

## **Bovine Origin Casings**

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) (animal health authorities of Japan) prohibit the import of ruminant origin intestinal casings. For further information on the certification of intestinal casings, exporters should contact the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Technical Service Center at 402-221-7400.

### **Artificial (Collagen or Gelatin) Bovine Origin Casings**

The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) prohibits the importation of bovine origin casings **unless** the casings are derived from imported ingredients, processed at facilities approved by APHIS Veterinary Services. For more information on the requirements for approval, exporters should contact the APHIS-VS Area Office in the State from which the products will be exported, or where the products are produced.

The below information addresses the requirements of the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) (animal health authorities), and will be required if and when the Japanese public health authorities remove their ban.

Required certifications for UNFILLED Artificial Bovine Origin Casings Exported to Japan (To appear in the “Additional Declaration Area of the VS Form 16-4”)

1. The cattle origin raw material from which the certified casings was derived originate from raw materials from cattle slaughtered in countries other than those listed in the annex, and these materials and final product(s) was/were kept separate from any bovine materials from animals slaughtered in countries listed in the Annex.
2. The casings production facility is under official United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) supervision and maintains a system for tracing the animal origin materials, which guarantees the origin (gelatin/collagen production facility for artificial casings and country of origin for intestinal casings) can be identified.

Annex: United Kingdom (Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Ireland, Switzerland, France, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, the Netherlands, Liechtenstein, Germany, Spain, Greece, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Finland, Slovenia, Poland, Sweden, Israel, Canada, and the United States.

And either:

- I. For casings composed of gelatin or collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins:

*Certified material is derived exclusively from hides and skins, and contains no other animal origin ingredients.*

OR

II. For casings composed of gelatin or collagen prepared from bones:

*Certified materials are produced from a production process where:*

- A. Skulls and vertebrae (excluding tail vertebrae) have been excluded; and*
- B. The bones have been subjected to a process which includes all the following steps:*
  - (1) Pressure washing (degreasing);*
  - (2) Acid demineralization;*
  - (3) Prolonged alkaline treatment;*
  - (4) Filtration; and*
  - (5) Sterilization at 138°C for a minimum of 4 seconds.*

No other certifications should be included.

**For certification of filled casings, exporters should contact the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service.**