



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 and Poultry Program, Quality Assessment Division (QAD) 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 Harvest 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.

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 Livestock Feeding Claims Audit 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 a 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 harvest 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.

Jeff Waite, Branch Chief
Quality Assessment Division
Livestock and Poultry Program

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.