

Netherlands Export Verification Program - Japan

1 Purpose

Beef or beef products eligible for export to Japan from the Netherlands is veal (beef derived from animals 12 months of age or younger) and veal offal¹ (hereafter called “veal”) produced in a manner that ensures the hygienic removal of SRM (tonsils and distal ileum). This document provides the specified product requirements for marketing Netherlands veal to Japan under the Netherlands Export Verification Program – Japan (EVP). It also provides the additional requirements for the Netherlands Quality System Assessment Program (hereafter called ‘Bedrijfsprotocol’) for marketing Netherlands veal to Japan.

The range of beef and beef products may be extended after consultations between the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) of Japan, provided that the range of products remains limited to those mentioned in the risk assessment of the Food Safety Commission of Japan.

2 Scope

The Netherlands Food and Consumer Products Safety Authority NVWA implements and supervises implementation of EU legislation and EVP.

This document applies to Netherlands companies, slaughterers, cutting plants, cold stores (hereafter called “company”) that supply veal that are eligible for export to Japan as listed on the NVWA website.

Companies must meet the specified product requirements of section 5 for Japan under the EVP through a NVWA approved Bedrijfsprotocol that include the requirements in order to be able to comply with the Japan requirements for veal.

The Bedrijfsprotocol ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system (QMS – such as HACCP, SSOP etc). Only companies with an approved Bedrijfsprotocol for the EVP may label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements for Japan under the EVP.

3 Reference Documents

1. NVWA approved company Bedrijfsprotocol (describes how the company will comply with re Japanese requirements)
2. NVWA Project Protocol Japan (describes how the NVWA will control compliance with Japanese requirements by companies that export veal to Japan)
3. NVWA working instruction (made after agreement on animal health certificate and describes relevant issues for NVWA inspector who issues the certificate)
4. NVWA list of approved companies complying with Japanese requirements

4 Additions to the Netherlands Bedrijfsprotocol requirements of the company

The specified product requirements listed in Section 5 of this document must be met through a NVWA approved Bedrijfsprotocol. The Bedrijfsprotocol ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system (QMS).

Companies must also incorporate the following requirements into their Bedrijfsprotocol:

4.1 Internal Audit

4.1.1 The company must conduct internal audits to verify implementation of the Bedrijfsprotocol and EV program-Japan effectively at planned intervals.

4.1.2 The company must have documented procedure, maintain its records and ensure that actions are taken without undue delay to eliminate detected non-compliance and their causes.

4.2 Company's Suppliers Listing

¹ Veal offal that is exported from the Netherlands to Japan are cheeks, sweetbread, tongues, liver, kidneys, heart and tails.

The company (cutting plant and/or coldstore) must maintain an approved suppliers listing which must:

- Mention suppliers of slaughtered calfs that have an approved Bedrijfsprotocol for the EVP
- Identify the supplier's name, address, and approval date
- Be available to the NVWA for review

The company must also maintain the date that suppliers were removed from the suppliers listing.

5 Specified Product Requirements

5.1 Veal that are eligible for export to Japan must be processed using the procedures as incorporated into the facility's QMS, and must be produced in a manner that ensures the hygienic removal of SRM (tonsils and distal ileum) and prevents the contamination with these tissues of meat products being produced for export to Japan.

5.2 SRM are not allowed to be exported to Japan. Relevant SRM (tonsils and distal ileum) should be removed in such a way that products exported to Japan cannot be contaminated with these products, as described in the Bedrijfsprotocol.

5.3 Eligible products must be derived from cattle that are 12 months of age or younger at the time of slaughter using either one of the following method:

5.3.1 The live cattle (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*) must be traceable through the Identification and Registration System. At the moment of slaughtering the animals should be verified on:

- Individual Animal Age Verification, 12 months of age or younger.
- Animals have only been born and raised in the Netherlands or born in France, the United States of America, Canada or the third free countries as mentioned on <http://www.maff.go.jp/ags/english/news/third-free.html> and raised in the Netherlands.

5.3.2 Companies must keep records showing the link between the live animal and the batch. Each batch should show the information on age and country of raising. Records must be sufficient to trace to the individual animal and back to ranch records.

5.4 Identification Requirements

- All carcasses and meat complying with the requirements for Japan must be identified.
- The identification must remain with the product through processing, packaging, storage, and shipping to insure the integrity of the process and the product.
- Only products produced by eligible companies and identified as meeting the requirements of the EU and EVP shall receive a NVWA export certificate that states that all requirements of the EU and Japan are met.

6 Listing of Approved Programs

6.1 Only Netherlands companies that have an approved Bedrijfsprotocol which meets the specified product requirements for Japan will be officially listed as eligible companies for the EVP.

6.2 NVWA shall annually provide to the MHLW (Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare) official certificate listing of companies eligible for export veal to Japan.

7 Responsibilities

7.1 Netherlands companies exporting to Japan must meet all policies and procedures outlined in this EVP.

7.2 NVWA is responsible for supervising the companies and issuing the veterinary health certificate for export of veal to Japan which include information as required by the Food Safety Act of Japan.

8 Audit and Import Inspection of the MHLW

The MHLW may conduct on-site audits of Netherlands inspection system including visit of NVWA, the companies that export veal to Japan and relevant facilities.

If a non-compliance with these standards is found as the result of the audit or the import inspection of the MHLW. NVWA shall take appropriate measures including controlling non-compliant products, corrective action or preventive measures.

9 Effective Date

These requirements for veal to be exported to Japan from Netherlands will go into effect on 1 February 2013.