

Animal Health Requirements for the poultry meat and their products to be exported to Japan from Costa Rica

Animal health requirements for poultry meat (hereinafter referred to as 'the exported poultry meat') to be exported to Japan from Costa Rica are as follows.

Definitions

'poultry' means chicken, quail, pheasant, emu, ostrich, guinea fowl, turkey and birds classified into order Anseriformes (such as duck and goose).

'poultry meat' means meat, bone, fat, blood, skin, tendon, viscera (only gizzard, heart and liver) and its products.

'highly pathogenic avian influenza(hereinafter referred to as 'HPAI')'means an infection of poultry caused by either:

i) an influenza A virus of H5 or H7 subtype;

or

ii) an influenza A virus of HPAI except H5 or H7 subtype defined in *the OIE Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines*.

'outbreak' means an appearance of clinical signs, detection of antigens or antibodies (antibodies to HPAI only) to the diseases or identification of the pathogens.

1 Conditions for Animal Health

- (1) HPAI, Newcastle disease and fowl cholera are designated as a notifiable disease in Costa Rica.
- (2) Costa Rica has been free from HPAI for at least 90 days before the day of shipment of the exported poultry meat. Regarding the exported poultry meat, the premises of origin (including hatcheries, hereinafter 'the premises of origin') shall be confirmed as free from HPAI, by serological or virological examination.
- (3) The area in which the poultry for production of the exported poultry meat originates (at least in the radius of 50 km from the premises of origin) has been free from Newcastle disease, fowl cholera and other poultry diseases which the animal health authorities of Costa Rica recognize as serious, for at least 90 days before shipment of the exported poultry meat .
- (4) In Costa Rica, vaccination against HPAI is prohibited.

2 Conditions for processing

- (1) The processing plant for production of the exported poultry meat shall be authorized by the government authorities of Costa Rica as the one in which sanitary inspections are performed routinely by government inspectors or animal health inspectors appointed by the government authorities of Costa Rica in order to assure that sanitary measures are taken.
- (2) The exported poultry meat have to be found free from any poultry infectious diseases as a consequence of the ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by the inspector mentioned in item 2-(1) above.
- (3) The container of the exported poultry meat shall be made from sanitary or new materials and shall have an "Inspection Passed" mark authorized by the inspector for export and both the name and the number of the authorized processing plant, on its outside.

3 Conditions for storage

The exported poultry meat shall be stored in a safe and sanitary condition for protection on animal health, until shipment to Japan.

4 Others

If HPAI cases occur in Costa Rica, the animal health authorities of Costa Rica must suspend the shipment of the poultry meat to Japan and officially inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the occurrence.

5 Inspection Certification by the animal health authorities

The animal health authorities of Costa Rica shall be responsible for issuing an inspection certificate for the exported poultry meat, stating items 1-(1),1-(2),1-(3),1-(4) and 2-(1),2-(2) in English.

In case Costa Rica is not the country of origin of the exported poultry meat, an original or a copy of inspection certificate issued by the government authorities of the country of origin satisfying all the conditions stated above shall be attached to the inspection certificate issued by the animal health authorities of Costa Rica.

In relation to 2-(2) above the inspection procedures and date of slaughter shall be described in the inspection certificate.

Additional animal health requirements for the meat products using casings to be exported to Japan from the exported country
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In case the meat products to be exported to Japan uses casings, the casings must satisfy the following requirements.

In case the casings are derived from cattle, sheep and goat:

1 The casings are derived from animal which was born and raised in the countries other than the countries listed in Annex.

2 It has to be confirmed that the casings are free from any animal infectious diseases as a consequence of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by official inspectors of national government of the exported country.

In case the casing for the production of exported meat products are imported from the third countries, the casing must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the exported country.

3 Casings have been handled only at the facilities approved (hereinafter referred to as “approved casing facilities”) by the national government of exported countries as the ones which handle only casings prescribed in item 1 and 2. (In case the casings are imported from the third countries, this provision must apply to the meat processing facilities in the third countries.)

4 The animal health authorities of the exported country must inform the Japanese animal health authorities of the name, address, registration number of the approved casing facilities in advance.

5 The animal health authorities of the exported country must issue inspection certificates for the exported meat products using casing to Japan, stating the following items in English:

1) Item 1 and 2

2) The kind of casings (natural or artificial), country of origin and animal species of origin

3) Name, address and registration number of approved casing facilities

In case the casings are derived from pig;

- 1 It has to be confirmed that the casings are free from any animal infectious diseases as a consequence of ante- and post-mortem inspections conducted by official inspectors of national government of the exported country.

In case the casings for the production of exported meat products are imported from the third countries, the casing must have been free from any evidence of animal infectious diseases as a result of import inspection conducted by the exported country.

- 2 The animal health authorities of the exported country must issue inspection certificates for the exported meat products using casing to Japan, stating the following items in English:

- 1) Item 1
- 2) The kind of casings (natural or artificial), country of origin

Annex

Additional Animal Health Requirements for country of origin of poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan

1. Requirements for country of origin

(1) “Country of origin” means country or region where raw materials of the poultry meat etc. to be exported to Japan were produced.

(2) Country of origin must be on the list of the countries and regions which are recognized as free from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) and Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI) by the competent authority of Japan (hereinafter referred to as “the third free countries”). Please refer to the latest list of the third free countries from the following URL:

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