

**PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION  
OF CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
AND  
THE FEDERAL SERVICE FOR VETERINARY AND  
PHYTOSANITARY SURVEILLANCE (THE RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION) ON INSPECTION, QUARANTINE AND  
VETERINARY SANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEEF TO  
BE EXPORTED FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China and the Federal Service for veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance (the Russian Federation) hereinafter referred to as the Parties,

In order to carry out safe beef trade between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China and ensure food security of the states of the Parties,

Have agreed as follows.

**Article 1**

For the purposes of this Protocol, "beef" means frozen deboned or bone-in bovine skeletal muscles, body fat and tendons derived from bovine under 30 months of age at the time of slaughter, from which the hair(fur), viscera, head, oxtail and feet (below ankle and wrist) are removed after slaughter and bleed.

Minced beef, scrap, mechanically separated meat, vertebral column and skull bones, and other byproducts are ineligible for export to China.

## **Article 2**

The Russian Party shall be responsible for the quarantine and inspection of beef to be exported to China and issuance of the Veterinary Health Certificates.

## **Article 3**

The Russian Party shall provide the Chinese Party with information on the legislation governing the slaughter, cutting, processing and storing of beef exported to the People's Republic of China, the relevant inspection and quarantine programs which consist of monitoring programs, laboratory testing methods and procedures; and the quarantine veterinary stamps or inspection legend/marks for export eligibility.

The Russian Party shall supply the Chinese Party in accordance with the applicable procedure with the following information every year:

1. On the plans and annual reports of the state monitoring plan of National Chemical Residue Monitoring Program (veterinary drugs and contaminants, etc.) and on the annual plan of the microbiological monitoring in the Russian Federation. If necessary the information on Russian Federation nuclear radiation and other environmental pollutants plans and reports shall be supplied.
2. On the preventive and zoning measures applied against the diseases listed in Articles 5 of this Protocol, including but not limited to, specific geographical location, number of livestock, details of meat processing establishments for export and disease surveillance information.
3. On the measures that have been taken to reduce the risk of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) such as the supervision and

verification of the ban on feeding ruminants with any meat-and-bone meal and greaves derived from ruminants according to the World Animal Health Organization (hereinafter referred to as the OIE) recommendations and on current updated information.

4. On the epidemic situation of animal diseases (according to OIE notifications) which might possibly spread via bovine meat in the territory of Russian Federation.

#### **Article 4**

The Russian Party shall ensure that administrative systems for food safety consistently comply with the requirements of China and provide control over compliance with the requirements of this Protocol at enterprises exporting beef to the People's Republic of China. In case of non-compliance detected, the Russian Party shall inform the Chinese Party about this and shall send all the necessary materials.

The Chinese Party, if necessary and agreed with the Russian Party, shall send experts to the Russian Federation for an on-site audit or retrospective inspection. The Russian Party shall provide the necessary assistance to the experts of the Chinese Party in carrying out the above mentioned activities.

The Parties shall develop a mechanism for effectively informing each other regarding the resolution of issues related to the export of beef to the People's Republic of China, the implementation of corrective and preventive measures to ensure compliance by enterprises exporting beef to the People's Republic of China with the requirements of this Protocol.

#### **Article 5**

The Russian Party officially confirms that the Russian Federation:

- 1) is free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), peste des petits ruminants (PPR) and rinderpest and contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP).
- 2) has been carrying out the BSE monitoring, feed ban and has established an effective traceability system according to the OIE recommendations.
- 3) has applied zoning measures for foot and mouth disease (FMD) which have been endorsed by OIE and zoning measures for lumpy skin disease (LSD) pursuant to the OIE recommendations.

#### **Article 6**

The live cattle from which beef to be exported to the People's Republic of China is derived shall:

1. be born, raised and slaughtered in FMD free zones where vaccination is not practiced recognized by the OIE and LSD free zones in the Russian Federation, with a unique identification mark which can be traced back to the born and raised farms.
2. originate from farms where no cloven-hoof animals have been introduced from any other zones or countries outside of FMD and LSD free zones of the Russian Federation for at least 12 months prior to slaughter.
3. originate from farm where have been no clinical case of Q fever, tuberculosis, paratuberculosis, bovine viral diarrhea/Mucosal disease, brucellosis (brucella abortus), bovine cysticercosis, Rift valley fever detected for the past 12 months prior to slaughter.
4. originate from premises where no restriction or surveillance zones has been established due to highly dangerous diseases of animals

stipulated by the OIE and the People's Republic of China's and the Russian Federation's animal health regulations for the past 6 months prior to slaughter.

5. were kept in the farm of origin for at least 3 months prior to slaughter.

6. have not been vaccinated against anthrax using live vaccine during the 14 days and against LSD during the 60 days prior to slaughter.

7. have never been fed with meat-and-bone meal or greaves derived from ruminants.

#### **Article 7**

The establishments (including slaughtering, cutting, processing and storing) which intend to export beef to the People's Republic of China shall be located in FMD free zones where vaccination is not practiced and LSD free zones, under supervision of the competent authorities of the Russian Federation and comply with the relevant laws and regulations of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on veterinary health and public health.

The establishments for export of beef to the People's Republic of China shall be registered with the Chinese Party pursuant to *Food Safety Law of the People's Republic of China* and *Regulations on the Implementation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Entry and Exit Animal and Plant Quarantine*. Beef from establishments that are not registered with the Chinese Party shall not be allowed to import into the People's Republic of China.

#### **Article 8**

The Official Veterinarian of the Russian Party shall attest, through the Veterinary Health Certificate, that:

1) beef for export to China is derived from cattle that:

- a) were born, reared and slaughtered in the Russian Federation, with a unique identification mark that can be traced back to the farms of origination and raising;
  - b) have not received veterinary drugs or feed additives prohibited by the legislation of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.
  - c) have been slaughtered, processed and stored at establishments registered by the Chinese Party.
  - d) are in conformity with Article 6 of this Protocol.
  - e) have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem veterinary inspections in accordance with the relevant legislation of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China with favorable results to prove that cattle for slaughter are healthy and free of clinical signs of infectious and parasitic diseases, no lesions have been found on viscera and carcasses from which the major lymphatic nodes and gland tissue have been removed.
  - f) Brains, skull, eyes, spinal cord, tonsils and distal ileum from all cattle as Specified risk materials (SRMs) shall be removed effectively during the processing in a manner to avoid contamination with parts of the carcass.
  - g) Cattle for producing beef to be exported to the People's Republic of China are not subject to a stunning process prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process.
- 2) All carcasses of slaughtered cattle, prior to deboning or cutting, have been chilled and submitted to maturation at a temperature higher than 2 degrees Celsius for a minimum period of 24 hours following slaughter, and maintained the core temperature at 2 degrees Celsius to 4 degrees Celsius. The pH value was below 6.0 when tested in the middle of both the longissimus dorsi.
- 3) National residue monitoring program is implemented and

certifying that the residue level of veterinary medicinal products, pesticides, heavy metals and environmental pollutant as well as other undesirable substances contained in the products do not exceed the maximum residue limits (MRLs) stipulated by the national legislation of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

4) Beef is free from the contamination of pathogenic agent prescribed in the national legislation of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

5) Beef is safe, hygienic and fit for human consumption.

### **Article 9**

During the period of transportation (including transportation from the farm to, and at the place of, slaughterhouse), the cattle for slaughter and for exports to the People's Republic of China will not be allowed to contact with:

- 1) animals of other species;
- 2) any live cattle which do not comply with the requirements in Articles 5 and 6 of this Protocol; or
- 3) any live cattle or other species of animals belonging to the establishment which does not comply with the registration requirements in Article 7 of this Protocol.

The beef for exports to the People's Republic of China will not allow to be processed together with the following products:

- 1) other animal products of other species origin;
- 2) animal products derived from animals which are not in conformity with the requirements stipulated by Articles 5 and 6 of this Protocol;
- 3) products which are not produced by a registered establishment; or,
- 4) products that are not for export to the People's Republic of China.

Beef for exports to the People's Republic of China in freezer will be stored in a separate bay that is clearly identified.

### **Article 10**

The exported beef to the People's Republic of China shall be wrapped and packaged in unused new packaging materials in compliance with the requirements of the national legislation of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.

The beef to be exported to the People's Republic of China shall be labeled with commodity name (product description), country of origin, establishment registration number and product batch number on the internal package in Chinese and English.

The items, including commodity name, specifications, place of origin (specific to state/province/city), establishment registration number, lot batch numbers, destination (shall be designated as the People's Republic of China only), manufacture date (year/month/day), shelf life and storage temperature shall be indicated on the external package in Chinese and English. The official veterinary quarantine and inspection marks shall be stamped (or printed) on the external package of the products.

The labels of prepackaged beef shall comply with the standards and regulatory requirements of the People's Republic of China on pre-packaged food labeling.

### **Article 11**

Beef intended for export to the People's Republic of China shall, during packaging, storage and transportation, meet sanitary conditions that ensure protection against contamination from pathogenic microorganisms or harmful and poisonous materials prescribed by the requirements of the national legislation of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation.

Storage and transportation shall be carried out under suitable temperatures maintaining the core temperature of the frozen beef not higher than minus 15 degrees Celsius.



Prior to shipment, the export shipping or airfreight container, rail and road transport containers shall be sealed under the supervision of the Russian Party. The number of the seal shall be indicated in the Veterinary Health Certificate. During transportation, the packaging of beef shall not be changed or opened.

## **Article 12**

Each container/consignment of beef to be exported from the Russian Federation to the People's Republic of China shall be accompanied by at least one original and official Veterinary Health Certificate attesting that the beef meets the requirements of the national legislation of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, as well as complies with the requirements of this Protocol.

The Veterinary Health Certificate shall be written in Chinese, Russian and English (English version is compulsory when filling out the certificate). The format and content of the certificates shall be agreed upon in advance by both Parties.

For record keeping, the Russian Party will provide the Chinese Party with examples of the official veterinary stamp and meat inspection legend/mark, Veterinary Health Certificate, a list of authorized signatory veterinarians with their corresponding signatures, instructions on the anti-fraud label and the email address through which the electronic data of Veterinary Health Certificates will be delivered, as appropriate. If any changes are made to the above, the Russian Party will notify the Chinese Party at least one month prior to the changes coming into effect.

To facilitate border inspection in the People's Republic of China, the Russian Party shall forward the electronic data of each issued Veterinary Health Certificate to the Chinese Party in a timely manner. The Russian Party shall guarantee that the electronic data are correct and safe.

### **Article 13**

If there is any outbreak of FMD in FMD free zones where vaccination is not practiced recognized by the OIE or in case of LSD in LSD-free zones in the Russian Federation, bovine infectious diseases which are stipulated in the conditions of point 1) of Article 5 of this Protocol, the Russian Party will stop the exportation of beef to the People's Republic of China, recall the products and other products posing potential risk to the People's Republic of China, inform the Chinese Party, and provide the Chinese Party with information on causes of the incident happened and methods of its control.

When there is any occurrence in the Russian Federation of the bovine infectious or parasitic diseases, listed in point 3 of Article 6 of this Protocol, or contamination by diseases included in the relevant lists, set by the applicable legislation of the People's Republic of China, which might possibly spread via meat, or any other significant food contamination, which may likely to contaminate beef for export to the People's Republic of China, the Russian Party will immediately stop the exportation of the beef produced in relevant zones, recall the products and relevant products posing potential risk, inform the Chinese Party and provide information on causes of the incident happened and methods of its control.

After the above-mentioned problem solving, negotiations should be conducted between Parties according to the international practice to reinstate the trade.

### **Article 14**

If beef exported to the People's Republic of China is found to be non-compliant with the requirements laid down in this Protocol, the Chinese Party shall notify the Russian Party in a timely manner about the recall, destruction or other disposal of the non-compliant beef in

accordance with the legislation of the People's Republic of China. Both Parties shall cooperate to investigate the causes and take corrective actions and rectifications to prevent recurrence of the non-compliance.

#### **Article 15**

Disputes between the Parties regarding the interpretation or application of the provisions of this Protocol will be resolved through negotiations and consultations between the Parties.

#### **Article 16**

By written consent of the Parties, this Protocol may be amended.

#### **Article 17**

This Protocol takes effect on the date of signature. This Protocol will remain valid for five (5) years and will be automatically renewed for further periods of five (5) years, unless one of the Parties notifies the other of its intention to terminate this Protocol at least 6 months in advance of the expiration of the relevant term.

The Protocol is signed in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, on the date of \_\_\_\_\_ in two copies, each in Chinese, Russian, and English languages, being equally valid. Should there be any deviation in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

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On behalf of  
the General Administration of  
Customs of the People's Republic  
of China

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On behalf of the Federal Service  
for Veterinary and Phytosanitary  
Surveillance (the Russian  
Federation)