



PQA PLUS PORK EXPORT VERIFICATION (EV) PROGRAM

1 Purpose

This document provides the requirements for establishments that wish to supply pork to customers that require verification that the meat is derived from animals that were raised under the requirements of the Pork Quality Assurance® (PQA) Plus Program and/or the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA).administered by the National Pork Board (NPB).

2 Scope

This program applies to U.S. suppliers (harvesters, fabricators, and processors) of porcine meat and meat products offered for export to countries that require product be derived from animals raised under the NPB's PQA Plus Program and YQCA. Suppliers must meet the specified product requirements of this EV Program through an approved USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program or USDA Process Verified Program (PVP). The requirements for these programs are defined in the QAD 1001 Procedure: *USDA Process Verified Program* and the QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment Program*. The USDA QSA and PVP Programs ensure that the specified product requirements are supported by a documented quality management system.

3 References

QAD 1000 Procedure: *Quality Systems Verification Programs, General Policies and Procedures*

QAD 1001 Procedure: *USDA Process Verified Program*

QAD 1002 Procedure: *USDA Quality System Assessment Program*

[USDA Process Verified Program website](#)

[USDA Quality System Assessment Program website](#)

[Pork Quality Assurance® Plus website](#)

[FSIS Export Library – Requirements by Country website](#)

[Youth for Quality Care of Animals website](#)

4 Responsibilities

Companies must meet the applicable requirements outlined in this procedure, QAD 1000 Procedure, and either the QAD 1001 Procedure or QAD 1002 Procedure.



5 Specified Product Requirements

Porcine meat and meat products must meet the following requirement.

- 5.1** Be derived from animals raised under the PQA Plus Program and/or YQCA.

6 Approved Supplier Lists

- 6.1** Establishments must maintain an approved list of suppliers who have been verified as capable to supply hogs that have been raised under the PQA Plus Program and YQCA. A supplier could be a collection of production units that are under a common management system.

7 Segregation of Live Animals and Final Products

- 7.1** Establishments are required to maintain controls to ensure the segregation of live animals that were not raised under the PQA Plus Program from those that were prior to harvest.
- 7.2** Controls shall also be in place to ensure that segregation is maintained throughout the harvest and fabrication process.

8 Product Identification and Traceability

- 8.1** The company must maintain a documented product identification system to identify eligible products produced under the PQA Plus Program.
- 8.2** The product identification system must be comprised of a list of specific products, as outlined in QAD 1030: *EV Program Additional Requirements*.
- 8.3** The product identification system must be created in Microsoft Excel format and submitted to AMS with the company's program update.
- 8.4** The method for identifying the product under the product identification system must be transferable and traceable throughout production.

9 Shipping Documentation

- 9.1** Identification of conforming product during shipment and delivery must be documented on the shipping documentation (bills of lading, shipping manifests, or letters of guarantee). The shipping documentation must:
 - 9.1.1** Clearly identify the product and product quantity; and
 - 9.1.2** Contain one of the following applicable statements:



9.1.2.1 "Product meets PQA Plus EV Program requirements for the specified country" - This statement is used for finished items that are eligible for export.

9.1.2.2 "Product meets PQA Plus EV Program requirements for the specified country, excluding final fabrication requirements" - This statement is used for items that must be further fabricated to meet all requirements prior to being eligible for export.

10 Listing of Approved Programs

Only U.S. suppliers who have an approved USDA Program that meets the specified product requirements for PQA Plus are listed on the *Official Listing of Approved PQA Plus Pork EV Programs*. Suppliers are listed only for the countries for which they are approved.



Jeff Waite, Branch Chief
Quality Assessment Division
Livestock and Poultry Program

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.