



AV(HS)16.01.006.0001

4 Aug 2017

Meat Traders

Dear Sir / Mdm

### **IMPORT OF BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS**

AVA had reviewed the conditions for import of beef and beef products from countries with Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) controlled-risk status.

Previously, only deboned beef from cattle under 30 months of age is allowed import if they are from AVA-approved countries with BSE controlled-risk status. The revised conditions will now allow import of the following:

- Deboned beef cuts from cattle of all ages
- Bone-in beef cuts from cattle under 30 months of age

Please note that import of beef and beef products is allowed only from AVA accredited establishments. You may search for the approved list of establishment using the database search on our website at <http://www.ava.gov.sg/tools-and-resources/accredited-overseas-meat-and-egg-processing-establishment>. Import of bovine offal and processed beef products are still not allowed from countries with BSE controlled-risk status.

A copy of the revised veterinary conditions for importation of beef is attached for your easy reference.

Yours faithfully

Li Lu  
Senior Executive Manager (Food)  
Quarantine & Inspection Group  
for Director-General  
Agri-Food and Veterinary Services

*This is a computer-generated letter and no signature is required.*



# VETERINARY CONDITIONS FOR IMPORTATION OF BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS

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Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA)

## BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS

- a) Country/zone has been free from Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) for six (6) months immediately prior to the date of slaughter of animals and the date of export of meat and meat products to Singapore.
- b) Where the country/zone is free of FMD with vaccination, only deboned cuts are eligible for export.
- c) Where the products are exported from FMD-affected country/zone, the products have been subjected to heat treatment that is sufficient for inactivation of FMD virus in accordance with OIE guidelines.
- d) The exporting country has been recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) as having a controlled or negligible Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) risk, satisfying the BSE chapter of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- e) Where the country is of controlled BSE risk, deboned beef cuts from cattle of all ages and bone-in beef cuts derived from cattle less than thirty months of age are eligible for export.
- f) Where the country is of negligible BSE risk, beef cuts (bone-in and bone-less), derived from cattle of all ages are eligible for export.
- g) Traceability of the animals through a reliable system is in place.
- h) The products have not been derived from suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or suspect or confirmed progeny or cohorts of BSE cases, as described in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.
- i) The products have been derived from cattle that were not subjected to a stunning process with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process.

- j) Specified risk materials<sup>1</sup> have been cleanly removed from products for export to Singapore without contamination of the meat.
- k) The products have been prepared in an establishment accredited by AVA and is audited regularly by the competent authority for compliance with conditions for import into Singapore.
- l) For processed beef, the products do not contain mechanically separated/recovered meat.
- m) The meat has been derived from animals which were born and bred in the country of origin since birth.
- n) The meat has been derived from animals which have passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection and found to be free from infectious and contagious diseases. Ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections have been carried out by veterinarians or meat inspectors under direct supervision of government veterinarians.
- o) The meat has been derived from animals which were slaughtered, processed, packed and stored under sanitary conditions under official veterinary supervision in establishments approved by the Director-General, Agri-Food and Veterinary Services for export to Singapore.
- p) The meat has not been treated with chemical preservatives or other substances injurious to health.
- q) The meat has been inspected and found fit for human consumption and every precaution must be taken to prevent contamination prior to export.
- r) Retort processed meat products (e.g. canned meat) have been heat treated (sterilising process with sterilising value of not less than Fo3) to commercial sterility in hermetically sealed containers and are shelf stable at ambient temperatures.

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<sup>1</sup> brain, eye, spinal cord, skull and vertebral column from cattle 30 months and older, and the distal ileum and tonsils from all cattle.