



AVA is monitoring the import of meat from Brazil

Arising from an investigation into possible corruption involving major meat exporters, the Brazil Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply has placed 21 meat processing establishments under a special surveillance regime (of which 3 are suspended). Singapore does not import any meat from these establishments, as none of them are approved to export to Singapore.

2. Meat and meat products can only be imported into Singapore from AVA accredited sources. The accreditation process involves two levels of checks. AVA will first assess the robustness of an exporting country's national animal health and food safety system and the authorities' powers to enforce food safety requirements, such as minimizing microbial contamination and chemical residues. If the country is approved as a source of meat supply, each meat establishment within the country will then be individually evaluated to ensure that they meet AVA's food safety requirements, before meat processed by that establishment can be exported to Singapore.

3. Upon arrival in Singapore, every meat consignment is physically checked for spoilage and the health certification verified at the point of import. In addition, samples are also taken for laboratory testing. Tests are conducted for a variety of food safety hazards (such as chemical residues, antibiotics and microbial pathogens), as well as authenticity to deter fraud (e.g. to ensure that the meat species match the species declared on label). Products that fail our tests will not be allowed to be sold. To date, there have not been any significant instances of non-compliance in meat shipments from Brazil.

4. AVA has stepped up surveillance of imported meat and meat products from Brazil. We are monitoring the situation closely and have been liaising with the Brazilian authorities to get more details. AVA is also working with our meat importers to monitor the situation and to be prepared to ramp up alternative sources, if necessary.

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