

Export Verification Programme - Standards for slaughter of sheep and goat, processing of sheep and goat offal, eligible for export to Japan

This Export Verification Programme (EVP) details specified product requirements, processing requirements and requirements for establishments producing sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal, for export to Japan from Italy.

This EVP is in addition to Italian and EU regulations but may also include some relevant domestic requirements.

The Ministry of Health (MoH) is the competent authority overseeing the implementation of the EVP in Italy.

1. Purpose

This EVP describes the standards that slaughterhouses and processing establishments shall meet in producing sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan in order to meet the following objectives:

- Ensure removal from sheep and goat carcasses of all tissues ineligible for export to Japan;
- Prevent cross contamination of eligible sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan from ineligible tissues during slaughter and/or processing;
- Enable verification of compliance with Japan import conditions relating to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE), in addition to Italian and EU domestic requirements.

2. Scope

This EVP applies to Italian establishments producing sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan from Italy. The establishments shall meet the specified processing requirements and requirements for establishments producing sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan from Italy.

These establishments shall be designated and listed by the MoH by agreement with the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW).

3. Identification and traceability

- 3.1. Live sheep and goat shall be domesticated ovine and caprine animals (born and raised in Italy or imported into Italy from and via countries or areas eligible to export sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal to Japan.)
- 3.2. Live sheep and goat shall be individually identified by means of physical and or electronic identification.
- 3.3. Live sheep and goat shall be sent to slaughterhouses with individual identification and will be accompanied by a movement document attesting to the origin of the animals.
- 3.4. Records and identification information throughout the process shall be sufficient to trace:
 - 3.4.1. Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan to carcasses in a batch;
 - 3.4.2. Batch of carcasses to batch of animals;
 - 3.4.3. Individual carcasses to individual animal;
 - 3.4.4. Individual identification of animals in each batch of animals;
 - 3.4.5. Individual animal to farm of supply;

4. Specified Products Requirements

- 4.1. Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal shall be derived from flocks that are not under restriction due to Scrapie.
- 4.2. Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal shall be exclusively meat including meat cut in small pieces (skewers), offal and their products which the MHLW and MoH recognize as eligible for export to Japan.
- 4.3. "Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal" means all parts of sheep and goat derived therefrom, except the following tissues;

- Head (including tonsils but excluding tongue, cheek and skin) and spinal cord from sheep and goat over 12 months of age or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum.
- Spleen and ileum of all ages of sheep and goat.

4.4. Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan, and the carcasses of sheep and goat from which they are derived should be traceable to production records.

5. Processing requirements

- 5.1. Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan shall be processed using procedures ensuring compliance with point 4 and integrated into the facility HACCP/SSOP.
- 5.2. Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan shall be processed in a manner to ensure the hygienic removal of the ineligible tissues as described above in point 4.3 and to prevent any cross-contamination by these ineligible tissues.
- 5.3. The establishment's HACCP/SSOP shall include internal verification activities which allow control of compliance with the specified requirements of this EVP.

6. Designated establishments for export to Japan

- 6.1. The designated establishments for export of sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal, goat offal, to Japan from Italy shall be establishments (slaughterhouses, cutting plants, processing plants, and cold stores) approved by the MoH following an on-site inspection. The approval of the designated establishments is under the responsibility of the MoH in accordance with the MHLW.
- 6.2. The designated establishments shall meet the specified processing requirements for sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan from Italy.
- 6.3. The designated establishments for export to Japan shall be listed by the MoH; the MoH shall provide annually to the MHLW an official listing of the designated establishments for export of sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal, goat offal to Japan.
- 6.4. The designated establishments for export of sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal, goat offal, to Japan from Italy are responsible for the compliance with all requirements outlined in this procedure and the Italian and EU regulations.
- 6.5. All necessary information to verify the enforcement of the EVP by the designated establishments shall be available to the MoH for review.

7. Export certificate

- 7.1. Sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal, goat offal for export to Japan shall be accompanied by an export certificate issued by government official veterinarian under the responsibility of the MoH on export to Japan.
- 7.2. The export certificate shall include the information as required by the Food Safety Act of Japan.
- 7.3. The export certificate shall mention the following statement: "The products herein described meets "Standards for slaughter of sheep and goat, processing of sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep and goat offal, eligible for export to Japan – Export Verification Program (EVP)".

8. Audit and import inspection of the MHLW

- 8.1. The MHLW may conduct on-site audits of the Italian inspection system including visits to the MoH designated establishments that export sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offa and, goat offal to Japan and relevant facilities.
- 8.2. If non-compliance with these standards is found as a result of the audit or the import inspection of the MHLW, the MoH shall take appropriate measures including corrective or preventive action.

These requirements for sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan from Italy will go into effect from June 29th, 2020