

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

---

---

# FSIS NOTICE

---

---

14-21

4/5/21

## IMPORT REINSPECTION ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FRESH MEAT INSPECTION CERTIFICATES FOR FULLY COOKED BEEF SKELETAL MUSCLE MEAT FROM SOUTH AMERICA

### I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions for inspection program personnel (IPP) at official import inspection establishments to follow when conducting import reinspection activities related to the use of fresh meat inspection certificates for fully cooked beef skeletal muscle meat from South America. Products arriving with the fresh meat inspection certificate do not require a pink juice test (PJT). The instructions in this notice are an addition to the guidance provided in [FSIS Directive 9900.7](#), *Physical Examinations of Cooked Meat from Regions Where Rinderpest or Foot and Mouth Disease Exists*, and apply only to those countries specified in this notice. This notice is being issued to clarify IPP verification activities related to fresh meat inspection certificates for fully cooked beef skeletal muscle meat from selected countries in South America.

### II. BACKGROUND

FSIS entered into a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) on November 20, 2014, to document the collaborative efforts between the two Agencies relative to inspection, collection, and examination of imported cooked meats for under-processing; animal health slaughter surveillance activities; and information sharing.

### III. REGIONS PERMITTED TO USE FRESH MEAT INSPECTION CERTIFICATES FOR COOKED BEEF PRODUCTS

A. APHIS has negotiated with the following South American countries to allow the use of a fresh meat inspection certificate for fully cooked beef skeletal muscle meat:

1. Northern Argentina;
2. 14 States in Brazil; and
3. Uruguay

**NOTE:** This is for information only. IPP are not required to verify the region on the certificate.

B. Structurally modified skeletal muscle, including pinned/needled/bladed tenderized and/or ground beef is **not** eligible for export to the United States from South America at this time.

---

**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 4/1/22

**OPI:** OPPD

---

#### **IV. FSIS MONITORING AND VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES**

A. IPP are to accept the fresh meat inspection certificate for fully cooked beef skeletal muscle meat from the specified countries. IPP are not to perform a PJT on cooked beef skeletal muscle meat products from the specified countries when the shipment is accompanied by a fresh meat inspection certificate. IPP are to exempt the PJT Type of Inspection (TOI) in PHIS and select "Not Applicable."

B. IPP are to perform the PJT TOI on fully cooked bovine meat and meat products from these countries that are not accompanied by a fresh meat inspection certificate. IPP are to continue to follow FSIS Directive 9900.7 when performing the PJT.

C. IPP are to perform the PJT TOI on fully cooked head meats (tongue and/or cheek meat only) from these countries. IPP are not to accept a fresh meat inspection certificate for head meats. If IPP receive a fresh meat inspection certificate for any meat from the head, IPP are to place the shipment on hold and contact APHIS at [FSIS.PJT.Results@usda.gov](mailto:FSIS.PJT.Results@usda.gov) using the subject line "Head meat certified with a fresh meat inspection certificate" for guidance.

#### **V. QUESTIONS**

IPP are to refer questions regarding this notice to their immediate supervisor or to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](mailto:askFSIS) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, complete the web form and select Import for the inquiry type.



Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development