

FSIS Requirements for Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle

Previous Requirements Before Jan 12, 2004	Current Requirements Beginning Jan 12, 2004
<p>Situation: No BSE positives had been found in the U.S.</p>	<p>Situation: The first BSE positive for a cow in the U.S. was confirmed on December 25, 2003.</p>
<p>Entities Affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federally inspected plants • State-inspected plants 	<p>Entities Affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federally inspected plants • State-inspected plants • Custom-exempt plants
<p>Cattle Prohibited from Slaughter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead or dying • Showing clinical signs of Central Nervous System (CNS) disorder <p>Note: All seriously crippled cattle and cattle commonly termed "downers" presented for slaughter were identified as "U.S. Suspects." (9 Code of Federal Regulations 309.2(b))</p>	<p>Cattle Prohibited from Slaughter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead or dying • Showing clinical signs of Central Nervous System (CNS) disorder • Non-ambulatory disabled cattle - [Cattle] "that cannot rise from a recumbent position or cannot walk, including, but not limited to, those with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured vertebral column or metabolic conditions." -They are not allowed to enter the plant. (Interim final rule and request for comments was published January 12, 2004. A notice has also been published.)
<p>"Emergency Slaughter" Injured livestock could be slaughtered for humane reasons at hours when ante-mortem inspection was not available, provided carcass and parts were kept for inspection. (11 Code of Federal Regulations 311.27)</p>	<p>"Emergency Slaughter" No longer allowed, even for ambulatory cattle. (11 Code of Federal Regulations 311.27 amended. Notice 4-04)</p>
<p>Humane Slaughter Act: Provisions apply.</p>	<p>Humane Slaughter Act: Provisions apply.</p>

Permission for removal of cattle for reasons other than slaughter:

If livestock were removed for other than slaughter, plant or owner must obtain permission from local, State, or Federal livestock sanitary official having jurisdiction. (9 Code of Federal Regulations 309.13(d))

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General Inspection Procedures:

Certain Non-ambulatory Disabled Cattle were allowed to be slaughtered.

- An FSIS veterinarian had to inspect non-ambulatory cattle before slaughter (ante-mortem inspection) and had three options:
 1. Hold the animal for further observation.
 2. Pass the animal for immediate slaughter as a U.S. Suspect animal.
 3. Condemn the animal. Animals could not be slaughtered and enter the human food chain if they were:
 - Dead or dying,
 - Showed signs of Central Nervous System (CNS) disorders. (9 Code of Federal Regulations 309.2(b))

Cattle that showed symptoms of Central Nervous System (CNS) disorders were condemned and humanely killed. FSIS veterinarians were instructed to:

- Document all animal identification and ensure that it remained with the carcass (in case the animal would need to be traced back to its producer).
- Notify the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). An APHIS veterinarian would collect a sample of the brain tissue and submit it to the

General Inspection Procedures:

- *Non-ambulatory disabled cattle are not allowed to enter any Federal, State, or custom-exempt facility.* Procedures for disposing of the animal must be in place. (Interim final rule and request for comments was published January 12, 2004).

FSIS veterinarian:

- Conducts ante-mortem inspection on all non-ambulatory disabled cattle presented for slaughter.
- Marks them "U.S. condemned."
- Condemns all cattle showing CNS symptoms, even if animal is ambulatory.
- Cattle condemned upon ante-mortem *cannot* enter plant.
- If non-ambulatory or condemned for CNS symptoms, and there is reason to believe they are 20 months or older, inform APHIS Area Veterinarian-in-Charge (AVIC) to allow APHIS opportunity to collect BSE surveillance samples.
- If a sample is collected, ensure all animal identification is maintained. Also, maintain control of the animal until plant documents how it will be properly disposed of.
- If AVIC notifies FSIS Veterinarian that it is not possible to go to the plant, maintain control of the animal until the plant documents proper disposal.
- Ensure that humane slaughter procedures are followed. (FSIS Directive 6900.1,

<p>National Veterinary Services Laboratory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document the time, date and person notified in APHIS. • Assist APHIS in arrangements at the plant to collect the sample, so that the animal's disorder could be identified. • If APHIS was not immediately available, save the head, with brain intact, and chill (not freeze), so that samples would be available for APHIS. • Ensure that regulations were followed in disposing of the condemned carcass. • Ensure that humane slaughter procedures were followed. (FSIS Directive 6900.1, Revision 1, 11-2-98) 	<p>Revision 1, 11-2-98)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verify disposal of carcass. Can inform plant management that lined landfills are acceptable for disposal. (Interim final rule and request for comments was published January 12, 2004. A notice has also been published.) • At request of owner or operator, condemned cattle can be set apart and held for treatment, under supervision of FSIS employee or designee of District Manager. • If an animal is released for purposes other than slaughter, owner or operator must first obtain permission from local, State, or Federal livestock sanitary official having jurisdiction. • In rare cases, a normal, healthy animal sustains acute injury on the way to the knock box. FSIS veterinarian can allow the animal to proceed to postmortem.
<p>Testing Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) randomly tested for BSE in cattle that appeared healthy (surveillance). • Meat from the tested healthy animals could be shipped into commerce before the test results were confirmed. <p>APHIS also tested for BSE in non-ambulatory disabled cattle identified by FSIS veterinarians.</p>	<p>Testing Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) randomly tests for BSE in cattle that appear healthy (surveillance). • Meat from tested cattle that appear healthy will be held until the tests are confirmed negative. • APHIS will continue BSE surveillance and testing at an increased rate. <p>(Interim final rule and request for comments was published January 12, 2004. A notice has also been published.)</p>
<p>Carcass disposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plants were responsible for the disposal of carcasses of condemned cattle. 	<p>Carcass disposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-ambulatory disabled cattle will not be allowed to enter a plant. • FSIS will verify that plants properly dispose of condemned livestock.