USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Veterinary Services

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737-1232

January 29, 2014

Subject: Implementation of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Comprehensive Rule for Animal Product Imports

To: Brokers, Importers, and Other Interested Parties

On December 4, 2013, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published a final rule in the Federal Register to amend the regulations regarding the importation of animals and animal products in regards to bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The final rule includes a new system for classifying regions as negligible, controlled and undetermined risk for BSE. The final rule also revises the conditions for the importation of bovine products and removes restrictions on the importation of cervids and camelids, and products derived from such animals.

Effective March 4, 2014, the following commodities may be imported into the United States from regions APHIS recognizes as negligible, controlled, or undetermined risk, under conditions prescribed by the new BSE regulations (provided other import requirements mitigating the risk of foreign animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, are met):

A. Beef and other products of bovines

1. Boneless bovine skeletal meat for human consumption (excluding mechanically separated meat) meeting the requirements of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) may be imported when accompanied by appropriate certification.

2. Other bovine meat, meat byproducts, and meat food products for human consumption, as defined by FSIS regulations in title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR 301.2), may be imported when accompanied by appropriate certification, based on the region's recognized risk classification.

3. Bovine meals and other processed animal proteins require a permit and appropriate certification.

4. Meat or dressed carcasses of a wild bovine such as bison (eviscerated and head removed) that has been legally harvested in the wild will be allowed entry without BSE restrictions when the hunter presents a hunting license, tag, or equivalent to the authorized inspector at the port.

5. The following materials may be imported when accompanied by either a permit OR appropriate certification: collagen, gelatin, dicalcium phosphate, tallow, and tallow derivatives, and casings derived from bovines.

6. Blood and blood products derived from bovines will be allowed entry when accompanied by a permit and any documentation required by the permit.

7. Offal (the inedible parts of a butchered animal) from bovines will be allowed entry when accompanied by a permit and any documentation required by the permit.

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B. Cervid meat (derived from deer, moose, elk, caribou, etc.), including hunter harvested cervid meat, will be allowed entry without BSE restrictions. Importers will need to present to the authorized port inspector evidence that the product is cervid meat, such as a hunting license or commercially prepared labels found on unopened packages or other official documents.

BSE requirements will no longer apply to imports of nonruminant rendered fats, such as fish oil, lard, and schmaltz.

In addition, please note the following:

A. Regulated products (including meat, meat products, meat by-products and products containing meat) imported in the mail will be regulated as commercial shipments.

B. Ovine and caprine product import requirements have not changed.

C. Bovine meat-and-bone meal (MBM) and greaves from controlled and undetermined risk regions continue to be prohibited;

D. Animal-derived materials intended for animal consumption, or for use as an ingredient in a product intended for animal consumption, continue to require a permit. The permit requirement will also apply to animal consumption materials exported from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Iceland. Importers of pet food/animal feed/ ingredients from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Iceland should apply for a USDA veterinary import permit as soon as possible.

This letter is for information purposes only. If you have further questions about animal products and their eligibility for importation into the United States or their certification requirements, please contact National Import Export Services at (301) 851-3300, option 1 or you can email us at: AskNIES.Products@aphis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen James-Preston
Director
National Import Export Services
Animal Products Import