


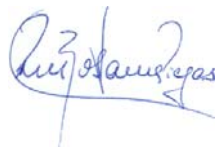


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CERTIFIED NATURAL MEAT PROGRAM OF URUGUAY

PROCEDURE FOR MEAT CERTIFICATION FOR THE “*USDA – PROCESS VERIFIED PROGRAM*”

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<p>Date: 08 / 14 / 2008</p>	<p>Date: 08 / 14 / 2008</p>




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1. OBJECT AND SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This document describes the requirements of the certification system for the Certified Natural Meat Program of Uruguay (CNMPU) in the framework of the USDA Process Verified Program (USDA - PVP)

2. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- MCP GP 01 – Authorization of certification bodies
- CNMPU SP 02 – Meat certification
- CNMPU SP 03 – Use of brands and logos
- MCP GP 04 - Penalties and appeals
- CERTICARNES PRO 002 – Subcontracting procedure
- CERTICARNES FOR 012 – Evaluation of certification bodies
- CERTICARNES – Subcontracting agreement for certification bodies
- CERTICARNES INS 003 – Instruction for certification bodies
- CERTICARNES INS 004 - System for authorization to issue and use labels of the CNMPU
- CERTICARNES FOR 015 – Form for application for certification - CNMPU – Farms and processing plants
- CERTICARNES FOR 016 – Application for authorization to issue and use labels of the CNMPU
- ARC 1001 Procedure USDA Process Verified Program 04 16 04
- ARC 1001 A Policy QSVP Policies for PVP Programs 02 01 05

3. GENERALITIES

Since the Certified Natural Meat Program of Uruguay (CNMPU) was granted approval within the USDA Process Verified Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), it is necessary to comply with some specific requirements in order to be able to use the logo *“Uruguay Certified Natural Beef - USDA Process Verified”*

4. CERTIFICATION PROCESS

AMS/USDA does only authorize CERTICARNES to certify products within the USDA Process Verified Program.

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Certicarnes subcontracts certification bodies authorized by the Meat Certification Program (MCP GP 01) to carry out evaluation tasks, the decision of certification being incumbent on CERTICARNES.

Subcontracting of certification bodies to carry out evaluation tasks is performed by signing a Subcontracting Agreement, and it is ruled according to the provisions of CERTICARNES PRO 002 – Subcontracting Procedure. Subcontracted certification bodies shall be evaluated in compliance with ISO 65 requirements, according to CERTICARNES PRO 002, and the evaluation shall be registered in the CERTICARNES FOR 012 – Evaluation of certification bodies.

Any companies desiring to be awarded certification (farms, groups of producers and processing plants) must apply to CERTICARNES for certification by submitting FOR 015 – Form for application for certification - CNMPU – Farms and processing plants.

Subcontracted certification bodies must forward to INAC - CNMPU the check-lists used, as well as the audit reports of companies audited, in conformity with the provisions of CNMPU SP 02 and of CERTICARNES INS 003, information which shall be analyzed by CERTICARNES in order to make the decision of certification and to issue the corresponding Conformity Certificate.

Subcontracted certification bodies performing evaluation tasks for CERTICARNES may issue Conformity Certificates to their customers, but these will not be valid for the United States within the USDA PVP.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

INAC has defined communication guidelines for the different actors of the Program. Said guidelines are deemed to be mandatory requirements which must be met.

CERTICARNES INS 003 – Instruction for Certification Bodies state in detail communications required and the procedure to be followed by subcontracted certification bodies.

6. ISSUANCE AND USE OF LABELS

CNMPU establishes the conditions and procedures for the use of brands and logos, regarding the CNMPU logo, and regarding the shield and term “*USDA Process Verified*”.

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6.1. ISSUANCE OF CNMPU LABELS

Issuance of labels by any processing plant must be previously authorized by the acting Certification Body.

Should labels be issued for products to be exported to the United States, the corresponding authorization must be duly requested to CERTICARNES in compliance with the procedure established by CERTICARNES INS 004, by means of filling in CERTICARNES FORM 016.

6.2. USE OF THE USDA PROCESS VERIFIED LOGO

Companies may use the USDA Process Verified logo according to the conditions and restrictions stated in the CNMPU SP 03 – Use of brands and logos and in the ARC 1001.


Misuse of the aforementioned logo may give rise to the penalty mechanisms provided for in the MCP GP 04 – Penalties and Appeals.

The USDA Process Verified Program authorizes the use of marketing claims previously approved by the AMS/USDA and by the FSIS/USDA.

In the following webpage there is a description of the marketing claims approved <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/arc/programs/uruquayan.htm>:

1. *Source Verified*: verification of origin of animals and products.
2. *No added hormones*: no hormonal growth promoter is fed to animals.
3. *Not fed antibiotics*: no subtherapeutic antibiotics are fed to animals as growth promoters.
4. *Grass fed*: animals are fed on pastures, limited levels of supplementation are allowed.
5. *No animal proteins in feed*: no food containing proteins of animal origin is fed to animals, except for mother's milk.
6. *Open range - Animals never confined*: animals are raised in the open all year round: they are never in confinement.

(Minimum processing, no additives nor preservatives added).

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7. EXCLUSIONS TO NUMERAL 4 OF THE USDA - ARC 1001 PROCEDURE

The ARC 1001 procedure establishes the requirements that a program must meet in order to trade products as USDA Process Verified. Items included in number 4 Product Development are worthy of consideration for exclusion.

After having revised ARC 1001, the conclusion was reached that items 4.4, 4.6.4 and 4.7 do not apply, this neither affecting the capacity nor the responsibility of the organization for obtaining a final product that meets all the requirements.

Grounds that justify the exclusion of the abovementioned items are as follows:

4.6.4. - "Customer Property"

It is not applicable given that the Certified Natural Meat Program does neither use nor include third party property to the product.

4.7. "Monitoring Control and Measuring Instruments"

It is not applicable since no attribute of the product "Natural Meat" entails quantitative measuring.