

# **Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of Norwegian beef and beef offal eligible for export to Japan**

## ***Export Verification Program***

This Export Verification Program (EVP) provides the specified products processing requirements and requirements for facilities for the export of beef and beef offal to Japan from Norway. This EVP comes in addition to the Norwegian and EU/EEA regulations but might include some relevant domestic requirements. The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (NFSA) is the competent authority overseeing the implementation of the EVP in Norway.

### **1. Purpose**

This EVP describes the standards that slaughterhouses and processing facilities shall meet in producing beef and beef offal for export to Japan in order to meet the following objectives:

- Ensure removal from cattle carcasses of all tissues ineligible for export to Japan;
- Prevent cross contamination of eligible beef and beef offal for export to Japan from ineligible tissues during slaughter and/or processing;
- Enable verification of compliance with Japan import condition relating to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in addition to Norwegian and EU/EEA domestic requirements.

### **2. Scope**

This EVP applies to Norwegian facilities producing beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway. The facilities shall meet the specified processing requirements and requirements for facilities for beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway. These facilities shall be designated and listed by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority by agreement with the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

### **3. Identification and traceability records**

- 3.1 Live cattle shall be domesticated bovine animals (*Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*) born and raised in Norway, or imported to Norway from countries eligible for export of beef and beef offal to Japan.
- 3.2 Live cattle shall be individually identified.
- 3.3 Live cattle shall be sent to slaughterhouses with correct recording in the traceability system – “Husdyrregisteret”, including exact date of birth and identification information of each animal.

- 3.4 All carcasses older than 30 months shall be clearly identified.
- 3.5 An identification mark allowing the verification that the beef and beef offal for export to Japan is applied on the product at each level of processing.
- 3.6 Records and identification information through the process shall be sufficient to trace:
- 3.6.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan to carcasses;
  - 3.6.2 Individual carcasses to individual animal;
  - 3.6.3 Individual animal to farm records.

#### **4. Specified Products Requirements**

- 4.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be exclusively meat, offal and their products, which the MHLW and NFSA recognize as eligible for export to Japan.
- 4.2 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall not include any of the following tissues:
- 4.2.1 Tonsils (palatine and lingual tonsils) from all cattle;
  - 4.2.2 Distal ileum (two meters from connection to caecum) from all cattle;
  - 4.2.3 Spinal cord from cattle older than 30 months of age;
  - 4.2.4 Head (except for hygienically removed tongues, skin and cheek meat from the outside) from cattle older than 30 months of age;
  - 4.2.5 Vertebral column (excluding vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the cervical, lumbar and thoracic vertebrae, the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum) from cattle older than 30 months of age.
- 4.3 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan, and the carcasses and cattle from which they are derived should be traceable to production records.

#### **5. Processing requirements**

- 5.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be processed using procedures ensuring compliance with point 4 and integrated into the facility HACCP.
- 5.2 Verification activities for age requirements, where applicable, as described above must be conducted at the slaughter and processing levels,
- 5.3 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be processed in a manner to ensure the hygienic removal of the ineligible tissues as described above in point 4.2. and to prevent any cross-contamination by these ineligible tissues.
- 5.4 The facility HACCP shall include internal verification activities that allow to control that the specified requirements of this EVP are effectively implemented and met.
- 5.5 The exported beef and beef offal to Japan derived from cattle must be derived from either:

5.5.1 Cattle that were born and raised only in Norway, or from animals legally imported into Norway from a country recognized by the Japanese animal health authorities as:

- a. The third free-countries for cloven-hoofed animals and meat as authorized by Japan. A link to the current list of these eligible countries will be available on Animal Health Requirements (AHR);
- b. The eligible BSE-affected countries as identified by Japan. A link to the current list of these eligible countries will be available on AHR;

Or

5.5.2 Beef and beef offal legally imported into Norway from a designated facility in a country recognized by Japan as eligible to export bovine beef and beef offal to Japan and shipped directly to Norway ports of entry. If transported through countries other than the eligible third-free countries or eligible BSE-affected countries, as identified on the current lists available on AHR, the imported beef and beef offal must be transported in an officially sealed container. Once inspected and passed by the competent authority of Norway (NFSA), the shipment of imported beef and beef offal must transfer directly to the designated facility in Norway.

## **6. Designated facilities for export to Japan**

- 6.1 The designated facilities for export beef and beef offal to Japan from Norway shall be facilities (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants, and cold stores) approved by the NFSA following an on-site inspection. The approval of the designated facilities is under the responsibility of the NFSA in accordance with the MHLW.
- 6.2 The designated facilities shall meet the specified products and processing requirements for beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway.
- 6.3 The designated facilities for export to Japan shall be listed by the NFSA; the NFSA shall update the list when necessary and provide it to the MHLW.
- 6.4 The designated facilities for export of beef and beef offal to Japan from Norway are responsible for the compliance with all requirements outlined in this procedure and the Norwegian and EU/EEA regulations.
- 6.5 All necessary information to verify the enforcement of the EVP by the designated facilities shall be available to the NFSA for review.

## **7. Export certificate**

- 7.1 Beef and beef offal for export to Japan shall be accompanied by an export certificate issued by the NFSA when exported to Japan.
- 7.2 The export certificate shall include the information as required by the Food Sanitation Act of Japan.
- 7.3 The export certificate shall mention the following statement: "The beef and beef offal meet the EVP requirements".

## **8. Audit and import inspection of the MHLW**

- 8.1 The MHLW may conduct on-site audits of the Norwegian inspection system including visits of the NFSA designated facilities that export beef and beef offal to Japan and relevant facilities.
- 8.2 If non-compliance with these standards is found as a result of the audit or the import inspection of the MHLW, the NFSA shall take appropriate measures including corrective or preventive action.

These requirements for beef and beef offal for export to Japan from Norway will come into effect on May 16th, 2025