

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 09/2021

To: All Food Business Operators interested in approval to export beef and beef products to Canada

Subject: Export of Edible Beef Hearts to Canada

(This Trader Notice should be read in conjunction with [Trader Notice 20/2015](#) on export of Beef to Canada)

Introduction

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has notified Ireland that consignments of beef hearts for human consumption have been rejected because the hearts were not dressed to the specification described in their “[Dressing procedures and preparation of edible parts](#)”.

Scope

This Trader Notice applies to the export of bovine hearts for human consumption to Canada whether as intact product or as BIFG (N60 tested for STEC).

The scope of this Trader Notice may extend to other edible bovine parts, and it is incumbent on approved establishments to ensure that any edible parts exported to Canada are in compliance with Canadian dressing specifications.

Canadian Specification for Edible Bovine Hearts

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has advised DAFM that they will not accept beef heart which are not dressed in accordance with Canadian requirements as described in their “[Dressing procedures and preparation of edible parts](#)”.

The specification is as follows:

- The pericardium will be removed.
- The heart will be cut open or inverted to ensure all blood clots are removed.
- All of the aorta and other major blood vessels are removed, leaving at most the 2 cm from their origin on the external surface of the heart.
- The os cordis, if applicable, is removed.
- After washing, hearts will be drained and refrigerated.

Role of the FBO

FBOs are required to include the dressing specification of bovine hearts destined for Canada in their Canadian SOP. They should include a documented monitoring and verification system to demonstrate continuing compliance with this specification. Any hearts not dressed to the Canadian specification should not be included in Canadian consignments, as they will be rejected

**Meat Hygiene Division
June 2021**