



5 February 2010

**TO: ALL LICENCED MEAT EXPORTERS  
MANAGEMENTS OF ALL AUS-MEAT ACCREDITED ENTERPRISES**

***ATTENTION: Officer in Charge AUS-MEAT Standards:***

**ACCESS TO EUROPEAN UNION GRAIN FED HIGH QUALITY BEEF (GF-HQB) MARKET**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Advice is to inform Accredited Enterprises of the requirements associated with the supply of livestock eligible for processing and supply into the European Community (EC) in accordance with the recently announced additional import quota for grain fed high quality beef - Regulation (EC) No. 620/2009.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Commission of European Communities recently announced the application of an additional import tariff quota for high quality beef. The Australian Government has worked with the beef industry to gain access to this additional tariff quota.

The tariff quota prescribes that product must be sourced from beef eligible to be described as grain fed (GF) in accordance with the AUS-MEAT Standards. Additional age, dietary and days on feed (DOF) criteria apply over and above the AUS-MEAT Minimum Standards for Grain Fed Beef and the general requirements of NFAS accreditation and the European Union Cattle Accreditation Scheme (EUCAS).

AQIS have advised that DAFF as the approved *issuing authority* will not commence issuing the required "Certificates of Authenticity" for the export of product under this quota until confirmation from AUS-MEAT that all Program Requirements have been met. Relevant Feedlot information is detailed in NFAS Advice 01/2010.

This is a new Import Tariff Quota for Grain Fed High Quality Beef and is subject to updating of the Enterprise's Approved Arrangement to comply with the EC regulation requirements.

## **Program Requirements**

Sourcing, production and preparation of product that has been described using a new EU Grain Fed Beef symbol (GF-HQB) must comply with the following:

- Livestock eligibility (sourcing)
- Feeding specifications as detailed in NFAS advice
- NFAS Delivery Documentation as detailed in NFAS advice
- Carcase Eligibility and Evaluation classification
- Carcase Evaluation by Government engaged personnel
- Product Labelled as GF-HQB
- Certificate of Authenticity Regulation (EC) No. 620/2009 (issued by DAFF).

## **Livestock Sourcing**

Cattle can only be sourced from AUS-MEAT Approved Eligible NFAS Accredited Feedlots (being those holdings which are separately accredited as a EUCAS Feedlot or otherwise form part of a EUCAS Accredited PIC, as appropriate). The feeding requirements for this quota are listed in NFAS Advice 01/2010.

Only EU eligible animals with no more than two (2) permanent incisor teeth and are either:

- a) castrated male bovines (castrate steers); or
- b) female bovines that have not calved (heifers)

are eligible for this quota.

### NFAS Delivery Documentation

Eligible livestock must be accompanied by the following documentation for each eligible consignment to be completed and signed by an approved Feedlot QA Officer recognised by AUS-MEAT.

All such eligible livestock must be described on separate documentation to any ineligible livestock.

#### (i) LPA European Union Vendor Declaration (EUVD)

The EUVD must include the following details under:

Section	Requirements
<b>Description of Cattle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sex of individual animals. Vendors must declare that the subjects of the EUVD are:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) castrated male bovines (<b>Castrate Steers</b>); and/or</li> <li>b) female bovines that have not calved (<b>Heifers</b>).</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Question 9 - Additional Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Declaration - "Cattle have been fed in accordance with EU GF-HQB Feeding requirements".</li> <li>Serial number of NFAS Delivery Docket e.g. Refer NFAS DD {Serial No}. (If necessary an additional signed sheet may be attached to the EUVD and cross referenced at Question 9 to provide this information.)</li> </ul>

#### (ii) NFAS Delivery Docket

The NFAS Delivery Docket must include the following details:

Section	Requirements
<b>Cattle Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record Actual Minimum Days fed on EU-HQB compliant ration</li> </ul>
<b>Consignment Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EUVD Serial Number cross referenced on NFAS Delivery Docket.</li> </ul>
<b>Declaration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be completed as applicable (minimum of the last 100 days fed on the EU-HQB compliant ration)</li> </ul>

The Enterprise will be responsible for verifying that the information on Documentation accompanying eligible livestock is correct. Sourcing procedures and eligibility documents will be subject to additional verification by AQIS on-plant and supervisory veterinarians.

### Carcase Eligibility and Evaluation Classification (GF-HQB)

Requirement	Method	Australian System	AUS-MEAT Characteristic
<b>Age (younger than 30 months)</b>	Age in months	Dentition Ossification	0-2 permanent teeth <260 OM
<b>Sex</b>	castrated male bovines (castrate steers); or female bovines that have not calved (heifers)	EU Vendor Declaration (EUVD) Sex determination	Sex determination
<b>Maturity</b>	Meat Colour and Texture  Ossification	AUS-MEAT Meat Colour (MC) Fat Class/P8 mm Fat Colour (FC) Ossification	No DFD or PSE Meat MC 1b-3 Class 3 to 5 (7-32 mm) FC 0-3 <260
<b>Palatability</b>	Intramuscular Fat (Marbling) and Firmness	AUS-MEAT Marbling score (MB) Meat Colour (MC) Fat Colour (FC) Fat Class/P8 mm	No DFD or PSE Meat MB 0-9 MC 1b-3 FC 0-3 Class 3 to 5 (7-32 mm)

## **Carcase Evaluations**

Carcase Evaluations will be completed by Government engaged personnel. For the purposes of this quota, AQIS has entered into an arrangement with AUS-MEAT to evaluate all beef carcasses that are intended to be exported under this quota. As such, the evaluators of the carcasses will be engaged by AQIS in conformity with the quota requirements. Enterprises will be responsible for prior arrangement for the provision of the evaluation services, the cost of evaluation and presenting eligible carcasses for evaluation. Carcass evaluation will also be subject to verification by AQIS on-plant and supervisory veterinarians.

## **Product Labelling**

The descriptor **GF-HQB** is the approved method of identification used exclusively for product prepared under this quota (in conjunction with existing Trade Description information). This descriptor must be shown on all eligible product shipped under this new quota and validated by the Certificate of Authenticity.

**The symbol GF MUST NOT be used in the Trade Description in conjunction with the words High Quality Beef or symbol HQB unless it can be demonstrated that the product is derived from animals which meet the additional feeding and evaluation requirements of the Commission Regulation (EC) No. 620/2009.**

## **Export Documentation and Certification**

A Certificate of Authenticity – Regulation (EC) No. 620/2009 will be required for all shipments and will be issued by DAFF. The normal application process for this type of certification remains in place.

A new Suffix Code (G) must be used along with the correct Handbook of Australian Meat Unique Product Code No. (HAM No.) when preparing RFP's for Export documentation purposes.

e.g. 2011 G - INSIDE-CAP OFF (GF-HQB)

## **Approved Arrangement**

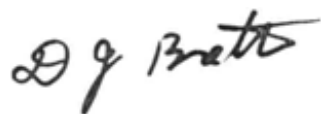
Enterprises producing GF-HQB specifically under this Quota must incorporate into the Approved Arrangement documented procedures that address EU requirements of identification, segregation and traceability (see AQIS Market Access Advice - MAA1005).

Adequate procedures must be prepared for:

- a) Livestock sourcing, receipt and inspection
- b) Confirmation of Feedlot approval
- c) Point of Slaughter eligibility Certification
- d) Processing, identification and traceability from receipt to final packaging and labelling for export
- e) Product Specification and Carcass evaluation
- f) End Product labelling verification (GF-HQB)
- g) Certificate of Authenticity (Quota administration)

AQIS will verify the above listed documented procedures to ensure the EU program requirements and Carcass specification requirements have been maintained.

Further enquiries on the new quota requirements contact AUS-MEAT Ltd Ph (07) 3361 9200, Fax (07) 3361 9222, e-mail [ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au](mailto:ausmeat@ausmeat.com.au) .



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**GENERAL MANAGER  
STANDARDS & TECHNICAL OPERATIONS**

Previous References: New