



IMPORT GRADING

Purpose

This Procedure defines Quality Assessment Division (QAD) procedures for grading imported meat.

Required Marks on Meat of Foreign Origin

1. Imported meat must be marked as prescribed in Section 54.5 of the AMS regulations.
2. Identify quarters so that hindquarters can be matched to forequarters and presented as carcasses or sides.
3. Plant must obtain exemption to Section 54.13 of the AMS regulations, which states: "Meat of all eligible species shall be graded only in the establishments where the animal was slaughtered or initially chilled..."

EXCEPTION: Canada, which has a "blanket exemption" to grade (beef carcasses, sides, or quarters) which are imported ([QAD 106 Procedure Grading Exemptions](#)).

4. Local supervisors are authorized to approve marks of foreign origin. Files of these marks are to be retained in the area office with a copy sent to Regional Office.
 - a. As long as the product remains in carcass, side, or quarter form, the country of origin must remain.
 - b. If the carcass is fabricated at the same plant, the country of origin can be removed.
5. Foreign meats bearing grade marks and/or terms determined to be similar to those of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are not eligible for Federal grading until such marks or terms have been removed.
6. Meat graders who have questions regarding the grading of imported meat or suspect that carcasses offered for grading may be of foreign origin, although not represented as such by the applicant, shall contact their supervisor before applying any grade marks.

Change Record

The following changes were made to the 06,13,1997 revision of this document:

1. The header was updated to include the most recent mail stop.