



Imported Food Notice 09/11

Issued: 24 June 2011

Supersedes: 04/07 and 07/10

SUBJECT: BSE Certification requirements for imported beef and beef products – effective 1 July 2011

Under the *Imported Food Control Act 1992*, beef and beef products are considered a risk category food for the presence of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and can only be sourced from countries that have had their BSE risk assessed and categorised by Australia.

In March 2010 the Australian Government revised its BSE food safety policy.

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumerinformation/bovinespongiformencephalopathybse/>

Under the policy, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) must undertake a risk assessment on an exporting country before beef from that country will be permitted into Australia. Where an exporting country submits an application for a BSE risk assessment to FSANZ by 30 June 2011, that country will retain their previous BSE status until the risk assessment is complete.

For more information about Australia's BSE risk assessment process refer to the FSANZ website:

<http://www.foodstandards.gov.au/consumerinformation/bovinespongiformencephalopathybse/>

Or contact FSANZ:

Phone: 02 6271 2222

Email: BSE@foodstandards.gov.au

Beef and beef products imported into Australia can only be sourced from countries as notified by FSANZ and listed in this notice. As of 1 July 2011, no trade will be permitted from countries other than those listed.

Purpose

This Imported Food Notice details the requirements for government certification of food containing beef and beef products and the process of assessment, inspection and clearance of these foods under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme. Government certification must accompany every consignment of food containing beef and beef products and is required for AQIS to verify that the beef and beef product content of food was sourced only from approved countries.

Where the conditions of this notice are not met, the goods will be considered a failing food and must be exported from Australia or destroyed.

This notice only applies after all Quarantine Import Permit conditions have been satisfied. There are many quarantine restrictions on the imports of fresh, frozen and processed beef and beef products. Refer to ICON for information on quarantine restrictions:

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/icon-icd>

Or contact

AQIS Biologicals Imports Program

Phone: 02 6272 4578 between 9am -12pm and 2pm - 4pm business days

Email: biologicals@aqis.gov.au

AQIS Imported Food contact details

NSW	(02) 8334 7475	nswimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Queensland and Northern Territory	(07) 3246 8757	qldimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Victoria, Tasmania	(03) 8318 6700	vicimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Western Australia and South Australia	(08) 9334 1532	waimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Canberra	(02) 6272 5488	foodimp@aqis.gov.au

Note: The information in this document covers AQIS imported food requirements only and is current on the date of publication but may change without notice. Importers must satisfy all requirements of the Imported Food Control Act 1992 applicable at the time of entry. The Commonwealth through AQIS is not liable for any costs arising from or associated with decisions to import based on information presented here which is not current at the time of importation. While every effort is taken to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this document, the ultimate determination in respect to food standards that must be complied with are those set down in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

Food that is subject to the requirements of this notice:

- All beef and beef products intended for human consumption unless specifically exempted below. This includes meat, flesh, bone and offal.
- Any food that contains beef or beef products as an ingredient at any level unless exempted below.

Food that is not subject to the requirements of this notice:

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code Standard 2.2.1 Meat and Meat Products (Clause 11) lists beef products that are not subject to the BSE requirements:

- collagen from bovine skins and hides (including sausage casings produced from this type of collagen)
- bovine fat or bovine tallow where it comprises less than 300g/kg of a processed product
- gelatine sourced from bovine skins and hides
- dairy products sourced from bovines

Where importers provide a manufacturers declaration confirming the imported food is exempt, government certification will not be required and this notice does not apply.

Assessment of documents and inspection by AQIS under the Imported Food Inspection Scheme

Compliant BSE certification must accompany all consignments into Australia.

A Food Control Certificate (FCC) issued by AQIS will advise the importer if BSE certification must be presented to the AQIS for assessment and if the consignment will require inspection by an AQIS officer.

The FCC will also specify if samples are required to be taken for other analytical testing and the likely tests (pesticide screen, microbiological tests etc) that will be applied to those samples.

Where a consignment is referred to the Imported Food Inspection Scheme for a check of BSE Certification, the importer must provide AQIS with the certificates. Refer to the Imported Food Notice '*Information required to support assessment of imported food entries*' for how to lodge information with AQIS.

<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/food/notices>

Where an AQIS inspection is required, an AQIS officer will view and verify that the goods match the details in the BSE certification and the information lodged in the Full Import Declaration (FID) by the broker.

The officer will conduct a visual assessment of the goods and their labelling and samples may be taken where the food is also subject to any other analytical testing (as indicated on the FCC).

Minimum documentary requirements for government certification

The government certificates accompanying the consignment must:

- be complete, legible and in English
- identify the national government authority issuing the certificate
- be free from erasures and alterations unless endorsed by the issuer of the certificate with a government stamp/seal and the signature of the representative
- include the name, position, title and signature of the representative of the authority issuing the certificate
- be sealed with the stamp/seal of the authority
- state the date of issue
- have the certificate number on every page of a multiple paged certificate
- be linked to the consignment by a unique identifiable link
- have been issued and dated within the last 6 months.

More detail on the requirements for government certificates are in the [Minimum Documentary Requirements Policy](http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/documentary-requirements).
<http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/import/general-info/documentary-requirements>

Beef of Australian origin

Beef of Australian origin which is fit for human consumption may be imported into Australia either unchanged or as part of a product for human consumption subject to meeting quarantine and food safety requirements.

Certification requirements for countries that retain BSE status under transition arrangements

The following is a list of countries that have submitted applications for assessment under the new BSE policy. These countries were assessed under Australia's previous BSE policy and are eligible to trade under that categorisation until the risk assessment is completed.

The certificates issued by the national government authority must include the mandatory declarations.

Country	Category	National government authority	Mandatory declarations required on certificate
New Zealand	A	New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture Refer to IFN BSE certification options for beef and beef products from NZ	The beef and/or beef product is derived from bovine animals that have been born, raised and slaughtered in Category 'A' risk countries or zones. The category A country must be specified in the documentation.
Brazil	A	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Food Supply	

Country	Category	National government authority	Mandatory declarations required on certificate
Mexico	B	Servicio Nacional de Sanidad, Inocuidad y Calidad Agroalimentaria	The beef and/or beef product is derived from bovine animals that have lived in Category 'B' risk countries or zones where the feeding of ruminant-derived meat meal to bovine animals is banned and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) there has not been exposure to high risk factors, ii) ante- and post-mortem veterinary inspection is carried out on all bovine animals, and iii) the product does not contain, and is not derived from, BSE risk materials. The category B country must be specified in the documentation.

Country	Category	National government authority	Mandatory declarations required on certificate
Lithuania	C	State Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Lithuania	<p>The beef and/or beef product is derived from bovine animals that have lived in Category 'C' risk countries or zones and that satisfies the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) animals affected by BSE and, for females, their last progeny born within 2 years prior to or after the onset of clinical symptoms, were slaughtered and completely destroyed; and ii) the feeding of ruminant-derived meat meal to bovine animals is banned; and iii) ante- and post-mortem veterinary inspection is carried out on all bovine animals; and iv) the bovine animals from which the beef and/or beef product originates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – were 30 months of age or younger at slaughter; – were permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin; – were not the progeny of BSE suspect or confirmed females; and – either were born after the date of the ban on feeding ruminant-derived meat meal to bovine animals; or were born and remained in herds in which no case of BSE had been confirmed during the preceding seven years; and v) the beef and/or beef product does not contain, and is not derived from, BSE risk materials, and vi) a system is in operation enabling the beef and/or beef product to be traced back to the abattoir and animals from which it was derived; and vii) verifiable means exist for assessing compliance. <p>The category C country must be specified in the documentation.</p>
Croatia	C	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development, Veterinary Directorate	

Certification requirements where the exporting country is not the country of origin of the beef

Where the exporting country is not the country of origin of the beef or beef product, certification is required from the exporting country AND the country of origin.

Mandatory certification requirements:

The certificates issued by the exporting country must:

- Make the relevant country category statement(s) depending on the country of origin categorisation; and
- State the country of origin for the beef or beef product; and
- State the certificate numbers of the country of origin's export certificates relating to the product in the current consignment.

Conditions for certification:

The following conditions apply:

- If the mandatory declarations are not made on the certificate from the country of origin, the declarations may be made on the certificate from the exporting country or in an accompanying official and certified letterhead that clearly states the certificate number it relates to.
- Certification from the country of origin must be provided and must be linked to the exporting country's certification.
- The certificate from the country of origin may be an original or a copy certified by the exporting country's competent national government authority.

In some cases, the country of origin certification does not contain the relevant statements that Australia requires, however, provided the exporting country certification does - it will be accepted. This allowance is given as the country of origin would address the requirements of the country to which the goods were exported, not Australia's requirements.