PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE STATE FOOD AND VETERINARY SERVICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA, AND THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF QUALITY SUPERVISION, INSPECTION AND QUARANTINE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON INSPECTION, QUARANTINE AND VETERINARY SANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR FROZEN BEEF TO BE EXPORTED FROM LITHUANIA TO CHINA

The State Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Lithuania (hereafter referred to as SFVS), and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania, on behalf of Lithuania and the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as AQSIQ), on behalf of China, through friendly negotiations, have agreed on the following inspection, quarantine, and veterinary health requirements on frozen beef to be exported from Lithuania to China.

Article 1

SFVS shall be responsible for the inspection and quarantine of the frozen beef to be exported to China and the issuance of the veterinary health certificate.

Article 2

SFVS shall provide AQSIQ with the laws and regulations governing the slaughter, cutting, processing and storing of frozen beef exported to China, the relevant inspection and quarantine programs which consist of monitoring programs, laboratory testing methods and procedures; and the quarantine stamps or marks for export eligibility.

SFVS shall regularly supply AQSIQ with the following information every year:

1) The plans and annual reports of the National Chemical Residue Monitoring Program and the National Microbiological Monitoring Program. If necessary, nuclear radiation and other environmental pollutants should be included.
2) The preventive and zoning measures taken against the diseases listed in Articles 3 of this Protocol;
3) The animal epidemic situation concerned by both sides.

Upon risk analysis, AQSIQ will delegate experts to Lithuania to conduct an on-site retrospective inspection to ensure the efficacy of the food safety administrative systems therein at set or irregular intervals. SFVS shall provide necessary assistance and convenience to enable the audit.

SFVS shall share with AQSIQ dynamic information on production and exportation of the producers intended for exportation as well as the sanitary and safety supervision situations of the veterinary authority. Both sides shall establish an efficient information reporting mechanism to cooperate with each other on investigating and handling issues, taking corrective and

preventive actions to ensure the establishments satisfy the requirements of the importers.

Article 3

SFVS officially confirms that Lithuania is free from bovine spongiform encephalopathy, foot and mouth disease, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, lumpy skin disease, scrapie, peste des petits ruminants and rinderpest.

Article 4

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

1) be born, raised and slaughtered in Lithuania, with a unique identification mark which can be traced back to the born and raised farms.
2) originate from farms where there has been no blue tongue, aujeszky's disease, tuberculosis, enzootic bovine leucosis, rabies, anthrax, leptospirosis, trichinosis, brucellosis and bovine anaplasmosis detected for the past 12 months.
3) originate from premises where no restriction or surveillance zone has been established due to notified diseases which should be reported in accordance with OIE animal health code and Chinese and Lithuanian animal health regulations for the past 6 months.
4) have never been fed with meat-and-bone meal or greaves derived from ruminants.

Article 5

The processing (including slaughtering, cutting, processing and storing) establishments which intend to export frozen beef to China should be under the supervision of the competent authorities of Lithuania and in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations of Lithuania and China on veterinary health and public health. The processing establishments recommended by SFVS should be registered by the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNCA) according to the Regulations for Administration of Registration of Foreign Food Establishments (AQSIQ Decree 145). Products from processing establishments that have not got registration from the CNCA should not be allowed to import into the People's Republic of China.

Article 6

SFVS official veterinarian will attest, through the veterinary health certificate, that:

1) The frozen beef comes from the cattle which were born, raised and slaughtered in Lithuania, and bear a unique identification mark which can be traced back to the born and raised farm.

2) The frozen beef comes from the cattle which have not been fed with veterinary drugs or feed additives prohibited by China and Lithuania.

3) The frozen beef comes from the cattle that has been slaughtered, cut, processed and stored at establishments approved by China.

4) The frozen beef comes from the cattle which is in conformity with article 4 of this Protocol. The slaughtered cattle which has been subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspections in accordance with the relevant Chinese and Lithuanian laws and regulations with favorable results.

The cattle are healthy and free of clinical signs of infectious disease and parasite, no lesion has been found on the carcasses and viscera and from which the major lymphatic nodes and gland tissue have been removed.

5) The national chemical residue monitoring program is implemented and certify that the residue level of 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 (MRL) stipulated by China and Lithuania.

6) The products are free from the contamination of pathogenic agent prescribed in the laws and regulations of China and Lithuania.

7) The frozen beef is hygienic and safe, fit for human consumption.

Article 7

1. The cattle for slaughter and intended for export to China will not be allowed to contact with the following animals during the period of transportation (including transportation from the farm to slaughterhouse, and the place of slaughterhouse)

1) any live cattle which do not comply with the requirements in article 3 and 4;

2) any live cattle or other species of animal that do not meet the registration requirements in article 5 of this protocol.

2. The frozen beef intended for export to China is not allowed to be processed with following products:

1) other animal products;

2) products which are not in conformity with Article 3 and 4 of this Protocol.

3) not this registered establishment's products.

A specific area with clear identification within the cold store will be available exclusively for the storage of the frozen beef intended for export to China.

Article 8

The frozen beef to be exported to China must be packed with brand new packaging materials in compliance with international hygienic standards.

The frozen beef to be exported to China shall be labeled with the name, country of origin, establishment registration number and the batch numbers on the interior package. The name, specifications, place of origin (province/city), establishment registration number, lot numbers, destination (China only), production date (year/month/day), shelf life and storage temperature should be labeled on the exterior package in Chinese. The inspection and quarantine legend of Lithuania competent authority should be identified on the package as well.

The labels of prepackaged beef will comply with the standards and regulatory requirements of China on pre-packaged food labelling.

Article 9

To prevent from contamination by undesirable substances, the frozen beef to be exported to China will meet the sanitary health requirements of China and Lithuania during packaging,

storage and transportation.

The storage and transportation will be under suitable temperatures maintaining the core temperature of the frozen beef no higher than -15℃.

Prior to shipment, the container would be sealed under the supervision of SFVS. The seal number would be indicated in the veterinary health certificate. During transportation, the package of the products should not be unwrapped or changed.

Article 10

Each consignment/container of the frozen beef to be exported from Lithuania to China will be accompanied with at least one original veterinary health certificate attesting that the products comply with the veterinary and public health rules and regulations of China and Lithuania, as well as relevant requirements in this Protocol.

The veterinary health certificate should be written in Chinese, Lithuanian and English. The format and content of the certificates will be mutually determined in advance by the both sides.

To put on record, SFVS will provide AQSIQ with examples of the official meat inspection legend, veterinary health certificate, a list of authorized signing veterinarians with their corresponding signatures, instructions on the anti-fraud label and the email address through which the electronic certificates data will be delivered, as appropriate. If there are any modifications or changes of the above, SFVS will notify AQSIQ at least one month prior to the changes coming into effect.

To facilitate the border inspection in China, SFVS will deliver the electronic data of each veterinary health certificate issued to China through official channels in a timely manner, as appropriate. SFVS will guarantee the electronic data is correct and safe.

Article 11

If there is any outbreak of infectious or parasitic diseases relevant to beef which are stipulated in List A diseases in the List of Quarantine Diseases for the Animals Imported to the People's Republic of China by Chinese laws and regulations or stipulated in article 3 of this Protocol, SFVS will stop the exportation of beef to China, recall the products and other products with potential risk, inform AQSIQ, and provide AQSIQ with information on how the incident happened and was controlled.

When there are any occurrence in Lithuania of the infectious or parasitic diseases relevant to beef, listed in article 4 of this Protocol or defined as list B diseases in the List of Quarantine Diseases for the Animals Imported to the People's Republic of China by Chinese laws and regulations, or any other significant food contamination which may likely to contaminate beef products, SFVS will stop the exportation of the beef produced in relevant zones/compartment immediately, recall of the products and other products with potential risk, inform AQSIQ and provide information on how the incidents happened and were dealt with.

After the investigation, to reinstate the trade, negotiation should be conducted between AQSIQ and SFVS based on the international practice.

Article 12

If the frozen beef exported to China is found to be non-compliant with the requirements stated in this Protocol, AQSIQ will notify SFVS in a timely manner and carry out the recall, destruction or other disposal of the non-compliant products in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations of China. Both the import and export country shall cooperate with each other to investigate the causes and take corrective actions and rectifications to prevent recurrence of the non-compliance.

Article 13

For the purposes of this Protocol, frozen beef means deboned and bone-in beef excluding minced beef, cutting fat, mechanically separated meat, head, hoof, viscera/offal and other byproducts.

Article 14

This Protocol may be amended upon mutual written consent from time to time. Any side may terminate this Protocol by giving written notice to the other side 6 months in advance of the date of termination.

Article 15

The Protocol is signed in the city of Vilnius, on the date of 24/05/2017 in triplicate, each in Chinese, Lithuanian and English. All the three languages have equal legal effect. Should there be any deviation of interpretation, the English text will prevail. This Protocol will take effect on the date of its last signature by the two sides.

On behalf of the State Food and Veterinary Service of the Republic of Lithuania	On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania	On behalf of the General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China
		梅直保
_____	_____	_____