



Meat notice

Meat notice number:	2018/01		
Meat notice title:	Alternate protocol for managing illegible or missing shipping marks for the packed products (meat) exported to USA		
NSFS reference	Issue date	Date of effect	Review date
13	TBA	Immediate	February 2020
Contacts		Distribution categories	
Operational Integrity, Export Meat Program Exports Division Mid.opscoord@agriculture.gov.au		☒ Central and regional office ☒ Departmental on-plant officer(s) ☒ Managers, export meat establishments	
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1. Purpose

To inform export registered establishments eligible to produce meat and meat products for the United States of America (USA) of the agreed process available to manage shipping mark discrepancies identified at the point of entry.

This meat notice is a review of and replaces meat notice 2015/04.

2. Scope

This notice applies to export registered meat and meat product establishments listed for export to the USA (establishment/s) and seeking to utilise the alternate protocol for the remarking of cartons where shipping marks are missing or illegible.

3. Definitions

The following table defines terms used in this notice.

Term	Definition
Barcode	Unique numbering system to identify individual cartons of meat and meat products
GS1	International organisation that develops and maintains standards for supply and demand chains across multiple sectors

Term	Definition
Inspection Warehouse	A receiving warehouse in the USA approved by the US FSIS, which is able to access the meat messaging web portal, can view the despatch advice message (DESADV) and scan the cartons in the load on arrival in the US to verify and identify a missing or illegible shipping mark.
Meat Messaging	An electronic message in a prescribed format
Meat Messaging Web Portal	The system developed for the purpose of reconciling unique cartons within a load of product exported from Australia for import into the United States of America
Shipping mark	Unique number used to identify lots within a container that relates those lots to the health certificate(s)
SSCC	Serial Shipping Container Code

4. Background

The USA require that a unique shipping mark is applied to all shipments of edible meat and meat products for import to the USA. Shipping mark details are included on the health certificate and are used to support the identification and traceability of the meat and meat products.

One of the more common reasons for the rejection of edible meat and meat products in the USA is for missing or illegible shipping marks. In these instances, FSIS allows the competent authority of the exporting country or their agent to remark the cartons at the exporters' expense.

In 2015, FSIS released FSIS Notice 41-15, which approved the use of barcodes as a means to verify whether containers of imported product with missing or completely illegible shipping marks are part of a lot certified on the accompanying foreign inspection certificate. This notice has been replaced by FSIS Notice 81-16.

5. Responsibilities

5.1. Establishment Management must:

- a) Register with the Meat Messaging web portal i.e. <http://www.meatmessaging.com>
- b) Demonstrate competence in using the Meat Messaging web portal in the test environment in accordance with Attachment 1.
- c) Update their Approved Arrangement to include the use of the Meat Messaging web portal and relevant controls.
- d) Notify the department as soon as they become aware of any issues affecting the integrity of the alternate protocol.
- e) Ensure that the inspection warehouse has the technology and capability to scan GS1 barcodes and access the reports from the portal.
- f) Ensure the establishment has GS1 barcoding, the Meat Messaging System and a barcode scanner.

5.2. Departmental on-plant officers will:

- a) Provide establishment management with a copy of this Meat Notice (MN).
- b) Verify the establishment responsibilities and actions of this MN (as relevant) have been included in the occupier's Approved Arrangement.

5.3. Departmental Auditors (Food Safety Auditors or Area Technical Managers) will:

- a) Review the occupier's Approved Arrangement.
- b) Approve or not approve the arrangement as per their findings.
- c) Verify through audit at least once per year that the occupier is complying with this MN; (for example, this may be done during an Export Meat Systems Audit Program (EMSAP) or the traditional monthly audit)
- d) Notify by email to exportestablishmentregistration@agriculture.gov.au, that the establishment has met the requirements of this MN and request that the appropriate overseas operation be added to the establishment registration.

5.4. Export Registration database administrators will:

- a) Update the establishment registration to include US Bar Coding (USBC).
- b) Notify the US of the establishment's approval and request that the share-point website be updated.
- c) Request the US to advise when the share point website has been updated with the approved establishment details.
- d) Issue an updated Certificate of Registration to the establishment showing USBC under Overseas Operations.

Angela Davies

Director

Export Meat Program

Attachment 1

Meat Messaging Protocol for Missing/Illegible Shipping Marks

The establishments that are in compliance with the GS1 standard for barcodes will number each carton/carcass in series that they produce through the application of that barcode. This allows the individual cartons/carcasses in every load to be uniquely identified.

The establishment will scan cartons/carcasses at the point of despatch, using the information to generate the Request for Permit and Health Certificate. The establishment should then send a separate commercial electronic despatch advice message containing the cartons/carcasses serial numbers to the industry supported Meat Messaging web portal. The Inspection Warehouse in the US, will verify the contents of the load and identify only missing or illegible shipping marks.

If the cartons/carcasses are verified as being part of the certified load, and are correct against the electronic despatch advice message, then a receipt message is generated and sent electronically via the meat messaging portal. An email should be sent to the on-site FSIS inspector who will check with the FSIS share-point web site to ensure that the exporting plant is approved. When satisfied, the FSIS inspector approves the cartons to be remarked under the FSIS inspectors general supervision.

Carton labelling requirements

A GS1 compliant barcode is required to be used on the carton/carton labels to be able to access the Meat Messaging System.

Uploading the load out scan file

The establishment must be able to up-load the load-out files to the web portal in the required format.

Approved Arrangement preparation and amendment

To demonstrate compliance with the Meat Messaging System, the establishment must:

- Send 10 test messages to the Meat Messaging web portal test database at <http://www.meatmessaging.com>
- Conduct a review of those messages to ensure that they can access and use the Meat Messaging portal correctly.
- Print off the 10 review reports and submit with the amendments to the AA as proof that they are compliant.

The Approved Arrangement for the establishment must state that they:

- Are compliant with the GS1 standards around the use of barcoding.
- Have a system in place to upload to the web portal the load out scan files for all loads to the US in the required format.

The amendment must be approved by the department prior to the establishment being allowed access to the production (live) part of the Meat Messaging web portal.

Registration amendment

The establishment will need to present a statement of compliance with the Meat Messaging System via an email to exportestablishmentregistration@agriculture.gov.au. The Establishment Register (ER) may then be updated with US Bar Coding (USBC) in the Overseas Operations section of the establishment registration.

The department will issue an updated Certificate of Registration to the establishment showing the USBC code under the Overseas Operations section of the establishment registration.

Procedure for each shipment

At Export End

- Apply a GS1 barcode on labelling to identify each individual carton
- Apply the shipping mark to each carton as per USA requirements to identify a lot/s within the container.
 - o Each carton is scanned to a Meat Messaging System file identifying the particular shipping mark of the grouping of cartons in preparation for loading into the container
- Create a data file in the system using GS1 barcode and Meat Messaging as a record of all the cartons identified to a particular shipping mark that is loaded into the container
 - o Note: the same data file/s is commonly used to input the loads summary data into the request for an export permit
- Ensure that the data file/s detailing the load and each unique carton within the shipping mark grouping/s assigned to the load is uploaded to the Meat Messaging web portal and is available to the import warehouse in the USA
 - o Note: the upload to the Meat Messaging web portal must occur prior to the departure of the goods as declared on the health certificate
- Enter the Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) into the exporter comments when applying for an export permit and certificate.

At Import End

- The Inspection Warehouse receives the container and scans the individual cartons with the missing or illegible shipping marks at unloading of the container.

Remarking Process

Where cartons are identified with illegible or missing shipping marks the:

1) The Inspection Warehouse

- uploads the data into the meat messaging web portal which generates a verification report that verifies the cartons within the load (Attachment 2).
- notifies the exporter of the goods and provides relevant shipping details to accurately identify the load (e.g. health certificate number or SSCC number etc) and confirmation that a carton verification report was generated.

- 2) The exporter or Inspection Warehouse submits a 'Request for Remarking of Cartons destined to USA form' through the Meat Messaging Portal as per instructions on the form (Attachment 3) and attaches the verification report
- 3) The department assess the application and provide a decision on the 'Request for Remarking of Cartons destined to the USA form' to enable the remarking of the cartons under US FSIS supervision
- 4) Exporter or International Warehouse notifies the import warehouse and provides relevant information to US FSIS to initiate remarking
- 5) Inspection Warehouse organises remarking of cartons as per FSIS instruction.

Verified cartons may then be remarked by the import warehouse under US FSIS supervision.

A summary of the overall process from assembling the load through to submitting the application for remarking is shown in Attachment 4.

For more information on the Meat Messaging Web Portal please visit
<http://www.meatmessaging.com/docs.asp>

Attachment 2

SSCC 993487310090000125		Verified Carton Serial Number Report	
Exporter / Consignor Really Good Meat Company Building 6 1 Slaughter Road QLD 4999 AU		Carton Count 280 Message File Name 993487310090000125A Message Date 20140623 Container Number 99889988 Gov. Seal No. 999999 Carrier Seal No. Consignor Seal No.	
Consignee My Cold Store 65 Long Street Coldville QLD 4000		Health Certificate 4536 EXDOC No. 4235 Goods Decl. (ECN) 1234 Bill of Lading 789678 Invoice No. 6578 Order No. (purchase) 65875 Species BOVINE Country of Origin AUSTRALIA	
Buyer Meat Importing Company 1111 Import Road Importville NJ 06584 US		Establishment No. 9999	
Notify Meat Importing Company 1111 Import Road Importville NJ 06584		Port Marks ABC123 Net Weight Total	
Shipping Line Really Good Shipping Co Vessel/Aircraft Good Ship/ V443 Voyage Date of Departure 20140623 Port of Loading 9999 loadout Street AU Port of Discharge 8888 Import Road US Final Destination			
Shipment Reference 	Description BOVINE TENDERLOIN BONELESS BEEF IW/VAC TENDERLOIN		

Scanned and Verified (Eligible Product)

Description: ABC123

Scanned and Verified: 5

019931234501123431020014601314062121053036260020
 019931234501123431020015001314062121053041140020
 019931234501123431020015301314062121053042290020
 019931234501123431020016801314062121053062350020
 019931234501123431020016901314062121053063440020

Attachment 3

Request for Remarking of Cartons destined to USA form

USA CARTON DISCREPANCIES REQUEST TO REMARK

ALL FIELDS MUST BE COMPLETED	
Establishment Number where goods were loaded for export Establishment must have a certified program for US Remarking	[This is the establishment where the goods were loaded for export that has a certified program to demonstrate compliance to MN XX/2017]
RFP and/or health certificate number	RFP: HC Nbr:
SSCC Number	[as per the SSCC number declared in the RFP in exporter comments]
Exporter name	[name of exporter on the RFP]
Contact phone number	
Import Warehouse Name and location	[name of warehouse in the USA where goods will be inspected/remarked]
Meat Messaging carton verification report	[provide link to report or attach]
I confirm that this request is on the basis of compliance to the MN XX/2017	
Name: [must be a person in management & Control of the establishment authorized to validate RFPs] Date:	

ONCE COMPLETED PLEASE SEND TO Mid.OpsCoord@agriculture.gov.au

Department of Agriculture Export Meat Program

- ☐ Certified Program (ER) ☐ RFP SSCC Number ☐ Carton Verification Report
- ☐ Approved for Remarking ☐ Not Approved (please provide reasons in space provided)

[Sign and date]

Shipping Mark verification Model using Meat Messaging

Issue date: 14th January 2015

