

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 06/2021

To: All operators of DAFM-approved meat establishments

Subject: Revision of Export Health Certificate for beef and beef offal to Japan to include minced meat and meat preparations

The Department has reached agreement with the Japanese authorities on the certification of exports of minced meat and meat preparations from Ireland to Japan. With effect from 9 March 2021, minced beef and beef burgers, are eligible for export to Japan. This trader note outlines the requirements Food Business Operators (FBOs) must comply with in order to export those products to Japan.

Scope

This trader notice applies to the revision of the Export Health Certificate (EHC) for beef and beef offal to include minced beef and meat preparations (i.e. beef burgers).

- **“Minced meat”** means boned meat that has been minced into fragments and contains less than 1 % salt.
- **“Meat preparations”** means fresh meat, including meat that has been reduced to fragments, which has had foodstuffs, seasonings or additives added to it or which has undergone processes insufficient to modify the internal muscle fibre structure of the meat and thus to eliminate the characteristics of fresh meat.

In this case, the only meat preparations that can be exported to Japan are beef burgers.

Eligibility and Requirements

In order to be eligible for export to Japan, minced beef and beef burgers must meet the prescribed requirements for the export of beef and beef offal to Japan detailed in previous trader notices and listed below.

Previous Trader Notices on Beef Export to Japan

- Trader Notice MH 11/2019: Change in the Veterinary Health Certificate for Chilled or Frozen Beef and Beef Offal to Japan
- Trader Notice MH 1/2014: Procedures for the export of Chilled or Frozen Beef and Beef offal to Japan
- Trader Notice MH 35/2013: Export of beef and beef offal to Japan

These trader notices are available to view at the following link:

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/org-1444/20201125163238/https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/foodsafetyconsumerissues/foodsafetycontrolsonmeat/tradernotices/tradernotices2019/>

Approval of Plants

Plants seeking to be approved for the production and export of minced beef and beef burgers to Japan must complete the Application Form, embedded below, and undergo a pre-approval inspection by the Veterinary Inspector (VI) in charge.

The inspection checklist (**Japan 1**) is to be completed and forwarded to the RSVI who will submit it to HQ. The list of approved beef plants is maintained on the Department's website.



Japan FORM 1.docx

The FBO should then scan the completed application form and forward it to: meatmarketaccess@agriculture.gov.ie.

Role of the FBO:

Before being approved for the export of minced beef and beef burgers to Japan, FBOs must draw up a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which documents how the plant intends to produce and store eligible product in accordance with the Export Verification Protocol covering the standards for the slaughter of cattle and processing of beef eligible for export to Japan (which is available in Trader Notice MH 11/2019).

The SOP must, at a minimum, demonstrate that:

- Beef used in the manufacture of minced beef and beef burgers will only come from Japanese eligible beef from beef slaughter plants and boning halls approved to export to Japan;
- The slaughter plants and boning halls used to source beef will belong to the same group of companies (sister plants) and no beef from other plants will be used to manufacture minced beef and beef burgers for export to Japan;
- Minced beef and beef burgers eligible for export to Japan will be segregated after production and clearly labelled so as to be traceable back to eligible beef; and
- Eligible minced beef and beef burgers will be stored (in plant or at a public cold store) in such a way that identification and traceability are maintained at all times.

Export Health Certificate

The revised EHC agreed for the export of beef to Japan is embedded below:



RevisedVHC_BeefBurgers_Japan_Marchi

Copies of the relevant EHC, printed on the special secure stationery, may be requested by the certifying officer through the usual channels.

The revised EHC must be used as and from 9 March 2021. However, **the previous EHC will invalid from 1 June 2021.**

Meat Market Access Section

12 March 2021