

## **Specified Risk Materials SRMs**

### **I. EU definition:**

The EU definition of SRMS is different than the US definition. The EU considers SRMS to include:

- Regarding bovine animals: the skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes, and the spinal cord of animals aged over 12 months; the vertebral column excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum, but including the dorsal root ganglia of animals aged over 30 months; and the tonsils, the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of animals of all ages.
- Regarding ovine and caprine animals: the skull including the brain and eyes, the tonsils and the spinal cord of animals aged over 12 months or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum, and the spleen and ileum of animals of all ages.
- Mechanically separated meat obtained from bones of bovine, ovine or caprine animals.
- Animal by-products derived from animals which have been slaughtered after stunning by means of gas injected into the cranial cavity or killed by the same method or slaughtered by laceration of central nervous tissue by means of an elongated rod-shaped instrument introduced into the cranial cavity.\*\*

\*\*After consulting with FSIS in D.C. Veterinary Services has determined that the captive bolt is used in most plants. There are 2 types of captive bolts: one using a cartridge similar to a bullet to drive the bolt into the brain and the other using air (pneumatic captive bolt) to drive the bolt into the brain (air is not injected into the cranial cavity). Both of these methods are acceptable and do not fall under the banned methods described above.

### **II. Individual EU country definitions:**

Some EU member countries, e.g., France, may have more extensive SRM definitions. Where APHIS is aware of these expanded SRM requirements, the requirements will be posted under the pertinent member country on the International Animal Product Export Regulations (IREGs). Approval by APHIS of a facility as meeting the requirements of Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 does not mean that facilities meet the requirements to export to all EU member countries.

### **III. Special SRM certificates:**

**Most EU member countries require additional SRM certification statements to be added to certificates for most animal by-products.** The exporter must confirm before requesting endorsement of an export certificate what, if any, precise statements are required. The exporter can generally have their importer obtain this information from the Ministry of Animal Health in the importing country. In cases where the exporter confirms

that these statements are required, this information must be included on the same certificate (additional page if needed). The VS Area Office can assist the exporter in understanding the proper formatting to add an additional page to the certificate.

#### **IV. FSIS SRM definition:**

It must be noted that the FSIS definition of SRMS is different from the EU definition of SRMS. In 2004, FSIS promulgated regulations requiring the removal of SRMs from certain products for human consumption. However, the FSIS list of SRMS, and list of commodities from which SRMs must be removed, is different from the EU definition and requirements, and therefore not relevant to facilities seeking approval under Regulation (EC) 1774/2002.

#### **V. Mechanically separated meat:**

The European Union considers mechanically separated meat\* derived from the bones of bovine, ovine, and caprine animals to be specified risk materials (SRMs).

Mechanically separated meat derived from **any** bones of bovine, ovine, and caprine animals may not be considered SRM-free. The only exceptions are:

- A. Meat that bears the FSIS mark of inspection. APHIS has evaluated the EU SRM definition, the FSIS SRM definition, and FSIS regulations regarding the various methods for meat separation and determined that, under this scenario, the meat may be considered SRM-free.
- B. Mechanically separated meat imported from a country that the EU considers negligible risk for BSE. (For a list of these countries, see [http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/vs/downloads/products/negligible\\_bse\\_riskcountries.pdf](http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/vs/downloads/products/negligible_bse_riskcountries.pdf) on the IDEA system.)

**mechanically separated meat\*** - For the purposes of this document this term also applies to:

- mechanically deboned meat, and
- mechanically recovered meat (products of advance meat recovery methods).