

## **Export Verification Program for beef, beef offal and its products from Finland to Japan**

This Export Verification Program (EVP) provides specific requirements for establishments eligible to export beef, beef offal and its products from Finland to Japan and for the processing of such products. This EVP consists of requirements that come in addition to Finland's and EU regulations.

### **1. Purpose**

This EVP describes the requirements that Finnish slaughterhouses, cutting establishments, processing establishments and storage establishments eligible to export beef, beef offal and its products to Japan shall comply with in order to:

- Ensure removal from cattle carcasses of all tissues ineligible for export to Japan;
- Prevent cross contamination of eligible beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan from ineligible tissues during slaughter and/or processing;
- Ensure verification of compliance with Japan import conditions for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), in addition to Finland's and EU requirements.

### **2. Responsibilities**

2.1 The Finnish establishments eligible to export beef, beef offal and its products to Japan must meet the requirements of this EVP.

2.2 In Finland, the Finnish Food Authority (FFA) and the Municipal Food Control Authorities (MFCA) are the competent authorities overseeing the implementation of the EVP and for issuing the veterinary health certificates for the export of beef, beef offal and its products from Finland to Japan.

### **3. Requirements for establishments**

All the establishments including slaughterhouses, cutting establishments, processing establishments and storage establishments involved in the production and storage of beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan are approved by the FFA and designated and listed by the FFA in agreement with the approval of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW). The FFA will keep the MHLW informed of any amendments as regards additions, delisting and address or activity change at the listed establishments. The establishments shall meet the specific product and processing requirements defined in sections 4 and 5.

### **4. Specific product requirements**

4.1 Beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan shall be exclusively meat, offal and their products which the MHLW and the FFA recognize as eligible for export to Japan.

4.2 Beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan shall not include any Specified Risk Material (SRM) as defined by the enforced Japanese regulation, that is to say beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan shall not include any of the following tissues:

4.2.1 Tonsils (including 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 over 30 months of age;

4.2.4 Head (except for hygienically removed tongues and cheek meat) from cattle over 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 over 30 months of age.

4.3 Live cattle shall be bovine animals (*Bos taurus* or *Bos indicus*) born and raised in Finland or imported into Finland from countries eligible for export beef, beef offal and its products to Japan.

4.4 Beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan shall be handled only at designated establishments.

4.5 Beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan, and the carcasses and cattle from which they are derived, shall be traceable. The beef must be traceable back to the animal or group of animals the meat in question originates from. Traceability is based on ear tags, carcass tags, electronic batch data, transport logs, and commercial documents. Beef must be traceable between different establishments and operators in the food chain. Traceability is also required within the establishment during production of the product. The product can be traced back to the establishment according to the batch number in the product label at all stages.

## 5. Processing requirements

5.1 Beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan shall be processed using procedures ensuring compliance with section 4 and integrated into the establishment's own-check system.

5.2 Beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan shall be processed in a manner to ensure the hygienic removal of the SRM as described above in point 4.2 and to prevent any cross-contamination by these SRM.

## 6. Veterinary health certificate

6.1 Beef, beef offal and its products for export to Japan shall be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate issued by the competent authority in Finland.

6.2 The veterinary health certificate shall include the information as required by the Food Sanitation Act of Japan.

6.3 The veterinary health certificate shall mention the following statement: "All the required conditions described in the Export Verification Program for beef, beef offal and its products for export from Finland to Japan were fulfilled".

## 7. Audit and import inspection of the MHLW

The MHLW may conduct on-site audits of Finland's inspection system including visit to the FFA and the establishments eligible to export beef, beef offal and its products to Japan. If a non-compliance with these requirements is found as the result of the audit or the import inspection of the MHLW, the FFA shall take appropriate measures.

8. Effective date

This EVP for beef, beef offal and its products for export from Finland to Japan will come into effect on 23.12.2022.