

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR BEEF, BEEF OFFAL AND THEIR PRODUCTS TO BE EXPORTED TO JAPAN FROM FINLAND

The animal health requirements for beef, beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Finland 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” means
all parts of cattle that meet the specified product requirements stated in Item 4.2 of the Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of beef, beef offal and their products eligible for export from Finland to Japan Export Verification Program (EVP) (Annex 3).
- 1.3 “the exported beef to Japan” means
beef, beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Finland.
- 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 authority” means
Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.
- 1.6 “the competent authority of Finland” means
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finnish Food Authority and Municipal Food Control Authorities.
- 1.7 “the third free countries” means
countries or 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.
- 1.8 “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.

- 1.9** “the designated facilities” means the slaughterhouses, cutting/processing, and storage facilities, etc. which are designated by the competent authority of Finland (in case of item 2 (including 2.1 to 2.6) of Annex 1, the competent authority of the third free or the specified countries listed in Annex 2) as facilities which meet the requirements in Annex 1 and Annex 3 and are registered to handle the exported beef to Japan.
- 1.10** “WOAH” means the World Organisation for Animal Health, formally called the Office International des Epizooties.
- 1.11** “cohorts of BSE cases” means cattle which, during their first year of life, were reared with the Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) case during its first year of life, and which investigation showed consumed the same potentially contaminated feed during that period, or if the results of the investigation are inconclusive, all cattle born in the same herd as, and within 12 months of the birth of, the BSE case as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by WOA.

2 General requirements

- 2.1** Finland is free from Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Rinderpest, and vaccination against FMD and Rinderpest is legally prohibited in Finland.
- 2.2** Importation of cloven-hoofed animals that have been vaccinated against FMD and Rinderpest is prohibited in Finland.
- 2.3** If an outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Finland, the competent authority of Finland must immediately stop issuing certification of the exported beef to Japan and notify the fact to the Japanese animal health authority.
- 2.4** The competent authority of Finland maintains measures to prevent introduction, control spread, and detect BSE; these measures include SRM removal, effective feed ban, and surveillance program. In case the competent authority of Finland intends to amend or abolish the regulations or measures on BSE, the competent authority of Finland must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the fact in advance.
- 2.5** If a BSE case is detected in Finland and it is epidemiologically related to the exported beef to Japan, the competent authority of Finland must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authority with the relevant information.

3 Requirements for the exported beef to Japan

- 3.1** 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 Finland,

or must be directly and legally imported from the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, and raised in Finland, and must completely meet all the requirements in Item 1 (including 1.1 to 1.5) of Annex 1.

Beef that completely meet all the requirements in item 2 (including 2.1 to 2.6) of Annex 1 and that is accompanied by the certificate issued by the third free or specified country and that is legally and directly imported from the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries or that is imported stored in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the third free or specified country, can be also used for the production of the exported beef to Japan as well.

- 3.2 The slaughtered cattle were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or epidemiologically related to BSE cases.
- 3.3 The exported beef to Japan must be handled only at the designated facilities which fulfill all requirements in Annex1.
- 3.4 The slaughtered cattle must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of ante mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian and post mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or meat inspector under the supervision of the official veterinarian of the competent authority of Finland (in case of item 2 (including 2.1 to 2.6) of Annex 1, the competent authority of the third free countries or the specified countries) at the designated facilities.
- 3.5 The exported beef to Japan must be handled at only the designated facilities in such a way as to keep it from being contaminated with any causative agents of animal infectious diseases until shipment to Japan.

4 Notification of the designated facilities

- 4.1 The competent authority of Finland must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number and function 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 competent authority of Finland as changes in facility status occur and the competent authority of Finland must notify the Japanese animal health authority accordingly.
- 4.2 The competent authority of Finland must confirm through ordinary monitoring or periodic audit that the designated facilities are fulfilling the required conditions in Annex 1.

- 4.3 If the competent authority of Finland identifies a serious noncompliance with the conditions in Annex 1 during ordinary monitoring or periodic audits of the designated facilities, the competent authority of Finland must immediately stop issuing certifications of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities, and must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number and function of the said facilities. Thereafter, the competent authority of Finland is to revoke the designation of the said facilities. After verifying that acceptable corrective actions have been taken and informing the Japanese animal health authority of the corrective actions taken by the competent authority of Finland, the competent authority of Finland may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities.

5 Requirements for the shipment

- 5.1 Clean and sanitary wrappings and/or containers such as cardboard boxes must be used to pack the exported beef to Japan.
- 5.2 If the exported beef to Japan has been certified and then en route to Japan at the time when outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Finland, the shipment will be prohibited from entering Japan, except where the competent authority of Finland 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.
- 5.3 In case of an outbreak of FMD, Rinderpest, BSE in the third free countries or the specified countries, the competent authority of Finland must immediately suspend the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from all the designated facilities which handle cloven-hoofed animals and their meat imported from the said country or zone and inform the Japanese animal health authority of the shipment suspension. The exported beef to Japan which is then en route to Japan must be prohibited from entering into Japan, except for the one which has no epidemiological link to the outbreak of the said diseases.
- 5.4 The shipment of the exported beef to Japan described in the 5.3 may be resumed either after the Japanese animal health authority confirms that the concerned country or zone listed in Annex 2 is free from the said diseases or if the competent authority of Finland suspends the utilization of cloven-hoofed animals and their meat imported from the concerned country or zone listed in Annex 2 in the designated facilities and informs the Japanese animal health authority of the said suspension. (However, this item is not applicable to consignment of beef that is epidemiologically related to the outbreak of the said diseases.)
- 5.5 In the case where the exported beef to Japan is en route to third countries, the exported beef to Japan must be stored in an enclosed ocean/air vessel container. The container must be sealed by or under the supervision of the competent authority of

Finland. The seal must be apparently distinguishable from those of the other countries/regions than Finland. In case the 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 from being imported into Japan.

6 Audit by the Japanese animal health authority

- 6.1 The Japanese animal health authority can evaluate compliance with the regulatory requirements of Finland and the animal health requirements in this document by a system audit on representative samples of designated facilities. This audit may include audit of relevant records of designated facilities.
- 6.2 When the audit mentioned in 6.1 above etc. finds that the animal health requirements and Finland's regulatory requirements have not been met at the designated facilities, the competent authority of Finland must immediately stop certification of the exported beef to Japan from the said facilities. Thereafter, the competent authority of Finland is to revoke the designation of the said facilities. After verifying that acceptable corrective actions have been taken and informing the Japanese animal health authority of the corrective actions taken by the competent authority of Finland, the competent authority of Finland may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities.
- 6.3 A system-wide problem such as repeated serious noncompliance may result in the suspension of the animal health requirements.

7 Requirements for natural casings

In case the exported beef product to Japan uses natural casings, the natural casings must satisfy all the requirements stipulated in Annex 4.

8 Issue of veterinary health certificate

- 8.1 The competent authority of Finland must be responsible for issuing the veterinary health certificate for the exported beef to Japan, attesting the following items in detail in English, after confirming the beef to be exported to Japan complies with the animal health requirements:
 - a) 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 facilities, each of the facilities at which the beef to be exported to Japan have been dealt with must be described on this certificate)
 - b) Date of slaughter, processing/cutting and packaging
 - c) Whether casing is used, and the kind of casings (natural or artificial) if casing is used
 - d) In case natural casing is used, the details described in Annex 4
 - e) Origin of animals (in case cattle were imported from the third free countries or the

- specified countries)
- f) Date of import (in case cattle and beef were imported from the third free countries or the specified countries)
 - g) Date, authority name and place of issue of the veterinary health certificate, and name and title of signer
 - h) Identification number of the seal applied to the container (in case the container is sealed by an official seal in accordance with Item 5.5)
 - i) Each required condition of Items 3.1 to 3.5.
- 8.2** The animal health requirements for beef, beef offal and their products to be exported to Japan from Finland come into effect since 23.12.2022.

Annex 1 – Requirements for the designated facilities

- 1** Cloven-hoofed animals which can be handled at the designated facilities must be born and raised only in Finland or must be accompanied by the certificate issued by the third free or specified country and must be directly imported to Finland from the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries. The said imported animals must meet all of the following requirements 1.1 to 1.5 as well.
 - 1.1** The said imported animals must be born and raised only in the third free countries or the specified countries.
 - 1.2** The slaughtered cattle were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or cohorts of BSE cases as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH).
 - 1.3** The said imported animals must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of export inspection conducted by the government authorities of the third free countries, or the specified countries.
 - 1.4** The said imported animals must be accompanied by veterinary health certificates issued by the government authorities of the said country and must be legally imported to Finland from the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the third free countries or the specified countries.
 - 1.5** The said imported animals must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by veterinary inspectors of the competent authority of Finland or EU member states. The inspection process under the supervision of the competent authority of Finland at the slaughterhouse which complies with the EU internal trade regulation is also regarded as import inspection.
- 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 Finland and must be handled only at the designated facilities in Finland, or must be accompanied by the certificate issued by the third free or specified country and must be directly imported to Finland from the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, or must be imported stored in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the third free or specified country. The imported meat etc. must meet all of the following requirements 2.1 to 2.6 as well.

- 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 derived from cattle which were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or cohorts of BSE cases as defined in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH).
- 2.3** The imported meat etc. must meet the requirements in the Export Verification Program imposed on an eligible country to export the meat etc. to Japan.
- 2.4** 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 animal infectious diseases as a result of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by veterinary inspectors of the competent authority of the third free countries or the specified countries.
- 2.5** The imported meat etc. must be accompanied by veterinary health certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries, and must be legally imported to Finland from the third free countries or the specified countries without transiting through countries other than the said third free countries or the specified countries, or must be imported stored in containers sealed with serially numbered seals of the national government of the third free or specified country. In case of the importation from an EU member state, the imported meat etc. must be derived from animals that were free from any evidence of infectious animal diseases as a result of ante mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian and post mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or meat inspector under the supervision of the official veterinarian of the said EU member state at designated facilities.
- 2.6** The imported meat etc. must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the competent authority of Finland or EU member states or inspection conducted by the competent authority of another EU member state prior to the dispatch of the meat. The imported meat etc. must be directly carried into the designated facilities in Finland 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 handled in the storage facilities must be completely wrapped and boxed, and must be completely segregated from any meat etc. other than products complying with Item 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 Item 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/area 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 or Rinderpest in a third free country or a specified country, the competent authority of Finland must immediately suspend the shipment of the exported beef to Japan from all the designated facilities which handle cattle and beef imported from the said third free country or the specified country and inform the Japanese animal health authority of the suspension.
- 5.1** The exported beef to Japan that is then on route to Japan may be prohibited from being released into Japan, unless the shipment has been demonstrated to have no epidemiological relation to the outbreak of the said diseases.
- 5.2** The shipping of the exported beef to Japan described above can be resumed either in the case that the Japanese animal health authority has confirmed that the third free countries or the specified countries concerned are free from the said diseases or in the case that the competent authority of Finland 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 authority 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, pigs and wild boars) and their meat etc. (Countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest, 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 CWD 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>

3. The third free countries in respect of pigs and pig meat etc. (countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD, ASF and CSF 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>

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:

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

Annex 3. Standards for slaughter of cattle and processing of beef, beef offal and their products eligible for export from Finland to Japan Export Verification Program (EVP)

Annex 4. Additional animal health requirements for natural casings used for the exported beef to Japan from Finland

When the casings are derived from cattle, sheep, and goat;

1. The natural casings must be derived from animal which was born and raised in the countries other than the countries listed in following URL.

<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/bse.html>

2. The natural casings are free from any animal infectious diseases as a consequence of ante mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian and post mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or meat inspector under the supervision of the official veterinarian of competent authority of Finland.

If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are imported from the third countries, the natural casings must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the official veterinary inspectors of the competent authority of Finland or EU member states or confirmation of the health certificates issued by the government of the country of origin. If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are originated from other EU member states, the ante- and post-mortem inspection is conducted by the competent authority of the EU member state of dispatch prior to shipment.

3. In case the natural casings are derived from the animals originated from the countries other than the countries free from rinderpest and FMD (<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>), the natural casings after processing need to be salted for at least 30 days with dry salt (NaCl), saturated brine ($A_w < 0.80$), or phosphate supplemented dry salt containing 86.5 percent NaCl, 10.7 percent Na_2HPO_4 and 2.8 percent Na_3PO_4 (weight/weight/weight) in the sealed container and must be kept at a temperature of greater than 12°C during this entire period.
4. Natural casings have been handled only at the facilities approved (hereinafter referred to as “approved casing facilities”) by the competent authority of Finland as the ones which handle only casings described in items 1, 2 and 3. (In case of the casings imported from the third countries, this provision must apply to the casing facilities in the exporting countries.)
5. The competent authority of Finland must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number of the approved casing facilities in advance.
6. The competent authority of Finland must issue veterinary health certificates for the exported meat products using natural casing to Japan, stating the following items in English:
 - 1) Items 1, 2 and 3
 - 2) The kind of casings (natural), country of origin (name of the country where animals to be used for production of casings were born and raised) and animal species
 - 3) Name, address, and approval number of approved casing facilities

In case the casings are derived from pig;

1. The natural casings are free from any animal infectious diseases as a consequence of ante mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian and post mortem inspection conducted by the official veterinarian or meat inspector under the supervision of the official veterinarian of the competent authority of Finland.

If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are imported from the third countries, the natural casings must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the official veterinary inspectors of competent authority of Finland or EU member states or confirmation of the health certificates issued by the originating government. If the natural casings for the production of exported meat products are originated from other EU member states, the ante- and post-mortem inspection is conducted by the competent authority of the EU member state of dispatch prior to shipment.

2. In case the natural casings are derived from the animals originated from the countries other than the countries free from rinderpest, FMD, CSF and ASF (<https://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>), the natural casings after processing need to be salted for at least 30 days either with phosphate supplemented dry salt or saturated brine ($A_w < 0.80$) containing 86.5 percent NaCl, 10.7 percent Na_2HPO_4 and 2.8 percent Na_3PO_4 (weight/weight/weight) in the sealed container and must be kept at a temperature of greater than 20°C during this entire period.
3. The natural casings have been handled only at the facilities approved (hereinafter referred to as “approved natural casing facilities”) by the animal health authority of Finland as the ones which handle only natural casings described in items 1 and 2. (In case of the natural casings imported from the third countries, this provision must apply to the casing facilities in the exporting countries.)
4. The competent authority of Finland must inform the Japanese animal health authority of the name, address, approval number of the approved natural casing s in advance.
5. The competent authority of Finland must issue veterinary health certificates for the exported meat products using natural casing to Japan, stating the following items in English:
 - 1) Items 1 and 2
 - 2) The kind of casings (natural), country of origin (name of the country where animals to be used for production of casings were born and raised)
 - 3) Name, address and approval number of approved natural casing facilities