

**Approved by order Ü-12 dated 16 May 2018 of the Azerbaijan Republic
Food Safety Agency**

**Veterinary Requirements to Importing Meat and Meat Products to Azerbaijan
Republic**

It is admitted to import to Azerbaijan meat and meat products produced after slaughtering and processing healthy animals at meat processing enterprises which have the permission of the state veterinary service of the country to supply products for export and which are under permanent supervision of the state veterinary service.

Animals to be exported to the Azerbaijan Republic, are subject to the pre-slaughter veterinary examination, while carcasses and organs from them to the post slaughter veterinary-sanitary examination carried out by the state veterinary service of the exporting country. It should be confirmed that meat is beneficial for human consumption. Carcasses (semi-carcasses, quarter) should have a clear stamp of the state veterinary control with indication of the name or number of the meat-packing plant (refrigerated slaughterhouse), where the cattle was slaughtered. Covered meat should have marking (veterinary stamp) on packing or semi-pack. The marked label should be stamped on packing so that the unsealing of package would be impossible without damage of wholeness of marking labels.

Meat and meat products must be produced after slaughtering healthy animals which originate from the countries, administrative territories in which the following contagious diseases of animals have not been registered:

A) for all animal species:

- African swine fever – during the last 3 years in the country's territory;
- FMD – during the last 12 months in the country's territory;

B) cattle:

- bovine spongiform encephalopathy and ovine scrapie – in the country's territory according to the requirements of OIE's «Terrestrial Animal Health Code» ;
- rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia, vesicular stomatitis, peste des petitis ruminants – during the last 12 months in the country's territory;
- tuberculosis, brucellosis, leucosis – during the last 6 months on a farm's territory;
- anthrax, emphysematous carbuncle – during the last 20 days on a farm's territory;

C) sheep and goat:

- bovine spongiform encephalopathy and ovine scrapie – in the country's territory, in accordance with the requirements of OIE «Terrestrial Animal Health Code»;
- bluetongue, rinderpest, contagious pleuropneumonia, peste des petitis ruminants – during the last 12 months in the country's territory;
- adenomatosis, Maedi-Visna, caprine arthritis-encephalitis, – during the last 3 years on a farm's territory;
- sheep pox and goat pox – during the last 12 months on a farm's territory;
- tuberculosis, brucellosis – during the last 6 months on a farm's territory;
- anthrax – during the last 20 days on a farm's territory;

D) pig:

- swine vesicular disease – during the last 12 months in the country's territory;
- classical swine fever, Aujeszky's disease, enterovirus encephalomyelitis – during the last 12 months in the administrative territory;
- trichinellosis – during the last 3 years on a farm's territory;
- reproductive and respiratory syndrome of swine – during the last 12 months on a farm's territory;
- anthrax and swine erysipelas – during the last 20 days on a farm's territory.

All carcasses should be examined for trichinellosis with negative result.

Intestines and tissues of ruminants weren't used in the production of beef and mutton.

Meat and meat products are obtained from animals which have not been fed with feedings-stuff, containing raw materials generated with a use of methods of genetic engineering or other genetically modified sources.

Importation of the following meat and meat products into the Azerbaijan Republic is not allowed:

- having changes in the post slaughter veterinary-sanitary examination, peculiar for FMD, rinderpest, anaerobic infections, tuberculosis, leucosis and other infectious diseases, affected by helminthes (cisticercosis, trichinellosis, sarcosporidiosis, oncodieriosis, echinococcosis, etc.), as well as in poisoning with various substances;
- exposed to defrosting during storage;
- having sign of spoiling;
- having a temperature in the muscle thickness at bones not higher than minus 8 degrees Celsius for frozen meat and not higher than plus 4 degrees Celsius for refrigerated meat;
- with residues of internals, hemorrhages in tissues, unremoved abscesses, with larvae of gadfly, with scraping of serous coats and removed lymphatic nodes, with mechanical premixes, and also with unusual for meat color, odor, smack (fish, medicinal drugs, herbs, etc.);
- containing means of preserving;
- contaminated by salmonella or agents of other bacterial infections;
- treated by coloring substances, ionizing or ultraviolet rays;
- obtained from slaughter of animals which were exposed to impact of natural or synthetic estrogenic, hormonal substances, thyreostatic preparations, antibiotics, pesticides and other medicinal means injected into directly before slaughter at a later date recommended by instructions on their application.

Microbiological, chemico-toxicological and radiological indicators of meat should meet the veterinary-sanitary rules and requirements effective in the Azerbaijan Republic.

Tare and packing material should be disposable and meet to the hygienic requirements.

Means of transportation are treated and prepared according to the usual regulations of the exporting country.

Fulfillment of conditions, indicated in the present requirements should be thoroughly approved by the veterinary certificate, signed by the state veterinarian of the exporting country.

Shipment of meat and meat products to the Azerbaijan Republic is possible only after the obtaining a permission by the importer from the Food Safety Agency of the Azerbaijan Republic.

