**Article 4**

The live cattle from which the beef to be exported to China is derived should:

1. Be born, reared and slaughtered in Italy; with a unique identification mark that can be traced back to the farm of birth and rearing;

2.Originate from farmsnot having any risk of BSEand where there arenot a suspect or confirmed case of BSE,or their progenyor members of the known birth cohort (not be born in the same herd as, and within 12 months of the birth of, the BSE case) or feed cohort of a BSE case;

3. Originate from farms where there has been no clinical caseof bluetongue, brucellosis,anthrax, tuberculosis,paratuberculosis, bovine viraldiarrhea/mucosal disease, Q fever,enzootic bovine leukosis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis/infectious pustular vulvovaginits, and bovine genital campyobacterosis for the past 12 months prior to slaughter;

4. Originate from premises not under quarantine or movement restriction due to other notified diseases in accordance with the OIE, Italy and China’s animal health regulations for the past 6 months;

5. Have never been fed with meat-and-bone meal or greaves derived from ruminants;

6. Have not been vaccinated against Anthrax using live vaccine during the 14 days prior to slaughter; and,

7.Are less than 30 months of age at the time of slaughter.

**Article 5**

The establishments (including slaughtering, cutting, processing and storage) which intend to export beef to China will be under supervision of the competent authorities of Italy and in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations of Italy and China on veterinary and public health.

The establishments for export of beef to China will be registered with GACC as per *the Food Safety Law of the People’s Republic of China*. Beef from establishments that are not registered with GACC will not be allowed to beexportedtoChina.

**Article 6**

The Italian Official Veterinarians will attest, through the Veterinary Health Certificate, that:

1. Thebeef is derived from cattle that:

* 1. Have been slaughtered, processed and stored at establishments approved by China;
  2. Have not been administered with restricted veterinary drugs or feed additives prohibited by China and Italy;
  3. Arein conformity with Article 4 of this Protocol;
  4. Have been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections with favorable results in accordance with the relevant Italian regulations and import requirements of China;
  5. Are healthy and free of clinical signs of infectious disease, and no lesion has been found on the carcasses and viscera, from which the major lymphatic nodes, and glandshave been removed;
  6. Were under 30 months of age at the time of slaughter.

2. During the slaughter process the cattle were not subjected to a stunning process, prior to slaughter, with a device injecting compressed air or gas into the cranial cavity, or to a pithing process;

3.The tonsils ,distal ileum, brains, eye, spinal cord, skull, vertebral column, dorsal root ganglion(DRG)have been removed in a safe and sanitary manner to avoid contamination according to the regulations of the European Union(EU) and Italy;

4. The beef exported to China is subject to the national residue monitoring and control program, and the residue level of the veterinary medicinal products, pesticides and environmental pollutant such as heavy metals,as well as other undesirable substances contained in the products do not exceed the maximum residue limits(MRLs) stipulated by EU, China andItaly;the veterinary medicinal products and feed additives prohibited by both Sides should not be detected;

5. The beef exportedto Chinais subject to the national microbiological monitoring program andis free from contamination of pathogenic microorganisms prescribed in the laws and regulations of China, EU and Italy; and,

6. The beef is hygienic, safe, and fit for human consumption.

**Article 7**

1. During the period of transportation to the slaughterhouse and at the slaughterhouse, the cattle for slaughter and for export to China will not be allowed to be in contact with:

a. Animals of other species;

b. Any live cattle which do not comply with the requirements in Articles 3 and 4 of this Protocol; or

c. Any live cattle or other animal species from an establishment which has not achieved registration as prescribed in Article 5 of this Protocol.

2. The beef for export to China will not be processed along with the following products:

a. Products of other animal species;

b. Animal products that do not conform to Articles 3 and 4 of this Protocol; or

c. Products that are produced by another establishment.

Beef to beexported to China in freezer or chiller will be stored in a separate place that is clearly identified.

**Article 9**

During storage and transport thebeef to be exported from Italy to China will, meet thesanitary conditions prescribed by China and Italy that ensure protection against contamination from pathogenic microorganism or harmful and poisonous material.

The storage and transportation shall be under suitable temperatures maintaining the core temperature of the frozen beef no warmer than minus 15 degrees Celsiusand that of the core temperature of the chilled beef between zero degree Celsius and 4 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Prior to shipment, the container would be sealed under the supervision of anItalian Official Veterinarian. The number of the seal will be indicated inthe Veterinary Health Certificate. During transportation, the package of the products should not be changed or opened.

**Article 14**

For the purposes of this Protocol, beef refers to the frozenand chilled deboned edible bovine skeletal muscles, derived from cattle less than 30 months of age at the time of slaughter, from which hair(fur), viscera, head, oxtail and feet (below ankle and wrist) are removed after slaughter and bleeding.

Ground beef coming from beef meat cuts over listed as eligible, can also be exported to China.

Minced beef, trimmings, scrap, mechanically separated meat and other byproducts are ineligible for export to China.