

# ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM REGULATORY FRAMEWORK: VEAL



**\*CDFA ACCREDITED CERTIFYING AGENTS**  
CDFA accredits private third-party certifying agents to certify producers and distributors.

**1 VEAL CALF PRODUCER**



**2 Slaughter and Fabrication**

**3 BORDER STATIONS**  
Check shipping documents of whole veal meat coming into California for required markings.



**4 REGISTERED VEAL DISTRIBUTORS**  

- Distributes whole veal meat to an end-user
- Register annually with CDFA
- Certified as compliant annually



**5 END-USERS**

Retail location (no further distribution)	Consumer (Personal consumption)	Restaurant or Food Facility	Food Processing Facility or Cottage Food Operation
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**CERTIFIED OPERATIONS**

- Veal calf producers and veal distributors
- Certified by one of the following: (1) accredited certifying agent\*, (2) CDFA, or (3) other government entity
- Includes an annual on-site inspection for renewal



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1. Veal Calf Producer is where calves are housed in compliance with law and regulations. Producer is certified as compliant by certifying agent with annual renewal and on-site inspection.

2. Processing plant where calves are slaughtered and processed. These locations are under mandatory inspection by Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS).

3. Border stations where shipping documents of covered product entering the state will be inspected for specific required markings. Note: not all covered products will pass through the border stations.

4. Veal distributors selling veal meat to an end-user in the state. Distributors are required to register with CDFA annually and be certified as compliant by a certifying agent with annual renewal and on-site inspection.

5. End-users in the state will be subject to random audits and at-risk investigations by CDFA.

## Key Terms

**Accreditation or accredit** means a determination made by CDFA to authorize a private entity to conduct certification of producer and distributor operations (3 CCR § 1326(a)).

**Audit trail** means records kept in sufficient detail to document the identification, source, supplier, transfer of ownership, transportation, storage, segregation, handling, packaging, distribution, and sale of covered product that was derived from a covered animal confined in compliance with the law, and from producers that hold a valid certification (3 CCR §§ 1320(b), 1321(b), 1322(b)).

**Border stations** are a first line of defense in CDFA's enforcement of the law and regulations of covered products entering the state. There are 16 border stations located on highways entering California and at these stations, every person shall stop at the request of CDFA for purposes of inspection of cargo and any accompanying shipping documents, manifests, and bills of lading, any vehicle or other conveyance transporting covered product into the state.

**Certification or certify** means a determination made by a certifying agent that a production or distribution operation is compliant, which is documented by a certificate of compliance (3 CCR § 1326(d)).

**Certified operation** means a production or distribution operation, or portion of such operation, that is certified by a certifying agent. Annual recertification with an on-site inspection by the certifying agent is required (3 CCR § 1326(e)).

**Certifying agent** means any private entity accredited by CDFA as a third-party certifying agent, CDFA, or any government entity that CDFA recognizes as providing functionally equivalent certification services (3 CCR § 1326(f)).

**Covered product** means shell eggs, liquid eggs, veal meat, or pork meat (3 CCR § 1326(l)).

**Document of title** means a document which is evidence that the person in possession of it is entitled to receive, hold, and dispose of the covered product it covers. Examples of such documents include, but are not limited to, bill of lading, dock warrant, dock receipt, warehouse receipt, or an order for the delivery of covered product (3 CCR §§ 1320(j), 1321(m), 1322(m)).

**End-user** means any of the following: (1) A consumer; (2) A retailer that is not a producer and only conducts commercial sales directly to a consumer, without any further distribution, of covered product; (3) A food processing facility or cottage food operation that receives covered product solely for use as an ingredient to manufacture a combination food product that does not meet the definition of covered product; or (4) A restaurant, food facility, or other similar business that only cooks and serves covered product to customers, patrons, or guests for purposes of consumption (3 CCR §§ 1320(o), 1321(o), 1322(o)).

**Governmental entity** means any local, state, or federal domestic government, tribal government, or foreign governmental subdivision providing certification services (3 CCR § 1326(n)).

**Distributor** means a person or facility engaged in the business of commercial sales or distribution of covered product (as producer or otherwise) to an end-user in California. This definition shall not apply to a person or facility that only receives covered product as an end-user (3 CCR § 1326(k)).

**Registration** commencing January 1, 2023, any in-state or out-of-state person engaged in a commercial sale into or within the state as a distributor, shall hold a valid registration with CDFA. A registration is required for each facility location from which covered product is sold, distributed, or otherwise supplied to the location of an end-user. An application to CDFA by a distributor for initial registration, or for purposes of renewal, shall be accompanied by documentation of valid certification for each location where registration is being sought.

- For purposes of a valid certification, self-certification by a distributor that they are in compliance with laws and regulations, will be accepted by CDFA prior to January 1, 2024.

**Producer** means a person engaged in the business of keeping, maintaining, confining and/or housing egg-laying hens, calves for veal, or breeding pigs (3 CCR § 1326(v)).

**Records** means any information in written, visual, or electronic form that documents the activities undertaken by a producer, distributor, or certifying agent to comply with law and regulations. Records shall document in a traceable manner that covered product being distributed for commercial sale into or within California originate from certified producers that are compliant with law and regulations (3 CCR §§ 1320(w), 1320.5(c), 1321(v), 1321.5(c), 1322(x), 1322.5(c), 1326(w)).

**Shipping document** means all documents of title and shipping manifests for shipments of covered product entering the state or transported within the state for commercial sale in California shall include appropriate statement for inspection by CDFA (3 CCR §§ 1320.4, 1321.4, 1322.4).