

ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS FOR SHEEPMEAT, GOATMEAT SHEEP OFFAL, GOAT OFFAL TO BE EXPORTED TO JAPAN FROM ITALY

Animal health requirements for sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal, goat offal to be exported to Japan from Italy are as follows:

1 Definitions

For the purpose of the animal health requirements;

1-(1) “sheepmeat and goatmeat” 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.

1-(2) “the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan” means sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal, goat offal, including meat cut in small pieces (skewers) to be exported to Japan from Italy.

1-(3) “outbreak” means detection of specific pathogen, antigen or antibody of the disease as well as appearance of animal showing clinical signs of the disease.

1-(4) “the designated facilities” means the slaughterhouses, meat cutting facilities, meat processing facilities and storage facilities etc. which are designated by the competent authority of Italy (or the government authorities of the third free countries etc. listed in Annex 2) as facilities which meet the requirements both in Articles 1 to 4 of Annex 1 and in Annex 3.

1-(5) “the third free countries” means countries or areas approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the export of meat etc. derived from cloven-hoofed animals to Japan as listed in Article 1 to 3 in Annex 2.

1-(6) “the specified countries” means countries approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan for the export of sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan other than the third free countries as listed in Article 4 of Annex 2.

1-(7) “the Japanese animal health authorities” means Animal Health Division, Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan.

1-(8) “the competent authority of Italy” means Italian Ministry of Health as the central competent authority overseeing the implementation at the regional and local level of the National Health System.

2 General requirements

2.1 Italy is free from Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and Rinderpest, and vaccination against FMD and Rinderpest is legally prohibited in Italy.

2.2 Importation of cloven-hoofed animals that have been vaccinated against FMD and Rinderpest is completely prohibited in Italy.

2.3 If an outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Italy, the competent authority of Italy must immediately stop certification of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan.

2.4 The competent authority of Italy will continue to maintain measures to prevent introduction, control spread, and detect Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). These measures include SRM removal, effective feed ban, and surveillance program. In case that the competent authority of Italy intends to amend or abolish the regulations or measures on BSE, the competent authority of Italy must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the fact in advance.

2.5 If a BSE case is detected in Italy and it is epidemiologically related to the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan, the competent authority of Italy must immediately notify the Japanese animal health authorities with the relevant information.

2.6 Scrapie is designated as notifiable disease in Italy. Also, the surveillance and monitoring for Scrapie based on the Terrestrial Animal Health Code adopted by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and stamping out for Scrapie infected sheep and goats are implemented by the competent authority of Italy. In case that the competent authority of Italy intends to amend or abolish the regulations or measures on Scrapie mentioned in this Article, the competent authority of Italy must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the fact in advance.

3 Requirements for the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan

3.1 Sheep and goat slaughtered for the production of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan (hereinafter referred to as "the slaughtered sheep and goat") must have been born and raised only in Italy, or legally imported from and via the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 and completely meet all the requirements in article 1 of Annex 1.

Sheepmeat and goatmeat that is legally imported from and via the third free countries or the specified countries which completely meet all the requirements in Article 2 of Annex 1 can be used for the production of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan.

3.2 The slaughtered sheep and goat were not suspect or confirmed BSE cases, or epidemiologically related to BSE cases.

3.3 The slaughtered sheep and goat were not suspect or confirmed Scrapie cases.

3.4 The exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan must be slaughtered, produced and stored only in the designated facilities.

3.5 The slaughtered sheep and goat were found to be sound and healthy as a result of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by veterinary inspectors of the competent authority of Italy in the designated facilities at the time of slaughter.

3.6 The exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan has been handled at the designated facilities in such a way as to prevent contamination with any causative agents of animal infectious diseases until shipment to Japan.

4 Requirements for the designated facilities

4.1 The competent authority of Italy must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, address, approval number and activities of the designated facilities in advance of the shipment of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan from the said facilities. The list of the designated facilities will be maintained and updated by the competent authority of Italy as changes in facility status occur and the competent authority of Italy must notify the Japanese animal health authority accordingly.

4.2 The competent authority of Italy must confirm through an ordinary monitoring or periodic audit that the designated facilities are fulfilling the required conditions in Annex 1 and Annex 3.

4.3 If the competent authority of Italy identifies a serious noncompliance with the conditions in Annex 1 and Annex 3 during ordinary monitoring or periodic audits of the designated facilities, the competent authority of Italy must immediately stop certification of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan from the said facilities, and must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, address, approval number and activities of the said facilities.

Thereafter, the competent authority of Italy is to revoke the designation of the said facilities.

If the competent authority of Italy verifies acceptable corrective actions at the said facilities, the competent authority of Italy may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities after informing the Japanese animal health authorities of the corrective actions.

4.4 A system-wide problem such as repeated serious noncompliance may result in the suspension of the animal health requirements.

5 Requirements for shipment

5.1 Clean and sanitary wrappings and/or containers, such as cardboard boxes, must be used to pack the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan.

5.2 In the case where the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan is transported to Japan is en route to third countries, the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan must be stored in an enclosed ocean/air vessel container. The container must be sealed by the competent authority of Italy. The seal must be apparently distinguishable from those of the other countries/regions than Italy. In case the official seal with the container has been broken or removed prior to the time of

import inspection after arrival in Japan, the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan in question may be prohibited from being imported into Japan.

5.3 If the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan has been certified and then en route to Japan at the time when outbreak of FMD or Rinderpest is confirmed in Italy, the shipment will be prohibited from entering Japan, except where the competent authority of Italy can demonstrate that the shipment definitely bears no relation (such as, time of shipment, region of origin, route of transit) to the outbreak of the said diseases.

6 Audit by the Japanese animal health authorities

6.1 The Japanese animal health authorities can evaluate compliance with the regulatory requirements of Italy and the Animal Health Requirements in this document by a system audit on representative samples of designated facilities. This audit may include audit of relevant records of designated facilities.

6.2 When the audit mentioned in 6.1 above finds that the animal health requirements and Italy regulatory requirements have not been met at the designated facilities, the competent authority of Italy must immediately stop certification of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan from the said facilities.

Thereafter, the competent authority of Italy is to revoke the designation of the said facilities.

If the competent authority of Italy verifies acceptable corrective actions at the said facilities, the competent authority of Italy may re-designate the revoked facilities as the designated facilities after informing the Japanese animal health authorities of the corrective actions.

6.3 A system-wide problem such as repeated serious noncompliance may result in the suspension of the animal health requirements.

7 Issue of inspection certificate

7.1 The competent authority of Italy must be responsible for issuing the inspection certificate for the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan, attestating the following items in detail in English, after confirming the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan complies with the animal health requirements;

- a) Name, address, approval number and activities of the designated facilities (in case the relevant procedures such as slaughtering, cutting and storing were not done at the same designated facility, each of the facilities at which the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan has been dealt with must be described on this certificate.).
- b) Date of slaughter/cutting.
- c) Date, authority's name and place of issue of the inspection certificate, and name and title of signer.

- d) Identification number of the seal applied to the container (in case the container is sealed by the official seal approved by the Japanese animal health authorities in accordance with Article 5.2).
- e) Each required condition of Article 3.1 to 3.6.

7.2 The animal health requirements for sheepmeat and goatmeat to be exported to Japan from Italy come into effect from 29 June, 2020.

Annex 1 – Requirements for the designated facilities

1 Cloven-hoofed animals which can be handled at the designated facilities must be born and raised only in Italy (except for deer epidemiologically related to the outbreak of CWD, and except for pigs epidemiologically related to the outbreak of ASF or CSF), or must be imported to Italy from and via the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 and meet all of the following requirements 1.1 to 1.4.

1.1 The said animals must be born and raised only in the third free countries or the specified countries.

1.2 The said animal must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of export inspection conducted by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries.

1.3 The said animals must be legally imported to Italy from and via the third free countries or the specified countries and must be accompanied by inspection certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries.

1.4 The said animals must be free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the competent authority of Italy.

2 The meat etc. which can be handled at the designated facilities must originate from cloven-hoofed animals that were born and raised only in Italy (except for deer meat etc. epidemiologically related to the outbreak of CWD, and except for pig meat etc. epidemiologically related to the outbreak of ASF or CSF), and be handled only at the designated facilities in Italy, or must be imported to Italy from and via the third free countries or the specified countries listed in Annex 2 and meet all of the following requirements 2.1 to 2.4.

2.1 The imported meat etc. must be derived from cloven-hoofed animals that were born and raised only in the third free countries or the specified countries.

2.2 The imported meat etc. must be handled only at the designated facilities in the third free countries or the specified countries and be derived from cloven-hoofed animals that were free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by official veterinarians of the third free countries or the specified countries.

2.3 The imported meat etc. must be legally imported to Italy from and via the third free countries or the specified countries, and must be accompanied by inspection certificates issued by the government authorities of the third free countries or the specified countries.

2.4 The imported meat etc. must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the competent authority of Italy, and must be directly carried into the designated facilities in Italy after the said inspection.

3 If the designated facilities are storage facilities and satisfy the following conditions, they can be designated as storage facilities to handle the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan. In this case the said designated facilities may be used only for the temporary storage of final products until shipment.

3.1 The exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan which is handled in the storage facilities must be completely wrapped and boxed, and must be completely isolated from any meat etc. other than products complying with Article 2 above.

3.2 The exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan must be handled to prevent cross contamination with any meat etc. other than products complying with Article 2 above.

4 The species, quantities, production areas and date of handling (and, in case of handling animals or meat imported from the third free countries or the specified countries, the name of the country/area of origin and date of import) must be recorded on the original records at the designated facilities. The original records must be kept for at least two years at the designated facilities.

5 In case of an outbreak of FMD, Rinderpest, CWD, ASF or CSF in a third free country or the specified countries, the competent authority of Italy must immediately suspend the shipment of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan from all the designated facilities which handle cloven-hoofed animals and their meat etc. (for CWD, limited to deer and deer meat etc., for ASF and CSF, limited to pigs and pig meat etc.) imported from the said third free country or the specified countries and inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the suspension.

5.1 The exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan that is then en route to Japan may be prohibited from being released into Japan, unless the shipment has been demonstrated to have no epidemiological relation to the outbreak of the said diseases.

5.2 The shipping of the exported sheepmeat and goatmeat to Japan described above can be resumed either in case the Japanese animal health authorities has confirmed that the third free countries or the specified countries concerned are free from the said diseases or in case the competent authority of Italy suspended the entrance of cloven-hoofed animals and their meat etc. into the designated facilities from the said third free countries or the specified countries and informed the Japanese animal health authorities of the said prohibition. (In any case, no shipment must be permitted of sheepmeat and goatmeat that is epidemiologically related to the outbreak of the said diseases.)

Annex 2 – The third free countries and the specified countries

1 The third free countries in respect of cloven-hoofed animals (other than cervid animals and pigs) and their meat etc. (Countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD and BSE and eligible to export to Japan by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan or the Japanese animal health authority)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

2 The third free countries in respect of deer and deer meat etc. (countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD and CWD and eligible to export to Japan by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan or the Japanese animal health authorities)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

3 The third free countries in respect of pigs and pig meat etc. (countries or areas approved as free from Rinderpest, FMD, ASF and CSF and eligible to export to Japan by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan or the Japanese animal health authorities)

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/third-free.html>

4 The specified countries for export beef, sheepmeat and goatmeat etc. to Japan other than the third free countries

Update information on the MAFF official website at the following URL:

<http://www.maff.go.jp/aqs/english/news/eligible-bse-country.html>

Annex 3 – Requirements for the designated facilities by the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) (Export Verification Program: EVP)

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.
2. The designated establishments shall meet the specified processing requirements for sheepmeat, goatmeat, sheep offal and goat offal for export to Japan from Italy.
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.
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.
5. All necessary information to verify the enforcement of the EVP by the designated establishments shall be available to the MoH for review.