

**Summary of
Certifying Beef Products under Export Verification Programs
FSIS Notice 19-06
3/31/2006**

Purpose

This notice provides Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) personnel with revised instructions for carrying out FSIS's certification process for meat products exported under EV programs. FSIS personnel are to verify that the applicant provides a signed document from the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) confirming that each EV requirement has been met by the establishment or establishments that produced the product being presented for export to any country for which an EV program has been established other than Mexico and Canada. **The AMS confirmation letter is not required for EV programs for products being exported to Mexico or Canada.**

Background

The Audit, Review and Compliance Branch of AMS has been assigned the responsibility for reviewing and approving companies as eligible suppliers of meat and meat products under the USDA Export Verification programs. The EV programs outline the specified product requirements for individual countries. See the web page link below for additional information:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/l sarc.htm>

Approval of plants under an EV Program and related FSIS Responsibilities

1. The establishment will request to be audited by AMS for EV approval.
2. AMS will notify the Technical Service Center via email.
3. The TSC will acknowledge receipt of the email and the TSC will notify the appropriate District Office, determined by the location of the facility.
4. The DO will ensure that any inspection program employee who may be involved with the certification of product for export under the EV program receives the appropriate training within five business days.
5. No later than five business days after the initial AMS notification, the affected DO will notify AMS that training of assigned inspection program personnel is complete.
The e-mail should be a reply to the initial AMS notification of audit e-mail that TSC forwarded to the DO, and state that inspection personnel at the facility are trained. (**NOTE:** The e-mail does not need to list names or dates of training).
6. AMS requires that the approved establishment maintain a copy all EV Program Audits Reports in its records.
7. The establishment is required, as part of the EV approval process, to discuss the audit reports with FSIS Inspection Personnel during a weekly PBIS meeting **prior**

to the first EV export.

8. If a plant is delisted, AMS will notify the TSC and the TSC will notify the DO.
9. The District Office will then notify the affected FSIS Inspection Personnel.

Off-Line Inspection Verification Procedures for EV Programs

1. Determine if the establishment has an approved EV Program during the weekly PSIS meeting.
2. Know the location and content of the approved EV Program to perform verification activities.
3. The establishment may list the products approved for export in their Quality System Manual. This manual is part of the Quality System Assessment as required by the Export Verification Program. The list will include all beef items, including beef offal, that are intended for export. The list will also contain the specific product code numbers and the Institutional Meat Product Specification item number or a detailed item description.
4. If the establishment receives meat or meat products from a supplier, determine through records if the supplier has an approved EV Program. The establishment is required to maintain these records and make them available to inspection personnel.
5. If there are concerns about the establishment properly executing the approved EV Program, notify AMS at ARCBranch@usda.gov with a cc to the immediate supervisor and the TSC.
Include the establishment name and number, the type of product affected, dates associated with the product, name of the country intended to receive product, and your name.

NOTE: If any of the EV requirements are regulatory non-compliances, take appropriate enforcement actions and issue a Non-Compliance Record.

Verification Procedures for Exported Product Under EV Programs

Upon receipt of FSIS Form 9060-6 from the Applicant, the inspection program employee performs the verification procedures outlined in FSIS Directive 9000.1, Rev. 1. and:

1. Verifies that the establishment is on the AMS EV approval list to export product to the importing country.
2. Determines that the product is derived from animals slaughtered **after** the establishment received AMS approval.
3. Verifies that each product listed on the FSIS Form 9060-6 is eligible for export to the importing country.
4. After determining that all requirements have been met, re-inspects the product as described in FSIS Directive 9000.1, Rev. 1 and FSIS Directive 9040.1, Rev. 3.

5. If FSIS Form 9060-6 and the re-inspection of product are acceptable, issues FSIS Form 9060-5.

6. If the application or product is not acceptable, do not sign the application and follow instructions in FSIS Directives 9000.1, Rev.1 and 9040.1, Rev. 3.

Additional Requirements for the Certifying Official

As part of the EV approved program, prior to the Certifying Official signing the FSIS Form 9060-5, the establishment **must** receive a letter from AMS confirming that all the EV Program requirements have been met and the products are eligible for export.

Required documents that the establishment must provide to the Certifying Official,

1. The original FSIS Form 9060-5
2. Copy of the AMS Letter that confirms that AMS conducted a review of the required documents and determined that the items are eligible for export to the country listed on the certificate and from the facilities listed.
3. All certificates, supporting documentation, and Letterhead Certificates (if required by importing country)

NOTE: The AMS letter requirements do not apply to EV Programs for Mexico or Canada.

Inspection Responsibilities when Application or Product is unacceptable

1. Do not sign the FSIS Forms.
2. Notify the establishment.
3. Document the notification in a Memorandum of Interview.
4. Maintain copies of documents and Memorandum of Interview in government file.

For additional information regarding this Notice or specific questions contact the TSC at 1-800- 233-3935