



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



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BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY ON BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

(Originally adopted 16 March 1999, complete revision October 2002)

Notes

- 1 This policy includes measures to address the animal health risks associated with BSE and the importation of various products. Additional conditions and restrictions, relating to other animal health issues, may have to be met.
- 2 This policy does not address the human health risks associated with the importation of *beef and beef products* specifically produced for human consumption. Policy concerning these products has been developed by the Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and the Department of Health and Ageing (DHA) and is administered through the *Imported Food Control Act 1992*.
- 3 Throughout this document references are made to Office International des Epizooties (OIE) International Animal Health Code (2002) *Articles* or *Appendices*. These are referred to as *Article 2.3.13.3*. etc.

DEFINITIONS

Beef and beef products

Products that contain bovine tissue (including cattle, buffalo and bison). This includes meat, bone and offal but excludes milk, dairy products, gelatine, collagen, tallow and dicalcium phosphate.

BSE risk materials

Specified risk materials which are: the skull, brains, eyes, tonsils, vertebral column and spinal cord including dorsal root ganglia of bovine animals aged over 12 months, and the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum of bovine animals of all ages and mechanically recovered meat. As well as:

- products originating from the *moderate or high BSE risk countries or zones*: the entire head (excluding the tongue), the trigeminal ganglia, the thymus, the spleen, and spinal cord of bovine animals aged over 6 months.
- *Beef and/or beef products* from animals killed after stunning by means of a gas injected into the cranial cavity or killed instantaneously 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 (pithing).



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Meat meal

Means any ruminant derived by-product of the meat trade consisting of meat, bone and other tissue.

Case

Means a bovine animal affected by BSE and confirmed by histological techniques or other officially recognised tests.

Ante- and post-mortem veterinary inspection

Means the inspection by a veterinarian prior to, and following, the slaughter of animals at abattoirs.

Country or zone:

BSE free – in accordance with Article 2.3.13.3.

A BSE provisionally free – in accordance with Article 2.3.13.4.

A country or zone with a minimal BSE risk – in accordance with Article 2.3.13.5.

Country or zone with a moderate BSE risk – in accordance with Article 2.3.13.6.

Country or zone with a high BSE risk – in accordance with Article 2.3.13.7.

IMPORT POLICY

Note Where the product is derived from bovine animals that have lived in countries or zones with differing BSE status the product will be required to be certified in accordance with the requirements for the country or zone with the highest BSE risk.

Products that may be imported without restrictions relating to BSE

Milk and milk products for pet food

Bovine semen

Bovine embryos washed, handled and stored in accordance with Code Appendix 3.3.1.

Protein free tallow (maximum level of impurities of 0.15% in weight) and derivatives made from this tallow (Note: Conditions apply to tallow that does not meet these specifications, see below); Dicalcium phosphate (DCP) [with no trace of protein or fat], except for ruminant derived DCP for use as feed for livestock.

Hides and skins, and

Gelatin and collagen prepared exclusively from hides and skins.

Cattle (and other bovines)

May be imported only from:

- 1 *BSE free countries or zones*, provided that the cattle (or other bovines) to be exported and their parents have lived only in *BSE free countries or zones*.

2 *BSE provisionally free countries or zones* provided that the cattle for export (including other bovines)

- were born after the date from which the ban on the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants was banned and effectively enforced;
- are permanently identified enabling them to be traced back to the dam and herd of origin and are not the progeny of BSE suspect or confirmed females.

Beef (bone-in or deboned) and beef products for pet food (ie not for human consumption)

These products may be imported if derived from bovine animals that had lived only in:

1 *BSE free countries or zones*

2 *BSE provisionally free countries or zones* where the feeding of ruminant-derived *meat meal* to ruminants is banned nationally

3 *countries or zones with a minimal BSE risk*, provided that

- *antemortem inspection* is carried out on all bovine animals, and
- the beef and beef products destined for export do not include ruminant-derived *meat meal* or *BSE risk materials*.

Ruminant-derived *meat meal* and feedstuffs containing such meal

These commodities (including fertilisers) may only be imported from New Zealand. However pet food (ie not for human consumption) containing ruminant-derived *meat meal* may be imported from *BSE free*, or *provisionally free*, *countries or zones*.

Milk and milk products intended for stock feed

These commodities can only be imported from *BSE free*, or *provisionally free*, *countries or zones*, pending further research indicating negligible risk when fed to bovine animals.

Specified risk materials

May only be imported from *BSE free*, or *provisionally free*, *countries or zones*.

Gelatin and collagen prepared from bones and intended for animal feed

May be imported provided the bones were derived from bovine animals which had lived only in

1 *BSE free countries or zones*, or

2 *BSE provisionally free countries or zones*, or

3 *countries or zones with a minimal BSE risk*, or

4 *countries or zones with a moderate BSE risk*, provided that

- skulls and vertebrae (excluding tail vertebrae) have been excluded, and
- the bones have been subjected to a process which includes all the following steps
 - pressure washing, and
 - acid demineralisation, and
 - prolonged alkaline treatment, and
 - filtration, and
 - sterilisation at 138 degrees C or higher for a minimum of 4 seconds
or
to an equivalent process in terms of infectivity reduction.

Tallow and tallow derivatives (other than protein-free tallow as defined in Article 2.3.13.7.) intended for animal feed, pharmaceutical preparations for animals or fertilisers.

May be imported provided the tallow is derived from bovine animals which had lived only in:

1 *BSE free countries or zones* or

2 *BSE provisionally free countries or zones*, or

3 *countries or zones with a minimal BSE risk*, provided that

- if prepared by fat melting, it originates from bovine animals which have been subjected to an ante-mortem inspection for BSE with favourable results and has not been prepared using *BSE risk materials*; or

4 *a country or zone with a moderate BSE risk*, provided that

- if prepared by fat melting, it originates from bovine animals which have been subjected to an ante-mortem inspection for BSE with favourable results and has not been prepared using *BSE risk materials*;
- if prepared by defatting of bones:
 - skulls and vertebral columns from bovine animals over 6 months of age have been excluded; or
 - it has been processed using a method that reduces the infectivity by at least $5 \log_{10} \text{LD}_{50}/\text{g}$.

Biological materials (biologicals) of bovine origin for *in vivo* animal use, including cell lines, vaccine seed material, products for implantation and other products destined for direct or indirect *in vivo* use, including catgut suture material.

May be imported only from *BSE free* or *provisionally free countries or zones*.