This report contains an unofficial translation of Tunisia's order on the system of traceability for cattle and beef in Tunisia. Tunisia's total imports of cattle and beef range from $5-30 million/year. The United States has market access to export live cattle but not beef to Tunisia.
Order of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Health of May 31, 2012, fixing the specific system of traceability of bovine and their meat.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH,

Having regard to Constitutional Law n° 2011-6 of December 16, 2011, on the provisional organization of the public authorities,

Having regard to Law n° 2005-95 of October 18, 2005, relative to the Animal Husbandry Law as modified by Law n° 2007-54 of August 8, 2007 relating to the fight against doping in sport, and in particular Article 31,

Having regard to Decree No 2010-360 of March 1, 2010, approving the master plan for slaughterhouses,

Having regard to Decree No. 2011-4796 of December 29, 2011, appointing members of the Government,

Having regard to Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of May 26, 2006, setting the terms of veterinary health control, the conditions for granting sanitary approval of establishments producing, processing and packaging animal products

Having regard to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources of August 1, 2006, determining the form and content of the health stamp and the categories of meat concerned,

Having regard to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources water resources of January 11, 2007, laying down the technical and sanitary conditions for the transport of the animals concerned by the identification,

Having regard to the Order of the Ministers of Commerce and Handicrafts, Public Health, Industry, Trade and Industry, and small and medium-sized enterprises of September 3, 2008, on the labeling and presentation of prepackaged foods,

Having regard to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Ministry of the Interior and Local Development and the Minister of Public Health of November 29, 2008, approving the specifications for the equipment and the means of transport of meat and offal,

Having regard to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries of September 20, 2010, fixing the records of the identification of animals and the procedure of identification,

Having regard to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and the Environment of December 9, 2011, fixing the list of animals concerned by identification,

Having regard to the Order of the Minister of Agriculture and the Environment and the Minister of Agriculture public health of May 31, 2012, fixing the list of animals and animal products and the modalities of their traceability.

ORDERS:
Chapter I

General provisions

Article 1 - This Order fixes the specific traceability system for bovine and their meat.

Art. 2 - For the purposes of this Order, the term "establishment responsible for coordinating and promoting the traceability of animals and animal products" means the competent services under the Ministry of Agriculture.

Art. 3 - The establishment responsible for coordinating and promoting the traceability of animals and animal products must comply with the following conditions with regard to the traceability of bovine animals and their meat:

- Ensure the promotion of traceability,
- Ensure the coordination between the various stakeholders, actors and organizations,
- Use the electronic link with the slaughterhouses for the exchange of information on slaughtered animals and traceability of their carcasses,
- Use the electronic link with the cutting, processing, and packaging plants, for the exchange of information on carcasses and half-carcasses and their path,
- Use the electronic link with the retail outlets for the exchange of indications relating to packaged and ready-to-sell meat,
- Keep a register on which all data relating to the slaughtered animal and the products derived therefrom are recorded throughout all stages, from classification to packaging.

Chapter 2

Regulatory and Technical Requirements for the Traceability of Bovine

Art. 4 - As part of a traceability process put in place, any farmer whether a natural or legal person wishing to adhere to the specific traceability system for bovine must meet the following regulatory and technical requirements:

- Identify all animals during the rearing period in accordance with the official livestock identification system in force with the obligation to use a loop on each ear,
- Keep the certificate of identification and individual health monitoring accompanying each animal,
- Keep an official register for the identification of bovine as provided for in Article 2 of the abovementioned Order of September 20, 2010,
- Record or forward all data relating to the life of the animal and its breeding in the form of a standard database developed by the institution responsible for coordinating and promoting the traceability of animals and animal products,
- Keep a copy of the traceability register, numbered and initialed on all pages, according to the model developed by the establishment responsible for the traceability of animals and animal products, this register must be kept for a period of at least 5 years, and includes all information relating to the identification, the sanitary treatments and the feeding of the animals.

**Art. 5** - The establishment responsible for coordinating and promoting the traceability of animals and animal products must:

- Keep a register of the farmers concerned in the form of a database in accordance with the national register of farmers kept by the establishment in charge of the identification of the animals as provided for in Article 4 of the aforementioned Order of September 20, 2010,

- Ensure that the electronic link for the data exchange with all the concerned farmers is maintained by both parties.

- Monitor and control the database for recording and safeguarding all animal information from birth to slaughter or death,

- Ensure that the electronic link is linked to the animal identification database maintained by the establishment responsible for the identification of farm animals for the exchange of information,

- Monitor and check the register of the traceability of farm animals held by the farmer.

**Chapter 3**

**Regulatory and Technical Requirements for Traceability of Bovine Meat**

**Section 1 - At Slaughterhouse Level**

**Art. 6** - The administration of the slaughterhouse shall keep a register, numbered and initialed on all pages, issued by the establishment responsible for the traceability of animals and animal products in which the following data are entered for each carcass:

- Date of slaughter,

- National identification number of the animal,

- Slaughter number assigned in the slaughterhouse with an obligation to ensure a sufficient and transparent link between the national identification number of the live animal registered in the slaughterhouse the level of the loop and the national identification number entered on the certificate of identification and the number of slaughter,

- Weight of the carcass,

- Name of the seller and number of his identity card,

- Name of the buyer and number of his identity card.

In addition to the health stamp bearing the code of the slaughterhouse, the carcass, half-carcass, and quarter-carcasses shall bear the slaughter number. When leaving the slaughterhouse, carcasses, half-
carcasses, and quarter-carcasses must be accompanied by a document referred to as the carcasses, half-carcass, and quarter-carcass verification document and issued by the slaughterhouse administration, containing the data identified in Model No. 1 annexed to this Order.

The slaughterhouse administration retains the certificates of identification and health monitoring of all slaughtered animals and must send a copy to the establishment responsible for coordinating and promoting the traceability of animals and animal products.

Section 2

At the Meat Cutting and Packaging Plants

Art. 7 - Processing and cutting of carcasses, half-carcasses, and quarter-carcasses shall be carried out in approved cutting and packaging plants identified by a code. The administration of the meat cutting and packaging plant has an official register, numbered and initialed on all pages, issued by the animal and animal product traceability establishment, in which all data relating to carcasses are recorded in accordance with the data from the slaughterhouse and the lot number to which they belong according to the Model No. 1 annexed to this Order.

A lot corresponds to all the carcasses, half-carcasses, and quarter-carcasses produced the same day in a meat cutting and packaging plant and grouped according to homogeneous characteristics such as breed, sex, origin,

Cut and packaged meat in the cutting and packaging plant shall bear a label containing the following data:

- Origin: country of origin (country of slaughter or cutting),
- The code of the cutting and packing plant,
- The reference of the carcass and half-carcass verification document,
- The breed: meat breed, dairy breed, mixed breed or local breed and crossed according to Model No. 2 annexed to this Order,
- The category (young calves, fattened calves, heifers, fattened cows, culled cows) or male or female animals, stating the age of the animal according to Model No. 3 annexed to this Order,
- The lot number, the net weight of the piece, the date of cutting and packaging and the expiration date.
Section 3

At the level of retail outlets for meat

Art. 8 - Meats presented at retail outlets may be categorized and packaged and / or categorized and not packaged. Packaged meat offered for sale to the consumer shall bear a label in accordance with Model No. 4 annexed to this Order. Unpackaged cuts of meat presented for sale or for consumption must bear a label in accordance with Model No. 5 annexed to this Order.

Section 4

At the level of meat processing establishments

Art. 9 – Approved meat processing establishments must keep an official register, numbered and initialed on all pages, issued by the establishment responsible for the traceability of animals and animal products on which are recorded all data indicating the origin of processed meat:

- The origin (country of origin),
- The lot number,
- The references of the carcass, half-carcass, and quarter-carcass verification documents.

Products processed at the time of sale must bear labels containing the data in accordance with Annex No. 6 attached to this Order.

Art. 10 - This Order will be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Tunisia. Tunis,

May 31, 2012

Minister of Agriculture Mohamed Ben Salem
Minister of Health Abdellatif Mekki
Seen Head of Government Hamadi Jebali
MODEL N° 1

Model of Carcass, Half Carcass, and Quarter Carcass Verification Document

Tunisian Republic

Slaughterhouse......................

Verification document of:
- Carcass - Front quarter
- Half-carcass - Rear quarter

Reference number of the verification document: ........................................
Carcass number: ..........................................
Lot number: ..............................................

Breed
Sex: ..............................................................................................................
Origin: ............................................................................................................
Weight: ..........................................................................................................
Age: ..............................................................................................................

Name and last name of the seller (or Name of establishment): ...................
Number of the national identity card: ............................................................

Name and last name of the buyer: .................................................................
Number of the national identity card: ............................................................
Address of the buyer: ..................................................................................

Name and last name of the slaughterhouse agent: ...........................................

Quality: ...........................................................................................................
Date: ................................................................................................................
Time: .............H ............M

Stamp of the administration of the slaughterhouse Signature
MODEL N° 2

Definition of Breeds

**Meat breed:** Charolais, Limousin, Belgian Blue White, Salers, Gasconne, Blonde d’Aquitaine, meat crossbred

**Dairy breed:** Holstein-Friesian

**Dual breed:** Tarentaise, Alpine Brown, Montbéliarde, Simmental

**Local/crossbred:** local and local crossbred
MODEL N° 3

Definition of Bovine Age Categories

**Young calves**: less than 6 months old and not fattened

**Fattened calves**: After a fattening period

**Heifers**: bovine female over one year old and did not give birth

**Female fattened**: Cow fattened after culling

**Culling female**: Female eliminated from the herd for economic or sanitary reasons and intended to be slaughtered
Model n° 4

Label Model of Packaged Meat for Sale or Consumption

Origin (country of origin):
Carcass No.
Lot number:

Carcass, half carcasses, and quarter carcasses verification reference:
Carcass number: ……………………………………….
Lot number: ………………………………………….

Code of the cutting and packaging workshop:
Lot number:

Category: Calves … Heifers … Female fattened … Culling female … Fattened calves …

Or: Male Age: …………….. Female Age: …………..

Breed Meat breed … Dairy breed … Dual and hybrid breed

Net weight of the piece:
Date of cutting and packaging:
Selling price:
Price per piece in Kg:
Shelf life:
MODEL N° 5

Label Model of Unpackaged Meat for Sale

Category: Calves … Heifers … Fattened female … Culled female …. Fattened calves …

Or:  Male Age: ............... Female Age: ............

Meat breed … Dairy breed … Dual and hybrid breed

Verification reference:
Carcass number:
Lot number: ...........................................

Name of the piece: ..........................................

Price:
MODEL N° 6
Label Model of the Processed Products Label at the Time of Sale

Processing plant code:
Processing lot number:
Net weight
Composition:
Date of production:
Shelf life:

Price: