedyard. May also be called a grow yard.

**Farm/Ranch of Origin:** The location where an animal is born.

**Feedyard:** An operation that receives animals for feeding in preparation for harvest.

**Producer:** A person who operates a farm or ranch where animals are born (e.g., cow-calf operation).

**Note:** A producer may have an additional operation, such as a backgrounder-stocker operation or a feedyard. In such instance, if all animals within the operation are considered non-conforming, then the producer should be considered only as a producer. However, the activities at the additional operation(s) and the risks associated with those activities must be considered during the evaluation of the producer.

**Producer-Feeder:** An operation that feeds animals born at the operation for harvest.



**Harvest/Processor:** Facilities that receive in cattle to be rendered into beef and beef products eligible for export China for harvest and exports products directly to China or a facility that further fabricates beef and beef products eligible for export to China into a final product for export to China.

**Supplier:** A source of materials (including animals), service, or information input provided to a process or program.

### 3 **Program Compliant Tags (PCT)**

- a. Individual animal identification through a PCT is required under this EV China Program.
- b. The use of a PCT allows animals to retain claims that do not change over time or location, such as date of birth (age), source, and breed, regardless of movement between approved and unapproved locations.
- c. If the company requires the use of a PCT, then the following requirements must be met:
  - i) A PCT is a one-time use, tamper-evident tag, which contains a non-repeatable, unique number. It may be an EID, RFID, or a visual tag. The company must provide evidence that the PCT meets these requirements.
  - ii) The PCT must be applied (1) under an approved USDA PVP or QSA Program and (2) at the farm or ranch of birth or at an alternative location as approved on a case-by-case basis.
  - iii) The company must control the use of PCT, including a documented procedure for tag allocation and an inventory record. The PCT inventory record:
    - a. May be maintained by either the company or the producer.
    - b. Must include the tag number, the producer, and the associated claim(s).
    - c. Should include dates of activity, the tag status, and changes of identify when a tag is replaced with another.

**Note:** Unused PCTs should be recorded within the company's program to strengthen inventory control.

### 4 **Re-tagging**

- a. If a PCT is lost, re-tagging may only occur if a secondary form of individual identification is used. Acceptable secondary forms of identification include ranch tags and tattoos.



**Note 1:** Brands and ear notching are considered group identification. Group identification is not acceptable as a form of secondary identification and cannot be used to bring animals back into conformance under EV China Program.

**Note 2:** Individual cases can be presented to the USDA for review, and exceptions may be made on a case by case basis, at the discretion of the USDA.

- b. Secondary identification must be cross referenced to the PCT that was lost and a record of the cross reference must be maintained and included with the shipping documentation.

5 Live animal production records which show the actual place of birth must be supported by the producer's production practices and records. Additionally, records must be retained for a period projected to be 1 year beyond the date of export of meat products to China. For each industry sector the minimum requirements must be met:

- a. Cow-calf operations – 3 years from date of birth.
- b. Yearling-stocker operations – 2 years from the date of sale or transfer to feedlot or harvest operation.

6 **Cattle enrollment into EV China Program.**

- a. Third party verifiers need to follow Guidance Document GU7309CCA, Section 3 "Supplier Evaluations and Re-evaluations."
- b. Third party verifiers already have cattle enrolled in different programs they offer that will meet the requirements for traceability such as:

Cattle enrolled in the Non-Hormone Treated Cattle Program for the European Union;

Cattle enrolled in Age and Source verified programs;

Cattle enrolled in a Company's Natural Program.

7 Cattle shipping documentation will need to accompany live cattle to the harvest facility to confirm that the cattle comply with the China traceability requirement of origin traceability (birth farm, first residence, or port of entry, as applicable).

8 **LT 30 requirements:**

- a. Cattle may be aged at the time of harvest using the dentition method in accordance with the FSIS reference document *Using Dentition to Age Cattle*.
- b. Cattle may be traced to live animal production records.

9 **Harvest/Processor**

- a. Harvest facilities are ultimately responsible for ensuring that all EV China Program requirements are met prior to exporting directly to China or sending product to a processor for further processing prior to exporting.



- b. Harvest facilities are responsible for ensuring that live animals received are traceable to a ranch of origin, place of first residence in the U.S., or port of entry, as applicable.
- c. Harvest/processor facilities are responsible for ensuring that internal identification and segregation program/procedures are in place for China eligible product.
- d. Harvest/Processor facilities will need to follow applicable “AMS EV Additional Requirements”, (no internal audits needed for this China program).
- e. Follow established AMS procedures for product lists so that FSIS will be able to sign export certificates.
- f. Ensure that only eligible products are included on products lists.
- g. Refer to the [FSIS Export Library](#) for a list of eligible products.

Jeffery Waite, Branch Chief  
Quality Assessment Division  
Livestock and Poultry Program

---

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

---