

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Prohibitions On Air-Injected Stunning Devices

Because BSE was confirmed in a cow in the United States on December 25, 2003, FSIS is prohibiting the use of penetrating stunning devices that inject air into the cranial cavity of cattle. This requirement is to ensure that portions of the brain are not dislocated into the tissues of the carcass as a consequence of humanely stunning cattle during the slaughtering process. In emergency rulemaking, FSIS is prohibiting the use of certain parts of cattle carcasses in food.

Previous Requirements Before January 12, 2004	Current Requirements Beginning January 12, 2004
<p>Situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No BSE positives had been found in the U.S. 	<p>Situation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first BSE positive for a cow in the U.S. was confirmed on December 25, 2003.
<p>Materials prohibited from use in food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tonsils and distal ileum, Detached spinal cords could not be used in edible products, but could be used in edible rendering. 	<p>Materials prohibited from use in food: In all cattle, “specified risk materials” (SRMs) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distal ileum of the small intestine (FSIS required the entire small intestine to be removed until October 7, 2005 – when guidance was provided in Notice 58-05 on how to verify that the distal ileum was removed) Tonsils <p>In cattle 30 months of age or older, additional “specified risk materials” (SRMs) are prohibited from use in human food. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brain Skull Eyes Trigeminal ganglia Spinal cord Vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum) <p>Dorsal root ganglia (DRG). (Interim final rule and request for comments was published January 12, 2004.)</p>
<p>Air-injected stunning devices: Allowed.</p>	<p>Air-injected stunning devices: <u>Not</u> allowed. (Interim final rule and request for comments</p>

	was published January 12, 2004.)
Number of plants in the U.S. using air-injected stunning devices: FSIS was not aware of any.	