

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: US Beef Export Requirements Changed

Country: Saudi Arabia

Post: Riyadh

Report Category: Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

U.S. beef exports to Saudi Arabia no longer need to be from a USDA Export Verification program. Separately, Saudi Arabia now permits bovine-derived tallow in animal feed, including ruminant feed. The removal of the Export Verification requirement, along with tallow acceptance, is likely to lower trade barriers and increase U.S. beef exports to Saudi Arabia.

SFDA Removes EV Program Requirement for Beef and Beef Products Exports to Saudi Arabia

On March 2, 2026, the Saudi Food & Drug Authority (SFDA) notified the United States that it will no longer require beef imported from the United States to participate in a USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Export Verification (EV) program. This EV program was established by USDA in 2015 to verify certain animal feed requirements for U.S. cattle that were processed for the Saudi Arabia market. Instead, U.S.-based halal certification bodies approved by SFDA will ensure all halal requirements are met. To view a current list of SFDA-approved halal certification bodies, please follow this [link](#).¹

In addition, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Certificate for the Export of Beef Meat and Beef Products to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will be revised to eliminate the attestation, "Beef or beef products were derived from cattle fed in accordance with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Export Verification (EV) program for Saudi Arabia." The United States will update the USDA FSIS Export Library for Saudi Arabia to reflect these changes, effective from March 2, 2026.

Separately, in August 2024, SFDA approved bovine-derived tallow in animal feed formulations, including in ruminant feed, provided insoluble matter does not exceed 0.15% (SFDA.FD 47 and SFDA.FD. 41)). The two animal feed regulations were issued in 2018 (SFDA.FD 47:2018 *Sources of Animal Protein and Fats In Feed Industry* and SFDA.FD 41:2018 *Permitted Feedstuff and Prohibited Substances to be Used in Animal Feed*). All SFDA food and feed-related standards and regulations are available for purchase at this [link](#).

Allowing tallow in animal-feed formulations and U.S.-based halal certification bodies to delegating to verify animal feed requirements should increase U.S. beef export opportunities to Saudi Arabia.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ This link points to a Saudi Halal Center Accredited CB website. Select "Conformity Bodies" and search by Country Name for approved bodies in the United States.