USDA Export Verification (EV) Program: Specified Product Requirements for Pork to the Russian Federation

1 Purpose

This document provides the specified product requirements for marketing U.S. pork and pork products to the Russian Federation under the USDA Export Verification (EV) Program.

2 Scope

These requirements apply to U.S. companies that slaughter, fabricate, and/or process pork and pork products for export to the Russian Federation as listed on the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Web site. This includes cold storage warehouses that repackage or process pork products for export to the Russian Federation.

Companies must meet the specified product requirements for the Russian Federation through an approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program. The requirements for the USDA QSA Program are defined in *ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program*. The QSA Program ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system; and that product is identified and traceable through the system.

Only companies with an approved USDA QSA Program for the EV Program for the Russian Federation may label and sell product as meeting the specified product requirements for the Russian Federation.

As an alternative to the USDA QSA Program, companies may apply the requirements of the USDA Process Verified Program to meet the specified product requirements. The requirements of the USDA Process Verified Program are defined in *ARC 1001 Procedure, USDA Process Verified Program (PVP)*.

3 Reference Documents

ARC 1000 Procedure, Quality Systems Verification Programs General Policies and Procedures
ARC 1001 Procedure, USDA Process Verified Program (PVP)
ARC 1002 Procedure, Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program
Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA EV Program for Pork to the Russian Federation (www.ams.usda.gov/ARCOfficialListings)
http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Index_of_Import_Requirements_by_Country/index.asp
FSIS' *Eligible Plants List, Pork -Russian Federation* http://www.fsis.usda.gov/ofo/export/lrupork.htm.

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Additions to QSA Program Requirements

The specified product requirements listed in Section 5 of this Procedure must be met through an approved QSA Program. The QSA Program ensures that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented procedure. In addition to the requirements listed in *ARC 1002 Procedure, Section 7, Program Requirements*, companies must also incorporate the following requirements into their QSA Program.

4.1 *Company's Suppliers Listing*

4.1.1 The company must maintain an approved suppliers listing. Approved suppliers must meet the specified withdrawal period, at least 14-days, for tetracycline group antibiotics (see Section 5.1).

4.1.2 The approved suppliers listing must

a) Identify the supplier's name, address, and approval date; and
b) Be available to the USDA for review.

4.1.3 The company must also maintain the date that suppliers were removed from the suppliers listing.

4.2 *Supplier Evaluations and Re-evaluations*

4.2.1 Where the company intends to perform verification at the supplier's premises, the company must state the intended verification arrangements and method of product release in its quality manual.

5 Specified Product Requirements

5.1 *Tetracycline Group Testing Program*

U.S. pork slaughter facilities that are approved for export to Russian Federation must implement testing programs for the presence of tetracycline group residues in pork produced for export to the Russian Federation. The Tetracycline Group Testing Program requires slaughter facilities to conduct in-house testing (referred to as Industry Conducted Testing) and participate in the AMS Tetracycline Residue Testing Program.

5.1.1 Industry Conducted Testing

a) Slaughter facilities must implement a tetracycline group-testing program, which includes testing for chlortetracycline, tetracycline, and oxytetracycline residues.

b) In order to verify that the 14-day withdrawal period is being respected, slaughter facilities must conduct Charm II Tetracycline Drug Tests (Competitive Assay) based on a carcass sampling plan that ensures that each approved supplier (producer) is sampled over a period of time.

1. Sampling plans for the Charm II Competitive Assay are based on the facility's slaughter capacity per year and must be as follows:
   i) 6,000 to 9,999 - 291 tests per year
   ii) 10,000 to 99,999 - 294 tests per year
   iii) ≥100,000 - 298 tests per year

c) Pork from pigs that were raised at any production-unit which produces a positive test result must be excluded from shipments to the Russian Federation until appropriate corrective actions have been implemented by the plant and verified by AMS.

5.1.2 AMS Tetracycline Residue Testing

a) Each slaughter facility must provide, in accordance with approved sampling protocol as defined by the approved laboratory, four samples per year (on a quarterly basis) for analysis for the presence of Tetracycline Group Residues.

1. Each sample must be selected from a single carcass that has been previously tested using the Charm II Competitive Assay.
2. These monitoring samples must be tested at industry expense by laboratories participating in the Agricultural Marketing Service's Approved Laboratory Program using the Confirmatory method for the Determination of Tetracyclines in Bovine and Porcine Tissues with LC MS/MS.
3. The laboratory must report results to the slaughter facility.

b) The test results must be available for review by AMS and FSIS to provide verification of the effectiveness of the program. The maximum residue level must be 10 ppb (ng/g).

c) In the event the slaughter facility receives a confirmed volatile positive result, the facility must take corrective action in accordance with their approved program.

5.2 Microbiological Testing Program

5.2.1 U.S. pork facilities (slaughterers, fabricators, and processors; including cold storage warehouses that repackage or process pork products) that are approved for export to Russian Federation must implement testing programs for the presence of generic *Salmonella*, *Listeria Monocytogenes*, and Total Plate Count (TPC) in pork produced for export to the Russian Federation.

5.2.2 Samples must be taken by employees of pork facilities that are approved to export to the Russian Federation.

a) If deep muscle tissue is unavailable for sampling, a sample must be taken and test conducted on available product, regardless of its form.

5.2.3 Analysis must be performed by laboratories that are approved by AMS. Until such a program is implemented, analyses may be performed by laboratories accredited to ISO 17025 with an accreditation scope that includes generic *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, and TPC testing.

5.2.4 Records of test results must be maintained by the pork facility for the period specified in the facility's HACCP program and must be available for inspection by USDA employees at all times

5.2.5 Salmonella Testing Program

a) Every establishment producing pork for export to the Russian Federation must conduct testing for generic *Salmonella*.

1. *Sample Size* - 25 grams collected aseptically from deep muscle tissue
2. *Sampling Frequency* – One sample per production day for the Russian Federation.
3. *Sample Results* - Test results must be provided to FSIS prior to issuance of the export certificate.

b) If the initial sample tests positive for generic *Salmonella*, then:

1. Ten additional samples shall be taken from 10 cuts/pieces of meat.
2. The samples shall be taken from deep muscle tissue
3. Each sample shall weigh 25 grams
4. Each sample shall be analyzed for the presence of generic *Salmonella*.

c) If any of the additional samples test positive for generic *Salmonella*, product from that production day is not eligible for export to the Russian Federation.

5.2.6 *Listeria monocytogenes* Testing Program

a) Every establishment producing pork for export to the Russian Federation must conduct testing for *Listeria monocytogenes*.

1. *Sample Size* - 25 grams collected aseptically from deep muscle tissue
2. *Sampling Frequency* – One sample per production quarterly.
3. *Sample Results* - Test results must be provided to FSIS prior to issuance of the export certificate and must be dated within 105 days of export certification.

5.2.7 Total Plate Count Testing Program

a) Every establishment producing pork for export to Russian Federation must conduct testing for Total Plate Count (TPC).

1. *Sample Size* - 25 grams collected aseptically from deep muscle tissue.
2. *Sampling Frequency* – One sample per production day for the Russian Federation.
3. *Sample Results* - Test results must be provided to FSIS prior to issuance of the export certificate.

Note: The TPC analysis may be performed on the same sample used for the generic Salmonella testing required for exports of pork to the Russian Federation.

b) If TPC levels are below $1x10^5$ CFU/g (100,000) in vacuum packaged muscle cuts (and similar products) or $5x10^5$ CFU/g (500,000) in individually wrapped non-vacuum packaged or bulk packed items (muscle cuts, offals, trim, non-individually wrapped muscle cuts) the product must be eligible for shipment to the Russian Federation.

c) If the initial sample samples exceeds the required levels then:

1. Ten additional samples shall be taken from 10 cuts/pieces of meat.
2. The samples shall be taken from deep muscle tissue
3. Each sample shall weigh 25 grams
4. Each sample shall be analyzed for TPC.

d) If any of the additional samples exceeds the required level, product from that production day is not eligible for export to the Russian Federation.

6 Listing of Approved Programs

Only companies approved to produce product for export to the Russian Federation may be listed on the FSIS *Eligible Plants List, Pork -Russian Federation* at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/ofo/export/lrupork.htm.

Only companies that have an approved USDA QSA Program, or USDA Process Verified Program, that meets the specified product requirements for pork to the Russian Federation are listed on the *Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers to the USDA EV Program for Pork to the Russian Federation.*

7 Responsibilities

Companies must meet all policies and procedures outlined in this Procedure, *ARC 1000 Procedure and the ARC 1001 Procedure or the ARC 1002 Procedure, as applicable.*