
**USDA SPECIFICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF BEEF CARCASS
QUALITY AND YIELD CHARACTERISTICS OF OFFICIALLY GRADED BEEF**

This specification is for certification by an Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) agent of steer, heifer, and cow beef carcasses which: (a) are derived from cattle that meet the genotypic requirements of the USDA Specification for Characteristics of Cattle Eligible for Approved Beef Programs Claiming Texas Longhorn influence (GLTL; Purebred Texas Longhorn or Texas Longhorn), and (b) meet the following set of requirements:

1. Practically free (not detracting from visual quality) of capillary rupture in the ribeye muscle;
2. Free of “dark cutting” characteristics; and
3. No hump exceeding 2 inches in height.

Item 3 shall be measured from a line formed by the extension of the top line (including the fat) and measuring the lean muscle (excluding the fat) perpendicular to that line in the center of the hump.

CERTIFICATION:

Carcasses to be examined for compliance with the requirements of this specification shall be clearly identified when presented to the AMS agent for certification. Procedures for identification, certification, the removal of preliminary identification marks (or other methods of control) from non-qualifying carcasses, and control of certified carcasses shall be in accordance with established Meat Grading and Certification (MGC) Branch procedures. The AMS agent shall certify acceptable carcasses and complete the Live Animal/Carcass Certification Worksheet (Form LS-5-6).

The costs of all grading and certification services performed by the AMS agent involving examinations, supervision, official documentation, and related services shall be borne by the person, group, or plant requesting the service.

LABELING:

Labeling of Certified Purebred Texas Longhorn Beef Program products and Certified Texas Longhorn Beef Program products shall be in compliance with Food Safety and Inspection Service regulations and policy guidelines, MGC Branch instructions and Livestock and Seed Program Policy Standardization Procedure 2 (LS Policy SP2).