



USDA Less than 30 Months (LT30) Age-Verification Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program – Japan, Korea and Taiwan

1 Purpose

This document provides the specified product requirements for marketing U.S. beef and beef products under the USDA Less than 30 Months (LT30) Age Verification Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program. This Program facilitates the international trade of U.S. beef and beef products to customers who request products be derived from animals less than 30 months of age at the time of slaughter.

2 Scope

These requirements apply to U.S. suppliers (slaughterers, fabricators, processors, **and further processors**) of beef and beef products offered for sale to customers who request products from animals less than 30 months of age at the time of slaughter. The specified product requirements of the QSA Program must be supported by a documented quality management system, the requirements of which are defined in *GVD 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*.

Only suppliers with an approved QSA Program may label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements of the Program.

3 Reference Documents

GVD 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Program General Policies and Procedures

GVD 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/arcaudits>

4 Specified Product Requirements

4.1 Beef and beef products must meet the following requirements:

4.1.1 Must be derived exclusively from animals less than 30 months of age as identified at the time of slaughter.

4.1.2 Must be identified and controlled up until the time of shipment to customer.

NOTE: For Processed Products destined for Japan, processed products must be traceable to the original QSA approved slaughter facility(s). The slaughter facility(s) name and address must be included on appropriate FSIS Export paperwork at time of export.

4.2 Identification of conforming product during shipment and delivery must be documented on the shipping documentation (bills of lading, shipping manifests, or letters of guarantee). The shipping documentation must:

4.2.1 Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and

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- 4.2.2 Contain the following applicable statement:
 - 4.2.2.1 "Product meets the QSA LT 30 Program requirements for Korea."
 - 4.2.2.2 "Product meets the QSA LT 30 Program requirements for Taiwan"
 - 4.2.2.3 "Product meets the QSA LT 30 Program requirements for Japan."
- 4.3 At the time of export, the FSIS 9060-5 Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness must include the following statement in the Remarks section:
 - 4.3.1 "The beef or beef products were produced at a verified establishment under the USDA Less than 30 Month Age-Verification Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Korea."
 - 4.3.2 "The beef or beef products were produced at a verified establishment under the USDA Less than 30 Month Age-Verification Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Taiwan."

5 Listing of Approved Programs

U.S. suppliers who generate products that meet the specified product requirements for the QSA LT 30 Program are listed on the *Official Listing of Approved Suppliers for the USDA QSA LT 30 Program for Japan, Korea and Taiwan*.

6 Responsibilities

U.S. suppliers must meet all policies and procedures outlined in this Procedure, *GVD 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Program General Policies and Procedures*, and *GVD 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*.

7 Export Verification Programs

In addition to the specified products requirements of the QSA Less than 30 Month Age-Verification Program all product intended for export must first meet all the requirements of the specified countries AMS Export Verification Program as applicable.