

Animal Health Requirements for beef and beef offal to be exported to Japan from Norway

Animal health requirements for beef and beef offal to be exported to Japan from Norway are as follows:

1. Definitions

For the purpose of the animal health requirements;

1·(1) "cattle" means

bovine (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus* only).

1·(2) "beef and beef offal" means

meat and viscera derived from cattle which meet all conditions specified in “Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of Norwegian beef and beef offal eligible for export to Japan-Export Verification Program” attached in Annex 3.

1·(3) "the exported beef to Japan" means

beef and beef offal to be exported to Japan from Norway.

1·(4) "outbreak" means

detection of specific pathogen, antigen or antibody of the disease as well as appearance of animal showing clinical signs of the diseases.

1·(5) "the Japanese animal health authorities" means

Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

1·(6) "the third free countries" means

countries and zones approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the export of meat etc. derived from cloven-hoofed animals to Japan as listed in Item 1 to 3 in Annex 2.

1·(7) "the specified countries" means

countries or zones approved by the Ministry of agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan to export beef to Japan other than the third free countries as listed in Item 4 of Annex 2.

1·(8) "the designated facilities" means

the slaughterhouses, meat processing facilities and storage facilities, etc. which are designated by the animal health authorities of Norway (or the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2) as facilities which meet the requirements both in Articles 1 to 4 of Annex 1 and in Annex 3 for the exported beef to Japan.

2. General requirements

2·(1) Norway is free from Foot and mouth disease (FMD) and Rinderpest, and vaccination against FMD and Rinderpest is legally prohibited in Norway.

2·(2) Importation of cloven-hoofed animals that have been vaccinated against FMD and Rinderpest is completely prohibited in Norway.

2·(3) The Government of Norway will continue to maintain measures to prevent introduction, control spread, and detect Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). These measures include SRM removal, effective feed ban, and a surveillance program. In case that the Government of Norway intends to amend or abolish the regulations or measures on BSE, the Authorities of Norway should inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the fact in advance.

2·(4) The animal health authorities of Norway annually submits copies of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) annual status reconfirmation form, for animal health controlling situations to the Japanese animal health authorities.

2·(5) The exported beef to Japan must be slaughtered, produced and stored only in the designated facilities.

3. Notification of the designated facilities

3·(1) The animal health authorities of Norway must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, address, function and approval number of the designated facilities in advance of the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities. The list of the designated facilities will be maintained and updated by the animal health authorities of Norway as changes in facility status occur.

The animal health authorities of Norway must confirm through an ordinary monitoring or periodic audit that the designated facilities are fulfilling the required conditions in Annex 1 and Annex 3.

If during ordinary monitoring or periodic audits of the designated facilities, the animal health authorities of Norway identify a serious noncompliance with the conditions in Annex

1 and Annex 3, the animal health authorities of Norway must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities, and must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, address, function and approval number of the said facilities.

Thereafter, the animal health authorities of Norway are to revoke the designation of the said facilities.

After verifying that acceptable corrective actions have been taken and informing the Japanese animal health authorities of the corrective actions taken by the animal health authorities of Norway, the animal health authorities of Norway may redesignate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities.

A system-wide problem such as repeated serious noncompliance may result in the suspension of the animal health requirements.

4. Requirements for shipment

4·(1) The exported beef to Japan must have been handled at the designated facilities in such a way as to prevent contamination with any causative agents of animal infectious diseases. Clean and sanitary wrappings and/or containers such as cardboard boxes must be used to pack the exported beef to Japan.

4·(2) If an outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Norway, the animal health authorities of Norway must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan.

If the exported beef to Japan has been certified and in transit to Japan at the time of the outbreak, the shipment will be prohibited entry into Japan, except where the animal health authorities of Norway can demonstrate that the shipment definitely bears no relation (such as, time of shipment, region of origin, route of transit) to the outbreak of the said diseases.

4·(3) If a BSE case is detected in Norway and it is epidemiologically related to the exported beef to Japan, the animal health authorities of Norway must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authorities with the relevant information.

4·(4) In the case where the exported beef to Japan is transported to Japan by way of third countries, the exported beef to Japan must be stored in an enclosed container. The animal health authorities of Norway must close the container with an official seal, which is apparently distinguishable from those of the other countries/regions than Norway. In case the official seal with the container has been broken or removed prior to the time of import inspection after arrival in Japan, the exported beef to Japan in question may be prohibited to import into Japan.

5. Requirements for the exported beef to Japan

5·(1) Cattle slaughtered for the production of the exported beef to Japan (hereinafter referred to as "the slaughtered cattle") must have been born and raised only in Norway.

5·(2) The slaughtered cattle were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by WOAHP.

5·(3) The slaughtered cattle were found to be sound and healthy as a result of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by veterinary inspectors of the animal health authorities of Norway in the designated facilities at the time of slaughter.

5·(4) The exported beef to Japan has been handled at the designated facilities in such a way as to prevent contamination with any causative agents of animal infectious diseases until shipment to Japan.

6. Audit by the Japanese animal health authorities

6·(1) The Japanese animal health authorities can evaluate Norway's regulatory system through a representative sample of the designated facilities etc. and audit the original relevant records etc. as part of a system audit of Norway's regulatory requirements and these animal health requirements.

When it is found that the animal health requirements and Norway's regulatory requirements have not been met at the designated facilities, the animal health authorities of Norway must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities.

If the animal health authorities of Norway verify corrective actions at the said facilities, the animal health authorities of Norway may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities, after informing the Japanese animal health authorities of the corrective actions verified by the animal health authorities of Norway.

A system-wide problem such as repeated serious noncompliance may result in the suspension of the animal health requirements.

7. Issue of inspection certificate

7·(1) The animal health authorities of Norway must be responsible for issuing the inspection certificate for the exported beef to Japan, stating the following items in detail in English, after confirming the exported beef to Japan complies with the animal health requirements:

- (i) Name, address, function and approval number of the designated facilities (in case the relevant procedures such as slaughtering and processing were not done at the same designated facility, each of the facilities at which the exported beef to Japan has been dealt with must be described on this certificate.)
- (ii) Date of slaughter, processing/cutting and packaging
- (iii) Date, authorities name and place of issue of the inspection certificate, and name and title of signer.

- (iv) Identification number of the seal applied to the container (in case the container is sealed by the official seal in accordance with Article 4-(4)).
- (v) Each required condition of Articles 5-(1) to 5-(4).

7-(2) These Animal health requirements for beef and beef offal to be exported to Japan from Norway come into effect from May 16, 2025.

Annex 1. Requirements for the designated facilities

1. The designated facilities cannot handle cervid animals epidemiologically related to the outbreak of Chronic wasting disease (CWD), or pigs epidemiologically related to the outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) or Classical swine fever (CSF). Cloven-hoofed animals which can be handled at the designated facilities in Norway should satisfy one of the following conditions:

- the cloven-hoofed animals were born and raised only in Norway
- or
- the cloven-hoofed animals were directly imported to Norway from and via the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 (in the case of cloven-hoofed animals other than deer and pigs, in Article 1 of Annex 2; in the case of deer, in Article 2 of Annex 2; in the case of pigs, in Article 3 of Annex 2). The imported cloven-hoofed animals must meet all of the following requirements 1-(1) to (4).

1-(1) The said animals must be born and raised only in the third free countries or the specified countries.

1-(2) The said animals must be free from any evidence of infectious animal diseases as a result of export inspection conducted by the animal health authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries.

1-(3) The said animals must be directly imported to Norway from the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third countries or the specified countries and must be accompanied by inspection certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries.

1-(4) The said animals must be free from any evidence of infectious animal diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the animal health authorities of Norway.

2. The meat etc. which can be handled at the designated facilities must originate from cloven-hoofed animals that were born and raised only in Norway (except for cervid meat and viscera epidemiologically related to the outbreak of Chronic wasting disease (CWD), and except for pig-meat and -viscera epidemiologically related to the outbreak of ASF or CSF), and be handled only at the designated facilities in Norway, or must be directly imported to Norway from the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 (in the case of the meat, etc. derived from cloven-hoofed animals other than deer and pigs, in countries listed in Article 1 of Annex 2; in the case of deer meat, etc., in countries listed in Article 2 of Annex 2; in the case of pig meat, etc. in

Article 3 of Annex 2) and meet all of the following requirements 2-(1) to (4).

2-(1) The imported meat etc. must be derived from cloven-hoofed animals that were born and raised only in the third free countries or the specified countries.

2-(2) The imported meat etc. must be handled only at the designated facilities in the third free countries or the specified countries and be derived from cloven-hoofed animals that were free from any evidence of infectious animal diseases as a result of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by official veterinarians of the third free countries or the specified countries.

2-(3) The imported meat etc. must be directly and legally imported to Norway from the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, and must be accompanied by inspection certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries.

2-(4) The imported meat etc. must have been free from any evidence of infectious animal diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the animal health authorities of Norway, and must be directly carried into the designated facilities in Norway after the said inspection.

3. If the designated facilities are storage facilities and satisfy the following conditions, they can be designated as storage facilities to handle the exported beef to Japan. In this case the said designated facilities may be used only for the temporary storage of final products until shipment.

3·(1) The exported beef to Japan which is handled in the storage facilities must be completely wrapped and boxed, and must be completely isolated from any meat etc. other than products which comply with Article 2 above.

3·(2) The exported beef to Japan must be handled to prevent cross contamination with any meat etc. other than products complying with Article 2 above.

4. The species, quantities, production areas and date of handling (and, in case of handling animals or meat imported from the third free countries or the specified countries, the name of the country/zone of origin and date of import) must be recorded on the original records at the designated facilities. The original records must be kept for at least two years at the designated facilities.

5. In case of an outbreak of FMD, Rinderpest, ASF or CSF in a third free country or the specified countries, the animal health authorities of Norway must immediately suspend the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from all the designated facilities which handle cloven-hoofed animals and their meat etc. (for ASF and CSF, limited to pigs and pig meat) imported from the said third free country or the specified countries and inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the suspension.

The exported beef to Japan that is then en route to Japan may be prohibited from being released into Japan, except for beef that definitely has no epidemiological relation to the outbreak of the said diseases.

The shipping prohibition of the exported beef to Japan described above must be resumed either in case the Japanese animal health authorities has confirmed that the third free countries or the specified countries concerned are free from the said diseases or in case the animal health authorities of Norway suspended the entrance of cloven-hoofed animals and their meat etc. into the designated facilities from the said third free countries or the specified countries and informed the Japanese animal health authorities of the said prohibition. (In any case, no shipment must be permitted of beef that is epidemiologically related to the outbreak of the said diseases.)

Annex 2. The third free countries and the specified countries

1. The third free countries in respect of cloven-hoofed animals (other than cervid animals and pigs) and their meat etc. (countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest and Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and BSE and eligible to export to Japan by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

2. The third free countries in respect of cervid animals and deer meat etc. (countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD and Chronic wasting disease and eligible to export to Japan by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

3. The third free countries in respect of pigs and pig meat etc. (countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD, African swine fever and Classical swine fever and eligible to export to Japan by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

4. The specified countries for export beef, sheep meat etc. or goat meat etc. to Japan other than the third free countries

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/eligible-bse-country.html>

Annex 3. Requirements for the designated facilities by MHLW.

Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of Norwegian beef and beef offal eligible for export to Japan Export Verification Program