

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 01/2022

To: All operators of DAFM-approved meat establishments

Subject: Revised health certificate for exports of beef and beef products to Singapore

(This Trader Notice supersedes [Trader Notice MH 13/2017](#))

The Department has reached agreement with the Singapore Food Agency (SFA) on revised certification arrangements for Irish beef exports to Singapore.

Veterinary Health Certificate

An updated veterinary health certificate (VHC) has been agreed for the export of beef and beef products from Ireland to Singapore. It replaces the beef certificate agreed in 2017 – see [Trader Notice MH 13/2017](#).

The main changes from the previous certificate are that the new certificate:

- Recognises Ireland's negligible BSE risk status;
- Removes the definition of Specified Risk Material;
- Includes bone-in beef of cattle of all ages;
- Includes beef offal;
- Permits processed beef products (including heat-treated beef products).

The text of the new VHC will be published concurrently with this Trader Notice on the DAFM website. The new certificate is effective **immediately**.

Scope

The revised VHC covers the export of:

- Chilled or frozen boneless beef and bone-in beef derived from cattle of all ages;
- Chilled or frozen beef offal;
- Processed beef products;
- Hermetically sealed heat-treated beef products heated to an F-value of not less than F₀3.

Approved plants

DAFM-approved beef establishments which wish to be approved for the handling of beef destined for export to Singapore should apply to Meat Market Access Section using the application form referenced under Role of Food Business Operator and published with this notice.

Beef establishments already listed as approved to export beef to Singapore may export beef cuts and offal immediately under the conditions of the new certificate. Establishments wishing to export processed beef products must apply for additional category authorisation using the application form referenced below. All applications will be required to undergo a verification procedure by DAFM.

Following verification, newly approved establishments will be recommended to the SFA. Exports cannot commence until listed by the SFA for the relevant product category and formal notification issued to the FBO by DAFM.

Conditions of certification

The main conditions of the updated VHC are:

1. The animals from which the meat is derived were born and raised in Ireland;
2. The meat must be derived from animals which were slaughtered, processed, packed and stored under official veterinary supervision in establishments approved by the SFA;
3. Heat-treated hermetically sealed beef products must have achieved an F-value of not less than F_03 .

Role of the Food Business Operator

If plant management wish to export beef or beef products to Singapore, they must apply for approval and draw up a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) in consultation with the Veterinary Inspector. The SOP must set out how the FBO produces beef or beef products which meet the certification criteria and the measures the FBO will take to ensure that the criteria are met. The FBO is to include own checks on the integrity of the systems for selection, segregation, labelling, boning and boxing of beef to Singapore.

When the SOP and FBO checks are in place, the FBO should present 'Application for approval of meat establishments for the export of beef to Singapore', published concurrently with this notice, to the VI who will sign it if satisfied with the SOP and checks.

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

Auditable records must be provided to the official veterinarian on request and prior to any request for certification.

The full list of Irish meat establishments approved to export to Singapore can be found on the SFA website at the below link:

<https://www.sfa.gov.sg/tools-and-resources/accredited-overseas-meat-and-egg-processing-establishment>

Meat Market Access Section
Meat & Dairy Policy Division
21st February 2022