



Animal Products (Switzerland: Tariff Quota) Notice 2011

Pursuant to section 60(1) of the Animal Products Act 1999, I notify the following requirements for the purpose of specifying requirements that must be met in relation to the supply of high quality beef under Swiss Ordinance SR916.341.

Signed at Wellington this 15th day of February 2011

Debbie Morris

Director Approvals and ACVM

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

(Acting under delegated authority)

Notice

1 Title

This notice is the Animal Products (Switzerland: Tariff Quota) Notice 2011.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on 10 February 2011.

Part 1

Preliminary Provisions

3 Application

This notice applies to animal products exported to Switzerland under Swiss Ordinance SR916.341 on beef cattle and meat with a preferential tariff quota for high quality beef.

4 Purpose

- (1) This notice creates a regime for the production slaughter and classification of grass fed and grain fed bovine animals and their products and for official certification of authenticity under the quota specification.

5 Interpretation

- (1) In this notice, unless the context otherwise requires -

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999

certificate of authenticity means an official assurance issued by the NZFSA confirming that the product has been produced in accordance with the Swiss quota requirements

consignment means the animal products described on a single NZFSA sanitary certificate

E-cert means the electronic programme provided by the Director-General for the production and issue of electronic eligibility documents, eligibility declarations and the issue of electronic or paper export certificates and includes the MAF help file in this electronic programme

MAF means the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

NZFSA means the New Zealand Food Safety Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

official assurance means a statement from the New Zealand Government to a foreign government confirming one or more things in respect of any animal product

official assurance verifier means a MAF employee accredited under section 103 of the Animal Products Act 1999 to undertake official assurance verification

official veterinarian means a veterinarian employed by MAF

sanitary certificate means the animal and public health certificate issued by NZFSA for the consignment

- (2) Any term used but not defined in this notice that is defined in the Act has the same meaning as in the Act.

Part 2

General Requirements and Restrictions

6 Production & Classification

- (1) The animals from which the beef cuts are derived must be steers or heifers which are either;
- (a) less than 30 months of age, fed on grain for a minimum of 100 days before slaughter; or
 - (b) fed on grain and/or grass and be evaluated in accordance with a classification scheme approved and verified by MAF.
- (2) The official national classification scheme approved for the purposes of this notice is specified in Annex I.

7 Certification

- (1) The certificate of authenticity is deemed to be an official assurance and the requirements of the Animal Products (Official Assurances Specifications) Notice 2005 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Part 3

Feedlots

8 Application of this Part

This Part applies to feedlots supplying animals for slaughter for the purposes of clause 6(1)(a) of this notice. It does not apply to feedlots supplying animals for slaughter for the purposes of clause 6(1)(b).

9 Requirements

- (1) Feedlots rearing and supplying animals for slaughter must be listed with MAF for this purpose.
- (2) Feedlot operators must apply for listing using form AP21.
- (3) Feedlot operators must have a documented programme, approved by the official veterinarian, describing the procedures to achieve the requirements of this Part. The programme must include the appointment of a quality control supervisor responsible directly to the manager of the feedlot and with full authority to ensure compliance with the programme.
- (4) Feedlot operators must ensure that the steers and heifers are, at the time of supply to the slaughterhouse:
 - (a) Under 30 months of age; and
 - (b) have only been fed a diet, for at least the last 100 days before slaughter, containing not less than 70 % cereal and a total quantity of feed of at least 9 kg per day.
- (5) Feedlot operators must ensure that all animals are permanently identified on arrival and remain so during their time on the feedlot. Details of age, gender, identification and location in the feedlot must be recorded. Animals meeting the age and feeding requirements of this notice must be kept physically separate from ineligible animals during the 100 days before slaughter.
- (6) Feedlot operators must provide the slaughterhouse operator with a declaration stating that the animals comply with clause 9(3) of this notice. Animals must be transported directly from the feedlot to the slaughterhouse.

Part 4

Slaughter and Processing

10 Application of this Part

- (1) This part applies to operators intending to slaughter animals and process meat for the purposes of this notice.

11 Requirements

- (1) Slaughterhouses and packing houses must be on the list of premises eligible to export fresh meat to the European Union and be separately listed by MAF to process grain fed beef for this quota.
- (2) Operators must apply for listing using form AP21.
- (3) Operators must have a documented programme, approved by the official veterinarian, describing the procedures to achieve the requirements of this Part.
- (4) Animals from which beef intended for export under the definition in clause 6(1)(a) must not be slaughtered unless the declaration provided for under clause 9(6) is available at the slaughterhouse. The operator must inform the official veterinarian of the days on which these animals will be slaughtered.
- (5) Beef intended for export under the definition in clause 6(1)(b) must be must classified by the operator according to the scheme described in Annex I.
- (6) Operators must ensure that eligible animals, carcasses and cuts are kept separate from ineligible animals, carcasses and cuts from the time of arrival at the slaughterhouse until completion of processing and packing.
- (7) Beef cuts packed in accordance with this notice must be marked in a unique manner approved by the official veterinarian to confirm its eligibility for export under this quota.
- (8) Operators must provide exporters of eligible beef with evidence of the status of the beef and its acceptance for export to Switzerland. The evidence must be in the form of an eligibility document raised in E-cert.

Part 5

Exporters

12 Application of this Part

- (1) This Part applies to registered exporters consigning beef to importers in Switzerland holding an import licence issued by the Swiss authorities for the purposes of this tariff quota.

13 Requirements

- (1) Exporters must present the eligibility documents obtained from the operators and the importer's quota licence number to the MAF certifying officer when requesting approval of certificates of authenticity.
- (2) Exporters must prepare the certificate of authenticity using template CH120.
- (3) The certificate of authenticity, which is uniquely numbered, must contain a reference linking it to the unique number of the sanitary certificate.

Part 6

Official Controls

14 Feedlots

- (1) Listed feedlots or feedlots intended for listing must be inspected by an official veterinarian to verify compliance with the requirements of this Notice. The first inspection must be before the feedlot is listed and the second one month later. Subsequent inspections must be based on the performance of the feedlot operator but in any case at least once every 3 months during the period when animals are reared for supply under clause 6(1)(a).
- (2) Where, in the opinion of the official veterinarian, the procedures or practices at the feedlot are defective the listing granted under clause 9(1) must be suspended until the defects are corrected.

15 Classification

- (1) The carcass classifications applied by the operator for supply under clause 6(1)(b), the identification and segregation of eligible animal and products and the packing and labelling of products must be included in the verification programme undertaken by the official assurance verifier.

- (2) Where, in the opinion of the official assurance verifier, the procedures or practices at the slaughter or processing establishments are defective the approval granted under clause 11(3) must be suspended until the defects are corrected. All affected product must be reclassified as ineligible for supply under this tariff quota.

16 Certification of Authenticity

- (1) Certificates of authenticity must not be issued to non-registered exporters.
- (2) The sanitary certificate and certificate of authenticity for the consignment must be approved at the same time.

Explanatory Note

MAF is the competent authority for the processing and export of animal products and primary instrument is the Animal Products Act 1999. This Act deals not only with matters of animal health, public health and fitness for purpose of animal products and by-products but also facilitation of market access including the means to safeguard official assurances provided by MAF.

The Animal Products Act 1999 regulates producers, processors and exporters of animal products and by-products. Animal Products Officers have powers of entry, examination, seizure and disposition of products, amongst others. The penalties for conviction for offences include fines up to NZ\$500,000 and imprisonment for up to 5 years.

The feedlot and carcass classification requirements for this beef quota have been imposed under the provisions of the Animal Products Act 1999 and are therefore subject to all the relevant checks and balances of the Act in addition to the contents of this Notice. The certificate of authenticity has been deemed to be an 'official assurance' for the purposes of the Act and is therefore subject to the same controls as the public and animal health certificates issued for the beef products.

Annex I

Approved Carcass Classification Scheme

Carcass classification must take account of maturity and palatability characteristics using the following measures:

Characteristic	Measure
Meat colour	Good colour, i.e. cherry red, at the 12 th rib eye muscle (<i>longissimus dorsi</i>)
Fat cover	10-23 mm subcutaneous fat at the 12 th rib
Area of longissimus muscle	Minimum 56.3 cm ² at the 12 th rib
Marbling	At least 6% fat content in longissimus muscle at the 12 th rib
Firmness	No dark firm dry (DFD) or pale soft exudative (PSE) meat
Age	No ossification of the thoracic vertebrae
Carcass weight	270 – 383 kg