Swift Chef's Exclusive Black Angus Beef Program
G-31 Specification

1 REQUIREMENTS

Beef carcasses certified under this specification shall meet the following requirements:

a. Phenotypic or genotypic requirements of the American Angus Association's (AAA) Live Animal Specification;
b. Classed as Steer or Heifer carcasses only[1];
c. U.S. Prime or Choice and have a minimum marbling score of Modest 0[1];
d. Less than 30 months of age with lean color, texture, and firmness, meeting the requirements for A maturity in the U.S. grade it qualifies for[1];
e. Medium or fine marbling texture[1,2];
f. Ribeye Area (REA) of 10.0 to 16.0 square inches[3];
g. Moderately thick or thicker muscling and tend to be at least moderately wide and thick in relation to their length[4];
h. No hump exceeding 2 inches in height[5];
i. Practically free (not detracting from visual quality) of capillary rupture in the ribeye muscle; and
j. Free of "dark cutting" characteristics.

2 CERTIFICATION

Carcasses to be examined for compliance with this specification shall be clearly identified and presented to an AMS grader for certification. Certification procedures for identification, the removal of preliminary identification marks (or other methods of control) from non-qualifying carcasses, and control of certified carcasses shall be in accordance with established Quality Assessment Division (QAD) procedures.

[1] Determined in accordance with the "Official United States Standards for Grades of Carcass Beef."
[2] Evaluated using the USDA-AMS-LS-SB-02 Marbling Texture card (included in the Official USDA Marbling Photographs.)
[3] REA is inclusive of the lower and upper limits and allows for one side to meet the standard to consider both eligible for certification.
[4] Muscle thickness is evaluated by averaging the thickness of the various parts, considering not only the proportion of each part of the carcass but also the general value of each part. Superior muscle thickness implies a high proportion of meat to bone and a high proportion of the weight of the carcass in the more valuable parts.
[5] Measured from a line formed by the extension of the top line (including the fat) and measuring the lean muscle (excluding the fat) perpendicular to that line in the center of the hump.

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3 LABELING

Labeling of products derived from certified carcasses must follow Food Safety and Inspection Service regulations and policy guidelines and QAD procedures.

4 FEES

The costs of all grading and certification services performed by an AMS grader involving examinations, supervision, official documentation, and related services shall be borne by the person, group, or plant requesting the service.

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