

Guidance on Mechanically Separated Meat (MSM): Summary

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Revision History

Revision number	Date	Purpose of revision	Revised by
1	July 2025	-	-

Summary

Purpose

To provide guidance on how the definition of mechanically separated meat (MSM) in [Annex I, point 1.14 of assimilated Regulation \(EC\) No 853/2004](#) and [Regulation \(EC\) No 853/2004 in Northern Ireland](#) should be applied.

Legal status

Regulatory Compliance Guidance, this document provides guidance on how to comply with regulatory requirements.

Who is this publication for?

This guidance is primarily for:

- Food Business Operators (FBOs)
- MSM and/or meat preparations manufacturers/processors/handlers
- businesses that incorporate MSM and/or meat preparations in other products
- businesses that place such products on the UK market and exporters

It may also be used by:

- local authorities (LAs)
- FSA Operational staff
- and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) staff in Northern Ireland to support official controls and ensure consistency of the regulatory approach

Which UK countries does this guidance apply to?

- England
- Wales
- Northern Ireland

Any enquiries relating to establishments located in Scotland should be directed to [Food Standards Scotland](#).

Review date

We will review this guidance by 03 January 2027.

Key words

- Mechanically separated meat (MSM)
- Meat hygiene
- Food law