

Dairy Products Intended for Human Consumption

Effective November 1, 2017, Japan requires the “**Veterinary Certificate for raw milk and milk products from cloven-hoofed animals to be exported to Japan from the United States for human consumption**” for consignments of the following dairy products intended for human consumption: Harmonized Schedule (HS) Codes 0401 (Milk and cream, etc.); 0402 (Milk and cream, etc.); 0403 (Buttermilk, etc.); 0404 (Whey, etc.); 0405 (Butter, etc.); 0406 (Cheese, etc.); and 3502.20, 3502.90 (Milk albumins, etc.). [No certification is believed to be required for other dairy products imported into Japan (unless they contain other animal-origin components for which certification is required.)]

History:

In 2017 the certificate met the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) animal health requirements. In 2020, the certificate was modified to add the following statement to also meet new requirements of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare (MHLW) through the addition of the following statement:

6. Was/were manufactured under a system designed to produce a product of equivalent or greater safety (regarding sanitary production) as the criteria of Japan.

Prior to agreement on this declaration, the United States Government shared detailed information regarding the domestic requirements in the United States for the production of dairy products for human consumption to be eligible for interstate transit with MHLW. MHLW then deemed the U.S. system adequate to allow for this declaration for products eligible for interstate transit in the United States. Therefore, exporters should have confidence in providing this aspect of the required affidavit for products eligible for interstate transit in the United States.

Logistics:

When preparing the certification for submission to the pertinent VS Service Center, the applicable information should be inserted into the fillable certificate, but special care should be given to the following aspects:

Option 1.A: Select this option if the source milk (and derivatives) was collected (and only handled or stored) in the United States, and/or any of the other listed countries. In this case, no processing parameters are required to be certified. Option 1.B (and the processing methods under option 1.B) would not be selected in this scenario.

Option 1.B: This option is only used when the source milk (or derivatives) was collected (or handled or stored) in a country or countries other than those listed in option 1.A. If option 1.B is selected, at least one of the options 1.B(i) through 1.B(v) must also be selected.

The exporter should also ensure the VS Service Center has the required notarized affidavit from the product manufacturer on file with the pertinent options and other declarations verified. The VS Service Center can provide more details regarding the requirements for the notarized affidavit.

Prior to endorsement, the VS Service Center will add the pertinent information for finalization, and print the certificate duplexed on VS Security Paper prior to endorsement and sealing of the certificate. The VS Service Center will not transfer the certificate to office letterhead prior to printing the certificate on VS Security Paper.