



Verification for the European Union High Quality Beef Quota

1 Purpose

This document outlines the procedure to verify that cattle and beef carcasses have met the requirements of the European Union (EU) High Quality Beef (HQB) quota as defined in *European Commission Regulation No. 620/2009, Annex 1*.

2 Scope

The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Livestock, Poultry, and Seed (LS) Program, Quality Assessment Division (QAD), Audit Services Branch (ASB) conducts the verification activities for the EU HQB quota.

3 References

European Commission Regulation No. 620/2009, Annex 1, Requirements for products under the tariff quota referred to in Article 1(1)

QAD 1001 Procedure, USDA Process Verified Program

QAD 1013C Form, AMS Statement of Verification for High Quality Beef

QAD 1040 Procedure, Livestock Feeding Claims Audit Program

QAD 1040A Form, AMS Declaration of Carcass Evaluation

Official Listing of Approved Sources of Non-Hormone Treated Cattle

Official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef

FSIS Form 2630-9, Certificate of Authenticity

4 Responsibilities

4.1 The QAD is responsible for the following:

- a) Conducting audits of the USDA-approved service providers and feedlots in accordance with *QAD 1001 Procedure* and/or *QAD 1040 Procedure*. The audits verify feeding practices and rations to ensure conformance to the EU HQB quota.
- b) Verifying feeding practices and records to ensure conformance to the EU HQB quota.
- c) Issuing *QAD 1013C Form* for cattle and beef carcasses that conform to the EU HQB quota.

4.2 QAD employees conduct evaluations of carcasses intended for use under the EU HQB quota.

4.3 Slaughter facilities are responsible for the following:

- a) Submitting documents and records, including a copy of the signed *QAD 1040A Form*, to the QAD to verify conformance to the EU HQB quota;
- b) Providing the *QAD 1040A Form* to QAD employees prior to carcasses being evaluated; and
- c) Providing the signed *QAD 1013C Form* to the USDA, Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) employee to facilitate the signing of the *FSIS Form 2630-9*.

4.4 USDA, FSIS employees are responsible for signing the *FSIS Form 2630-9*.

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5 Procedures (Sections 5.1 through 5.4)

5.1 General Requirements

- 5.1.1 Cattle must be from a USDA-approved NHTC Program, as listed on the *Official Listing of Approved Sources of Non-Hormone Treated Cattle*, **as well as** a USDA approved LFCA Program, as listed on the *Official Listing of Approved Companies to the Livestock Feeding Claims Audit Program*.
- 5.1.2 Cattle must be verified as conforming to the feeding practices and rations of the EU HQB quota in accordance with Section 5.2 below.
- 5.1.3 All carcasses exported under the EU HQB quota must be evaluated in accordance with Section 5.3 below.

5.2 Verification of Feeding Practices and Rations

- 5.2.1 The QAD receives and reviews documents (e.g. feeding affidavits) on a lot-by-lot basis to verify that cattle are derived from a feedlot approved under the *QAD 1040 Procedure*. The feedlot may be approved by the QAD or an USDA-approved service provider.

5.3 AMS Declaration of Carcass Evaluation

- 5.3.1 QAD employees evaluate each lot of carcasses intended for use under the EU HQB quota. Carcasses are evaluated using the *Official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef*.
- 5.3.2 QAD employees complete and sign *QAD 1040A Form* for each lot of carcasses evaluated.
- 5.3.3 The QAD receives the signed *QAD 1040A Form* and verifies that carcasses are from cattle verified as meeting the feeding practices and rations as outlined in Section 5.2.

5.4 AMS Statement of Verification

- 5.4.1 Once cattle and beef carcasses are determined to conform to the EU HQB quota, the QAD issues *QAD 1013C Form*.
- 5.4.2 The QAD provides an electronic copy of the signed *QAD 1013C Form* to the slaughter facility.
- 5.4.3 The signed *QAD 1013C Form* must be presented to the FSIS employee to facilitate the signing of *FSIS Form 2630-9*.