

# International beef trade: Foot-and-mouth disease certification requirements

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# OIE requirements

## Article 8.8.20

Recommendations for importation from **FMD free countries or zones where vaccination is not practised**

For fresh meat or meat products of FMD susceptible animals

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of *meat* comes from animals

which:

1. have been kept in a FMD free country or *zone* where *vaccination* is not practised or FMD free *compartment*, or which have been imported in accordance with Article 8.8.10., Article 8.8.11. or Article 8.8.12.;
2. have been slaughtered in an approved *slaughterhouse/abattoir* and have been subjected to ante and postmortem inspections with favourable results.

# OIE requirements

## Article 8.8.10

Recommendations for importation from **FMD free countries or zones where vaccination is not practised** or FMD free compartments

For FMD susceptible animals

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the animals:

1. showed no clinical sign of FMD on the day of shipment;
2. were kept since birth or for at least the past three months in a FMD free country or *zone* where *vaccination* is not practised or a FMD free *compartment*;
3. if transiting an infected *zone*, were not exposed to any source of FMDV during transportation to the *place of shipment*.

# OIE requirements

## Article 8.8.12

Recommendations for importation from **FMD infected countries or zones where an official control programme exists**

For domestic ruminants and pigs

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that:

1. the animals showed no clinical sign of FMD on the day of shipment;
2. prior to isolation, the animals were kept in the *establishment* of origin:
  - a. for 30 days, or since birth if younger than 30 days, if a *stamping out policy* is applied to control FMD in the *exporting country or zone*, or
  - b. for three months, or since birth if younger than three months if a *stamping out policy* is not applied to control FMD in the *exporting country or zone*;
3. FMD has not occurred within the *establishment* of origin for the relevant period as defined in points 2) a) and 2) b) above;
4. the animals were isolated in an *establishment* for the 30 days prior to shipment, and all animals in isolation were subjected to diagnostic virological and serological tests for evidence of FMDV with negative results on samples collected at least 28 days after the start of isolation period, and that FMD did not occur within a 10 kilometre radius of the *establishment* during that period, or the *establishment* is a *quarantine station*;
5. the animals were not exposed to any source of FMDV during their transportation from the *establishment* to the *place of shipment*.

# OIE requirements

## Article 8.8.22.

Recommendations for importation from **FMD infected countries or zones where an official control programme exists**

For fresh meat of cattle and water buffaloes (*Bubalus bubalis*) (excluding feet, head and viscera)

*Veterinary Authorities* should require the presentation of an *international veterinary certificate* attesting that the entire consignment of *meat*:

# OIE requirements

## Article 8.8.22.

1. comes from animals which:
  - a. have remained, for at least three months prior to *slaughter*, in a *zone* of the *exporting country* where cattle and water buffaloes are regularly vaccinated against FMD and where an *official control programme* is in operation;
  - b. have been vaccinated at least twice with the last *vaccination* not more than six months, unless protective immunity has been demonstrated for more than six months, and not less than one month prior to *slaughter*;
  - c. were kept for the past 30 days in an *establishment*, and that FMD has not occurred within a 10 kilometre radius of the *establishment* during that period, or the *establishment* is a *quarantine station*;
  - d. have been transported, in a *vehicle* which was cleansed and disinfected before the cattle and water buffaloes were loaded, directly from the *establishment* of origin or *quarantine station* to the approved *slaughterhouse/abattoir* without coming into contact with other animals which do not fulfil the required conditions for export;
  - e. have been slaughtered in an approved *slaughterhouse/abattoir*:
    - i. which is officially designated for export;
    - ii. in which no FMD has been detected during the period between the last *disinfection* carried out before *slaughter* and the shipment for export has been dispatched;
  - f. have been subjected to ante and post mortem inspections within 24 hours before and after *slaughter* with no evidence of FMD;
2. comes from deboned carcasses:
  - a. from which the major lymphatic nodes have been removed;
  - b. which, prior to deboning, have been submitted to maturation at a temperature greater than + 2°C for a minimum period of 24 hours following *slaughter* and in which the pH value was less than 6.0 when tested in the middle of both the longissimus dorsi muscle.

# EU requirements

## Pre-slaughter holding residency requirements

Export beef must come from cattle that are:

- a) ~~traceable from birth,~~
- b) have been in the territory of slaughter for  $\geq 90$  days immediately prior to slaughter, unless introduced from another EU approved territory and
- c) have been on the same holding for  $\geq 40$  days immediately prior to slaughter.

Records of medication are also required to show that pre-slaughter drug withdrawal periods have been observed.

Cattle for EU export must be traceable from birth and be able to prove that they were kept on the same single holding for at least 40 days immediately prior to slaughter and have been in the territory of slaughter for at least 90 days prior to slaughter.

Traceability required to prove residence – more challenging in extensive , small-holder systems

- May not be registered on traceability system until transported
- Must register and define the holding
- Exact location could be an issue if unfenced (no FMD with 10km of holding in last 12 months)
- Requires robust traceability system

# EU requirements

## Pre-slaughter holding residency requirements - reasons

1. If infected, allows time for clinical disease to develop and be detected before slaughter and export
  - e.g. residency for twice the upper limit of FMD incubation period of 20 days
  - Confidence that infection would have been detected if present
  - If from different territory there is greater uncertainty over health status therefore 90 days is used
2. No FMD outbreak within 10km of a holding during the 12 months prior to slaughter
  - To guarantee this the holding of residence must be known and defined
3. Meat may be contaminated by drugs or contaminants given or consumed by the animal, particularly if given recently before slaughter.
  - The EU requires an animal to have been under the care of the same person or management for at least 40 days immediately prior to slaughter.
  - Whoever sends an animal for slaughter should be aware of its recent history, particularly medical treatments.
  - This residency also simplifies back tracing cattle, should problems (infection or contamination) be detected further down the production chain.



# EU origin & residence requirements

**Cattle must be registered as resident at a holding, which must be a definable location. Cattle and holdings must therefore be uniquely identifiable, and both must be registered on a reliable traceability system.**

*How is holding defined in communal grazing areas elsewhere?*

Swaziland: To comply with this requirement Swaziland registers which diptank cattle are registered at. Diptanks have a fixed location and the management responsible for the animal prior to slaughter can be identified. Compulsory residency at a feedlot or fenced farm prior to slaughter is not needed.

Namibia: In communal grazing systems in Namibia, cattle are registered to a crush, which is uniquely identified and linked to a village. The precise location of the crush is recorded in the central database. Different owners using the same crush are identifiable. Cattle can go via an assembly centre *en route* to slaughter. Improved traceability system.

Namibian law states that cattle should be ear tagged by six months of age and farmers are encouraged to obtain a 90/40 day residency report for cattle when applying for movement permits.

# EU origin & residence requirements

## Botswana:

All exported cattle must come through registered feedlot or fenced farm to complete 40/90 day residency pre-slaughter. Confirm individual identification on arrival to feedlot.

Brazil: Beef for EU export must come from approved holdings. Extensive grazing systems predominate. There does not appear to be any particular fencing or enclosure requirements. Approval is largely based upon registration with the national cattle traceability system (SISBOV) and inspection.

In 2013 there were 1 687 holdings registered to provide EU.

Up to 74 000 cattle on a holding.

# Comments and clarification of national procedures by country

*Similarities, differences, strengths, weaknesses*