

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 01/2023

To: All operators of DAFM-approved meat establishments

Subject: Change of strip colour from red to black as a means of identifying eligible carcasses for export to Japan.

Background

This Trader Notice concerns the Veterinary Health Certificate for the export of beef and beef offal (including minced meat and meat preparations) from Ireland to Japan.

These certificates are for fresh meat, including minced meat and meat preparations, of domestic bovine and swine. For the avoidance of doubt, fresh meat means all animal parts fit for human consumption whether fresh, chilled or frozen.

Scope

The existing EVP from May 2019 requires all dressed carcasses of cattle over 30 months of age to be identified with a visible red strip. However, Ireland cannot continue to use a red strip in compliance with EVP requirements because it has achieved negligible risk status for BSE and, under EU law, a red striped label is a reserved SRM official control that should only be applied to slaughtered animals over 30 months imported from countries with a controlled risk designation.

Following consultation with industry and with MHLW, it was agreed to **change the strip colour from red to black as a means of identifying eligible carcasses for export to Japan.**

The new requirements will become effective from **Monday, 6 February 2023.**

It is incumbent on FBOs to make the necessary arrangements to implement the change to the EVP rules from the 6th of February onwards.

Eligibility and Requirements

In order to be eligible for export to Japan, beef, beef offal, minced meat and meat preparations (i.e. 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 06/2021: Revision of Export Health Certificate for beef and beef offal to Japan to include minced meat and meat preparations
- 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

Meat Market Access Section

Meat & Milk Policy Division

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8 February 2023