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கால்நடை உற்பத்தி, சுகாதாரத் திணைக்களம்
DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL PRODUCTION & HEALTH



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FROZEN BEEF: Import Health Requirements into Sri Lanka

Department of Animal Production and Health – Sri Lanka

Version 1.0 | 2026

1. Purpose and Scope

These health requirements are established to prevent the introduction of transboundary animal diseases into Sri Lanka through the importation of frozen beef while facilitating safe international trade. These requirements are based on the standards and recommendations of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) and national policy decisions of Sri Lanka.

These requirements apply to the importation of frozen beef intended for human consumption into Sri Lanka. The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka, shall be the competent authority responsible for regulating the importation of frozen beef.

2. Definitions

For the purposes of this protocol:

- Slaughterhouse: A facility registered by the competent authority for the slaughter of animals intended for human consumption.
- Processing Establishment: A facility registered by the competent authority for the processing, handling, and storage of meat products.
- Competent Veterinary Authority: The government authority responsible for animal health and veterinary certification in the exporting country.
- Country-Free Status: Officially certified by the Government Veterinary Authority as free from specified diseases.
- Zone-Free Status: Officially certified by the Government Veterinary Authority as free from specified diseases within a clearly defined area of a country.

3. Pre-import approval

A pre-import approval must be obtained from the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka prior to shipment of each consignment of frozen beef.

4. Disease Status Requirements

4.1 Country-Free Status

The exporting country shall be officially recognized as free from, or having negligible risk status for, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), as certified by the Government Veterinary Authority.

4.2 Zone-Free Status

The animals from which the frozen beef is derived shall originate from a zone officially free from the following diseases, as certified by the Government Veterinary Authority:

- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Anthrax
- Brucellosis

5. Slaughterhouse and Veterinary Inspection Requirements

The frozen beef shall be derived from animals that:

- are slaughtered in a slaughterhouse registered and approved by the competent authority of the exporting country
- are slaughtered in establishments operating under hygienic conditions and in accordance with internationally accepted slaughter and meat inspection procedures under official veterinary supervision
- have been subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection by official veterinarians and found to be healthy and free from signs of infectious or contagious diseases.

6. Processing Establishment

The frozen beef shall be produced in a processing establishment that:

- a) is registered and approved by the Government Authority of the exporting country
- b) operates under a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system supported by a valid certificate issued by a recognized national accrediting authority.

7. Microbiological and Chemical Standards

The imported consignment shall comply with prescribed food safety standards and shall be supported by laboratory certification indicating:

- a) Total aerobic plate count within accepted limits prescribed by the Food Control Administration Unit (FCAU) of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka
- b) Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus aureus within accepted limits;
- c) Salmonella species not detected; and
- d) Heavy metal residues within limits prescribed by the Food Control Administration Unit(FCAU) of the Ministry of Health, Sri Lanka.



8. Veterinary Health Certification

Each consignment shall be accompanied by an original Official Veterinary Health Certificate issued by the Government Veterinary Authority of the exporting country, certifying that:

- the frozen beef complies with all requirements specified in this protocol; and
- the product has been inspected and certified as fit for human consumption.

9. Certification of Origin

A certificate confirming the country of origin of the frozen beef shall be issued or endorsed by the competent authority of the exporting country.

10. Inspection on Arrival

All consignments shall be subject to inspection by Animal Quarantine Officers at the port of entry. Non-compliant consignments may be rejected, returned, or destroyed at the importer's expense.

11. Suspension of Imports

The Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH), Sri Lanka reserves the right to suspend, revoke, or amend pre-import approvals, or prohibit the importation of the commodity covered under this protocol from the exporting country or zone at any time, particularly where there is evidence of an outbreak or an increased risk of any infectious or transboundary animal disease that may pose a threat to animal or public health in Sri Lanka.

12. Protocol Amendments

These health requirements may be amended from time to time in accordance with the disease status reported to WOAHP and the prevailing animal health situation in the exporting country.



Dr. (Mr.) K.K. Sarath

Director General

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