



Temporary Operational Instruction

Action note: 2025-11-21 – BSE Negligible Risk Status – Great Britain

Purpose

This note informs staff that the European Union (EU) now recognises England, Wales, and Scotland as having BSE Negligible Risk (NR) status. This TOI is to be in place until the permanent instructions are published in the next MOC amendment.

This TOI repeals [TOI 2025-03-28: BSE Negligible risk Status -GB](#).

Background

On 29 May 2025, England, Wales and Scotland's BSE Negligible Risk (NR) status was recognised by WOA. While Northern Ireland (NI) and Jersey achieved NR status in 2017 and 2020 respectively, the Isle of Man and Guernsey have not updated their BSE status and remain non-negligible Risk.

With this new BSE status, certain products that were previously considered Specified Risk Material (SRM) under Controlled Risk (CR) status are no longer SRM, and can now be used for human consumption, pet food or disposed of as Animal By-Product (ABP) category 2 or 3.

On the 4th of November 2025, the EU updated Commission Decision 2007/ 453 recognising GB's BSE NR status granted by WOA in May 2025. The relevant update can be found on this [link](#). From Monday, 24th of November, meat-approved establishments can now export bovine product following the measures that define what is SRM for countries and Regions under NR for SRM controls. That is regardless of the date of kill or the date of birth of the live animal, as long as the date of birth is after the 1st of August 1996 as such animals are still banned from the food chain.

The animal parts that were formerly SRM can be now disposed of as Category 3 Animal By-Products or, if harvested hygienically, as fit for human consumption. For example, certain tissues previously classified as high-risk under CR (such as vertebral column from over thirty-month (OTM) cattle) are now considered fit for human consumption and therefore eligible for export to the EU and Northern Ireland,

SRM controls remain one of the most effective ways of protecting the public from BSE, and whilst the list of bovine SRM is greatly reduced where cattle originate from NR regions or countries (which excludes Isle of Man and Guernsey in the case of the UK), there are still parts of the bovine carcass that are SRM and are required to be removed, handled, and disposed of as category 1 ABP. The table included in Annex I details the classification of SRM depending on the BSE risk status.

The relevant notes for guidance for **Exports to the EU** to enable plants in Great Britain to export to the EU under NR status will be available from Monday morning - 24 November 2025. FSA Official Veterinarians (OVs) and exporting OVs will also be briefed on the updated requirements.

Procedure

See details in Annex 1 for detailed implementation requirements.

Front line staff are required to note the following action

Note and action the contents of the action note, ensuring it is read by all front-line staff. In particular:

- OVs should ensure that the Action Note is read by all FSA staff, and this is recorded in the daybook.
- Discuss the contents of the Action Note with those Food Business Operators (FBOs) processing beef.
- Where necessary, print a copy for the plant file..

Distribution

This action note will be:

- uploaded to the [Temporary Operational Instruction Folder held in the MOC area of SharePoint](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- logged on the [Temporary Operational Instruction tracker](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- published alongside the [MOC chapters on food.gov.uk](#)

The action note will remain live until either incorporated into the MOC or revoked.

Action note drafted by and date	Action note agreed by and date	Published and date
JR/ RG 20/ 11/ 2025	LGM 20/ 11/ 2025	21/ 11/ 2025

Annex

Annex 1 - Regulatory requirements.

Bovine Negligible Risk SRM is defined in assimilated and EU Regulation (EC) No. 999/ 2001, Annex V, 1 (a) (i) and 1(b) as:

- the skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes,
- and the spinal cord of animals aged over 12 months;

These tissues still need to be removed under the NR status. (Reminder: For sheep and goats, there is no change on what is defined as SRM). Use this table as reference.

Bovines born, reared and slaughtered in region (Art5(2) of 999/ 2001)		
Material	CR/ UR status	NR status
	(i.e. IoM, Guernsey, etc)	(i.e. GB)
Skull, brain and eyes (excluding the mandible) of bovines over 12m of age.	SRM	SRM
Spinal cord of bovines over 12 months.	SRM	SRM
Vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the	SRM	NOT SRM

cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum, but including the dorsal root ganglia), or bovines over 30 months.		
Tonsils of all ages. *	SRM	NOT SRM
Mesentery including mesenteric fat, mesenteric ganglion complex and mesenteric nerves of bovines of all ages.	SRM	NOT SRM
Caecum of all ages.	SRM	NOT SRM
Last 4m of the small intestine of bovines of all ages (small intestine comprises of duodenum, jejunum and ileum).	SRM	NOT SRM

*** Bovine Tonsils:** They are no longer SRM when harvested from animals processed under NR status, but they are still to be removed as required by food law. **Commission Regulation (EC) No 1662/ 2006 which refers to No 853/ 2004, Annex III – Section I: Meat of Domestic Ungulates – Chapter IV: Slaughter Hygiene, Point 16(a)**

SRM & HACCP Adjustments

FBOs are required to remove SRM as per the requirements for BSE negligible risk (see table above for reference). Tissues previously defined as SRM for BSE CR countries can be now disposed of as ABP cat 2 or 3, or, when harvested hygienically, be sold for human consumption.

FBOs will need to update their current standard operating procedures (SOPs) and HACCP accordingly.

Exceptions

Animals originating from regions or countries that are not recognised as having BSE NR status (such as Isle of Man, Guernsey or Greece) would still require the removal of SRM as described in (EU) 999/ 2001 for a country listed as BSE CR or UR status and identify any over 30 months (OTM) bovine carcasses, half carcasses or quarters with a red striped label.

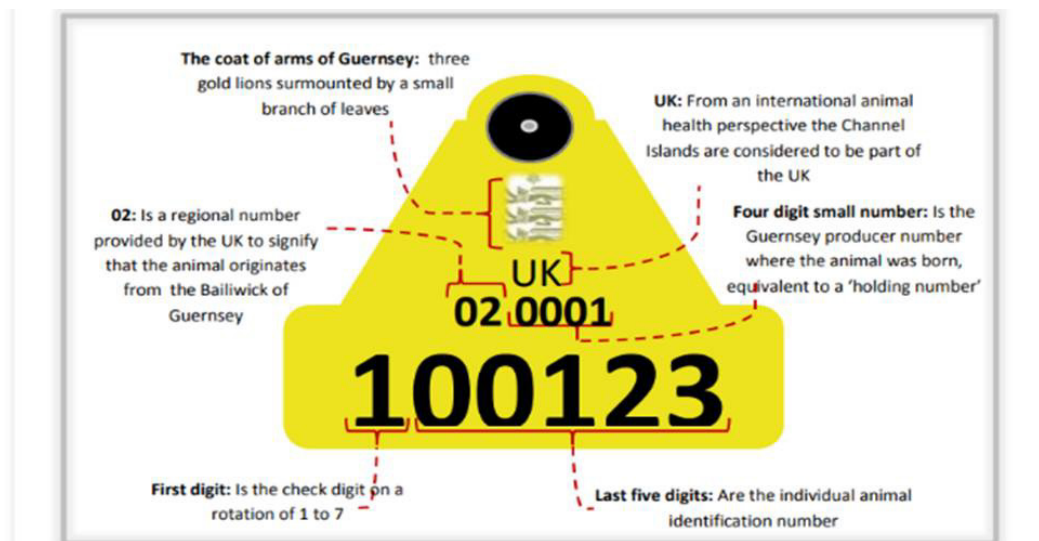
How to differentiate animals coming from the Isle of Man or Guernsey based on the ear tags?

Isle of Man



1. The three leg logo or the Crown.
2. The number always start with UK01.

Guernsey



1. The three gold lions' logo.
2. The number always start with UK 02.

Note: The primary control mechanism remains the passport check. However, there is a risk that animals not born in the designated areas—such as those that have travelled through them or have had their identification tags replaced—may enter slaughterhouses in Great Britain. These animals must be classified as presenting a non-negligible BSE risk.

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FBOs may agree batching systems for processing this kind of animals to facilitate SRM controls and include this in their HACCPs/ RMOPs or SOPs.

Supporting documentation for exporting activities

It is very important that OV's signing Support Health Attestations (SHAs); or Veterinary Declarations in bovine slaughterhouses ensure that products that are or could be destined for export to EU countries and NI comply with the requirements that apply to the Export Health Certificate 8368 point II.1.8.

It is also important to remember that other importing countries may have their own requirements regardless of the BSE risk status recognition by WOA or the EU. For instance:

- Japan only accepts meat from under 30 months (UTM) bovine animals and still requires the removal of tonsil material from tongues,
- South Africa requires removal of all nervous and lymphatic tissue;
- and USA maintains their own list of the BSE statuses and accepts applications to determine status.

These are only examples and exporters must satisfy the Certifying OV's that appropriate attestations as listed in the relevant Export Health Certificates (EHCs) are met and assure compliance with the requirements of the destination country prior to certification and export.

It is responsibility of the certifying OV for the final product (food or ABP) to have evidence that any extra requirements have been met at source and throughout the production chain, based on the principles of certification.

Certification

Certification principles remain unchanged. As per current FSA position, the OV should issue one SHA per species daily, unless otherwise agreed. Any extra certification linked

to the change of status becomes a commercial decision for the FBO to resolve outside the Statement of Resources (SOR).

The bovine SHAtemplate ET 241 will be updated and can be found here. [Official Veterinarian Training](#). The notes for guidance for the relevant EHCs have also been updated. From the 24/ 11/ 2025, you can find them here: [Find an export health certificate - GOV.UK](#). Particular attention is to be paid to slaughterhouses that process cattle from regions or countries that are still under CR status (see section above).

In slaughterhouses, the FBO is responsible to ensure that any red striped labelled carcass, when appropriate, is either dispatched to an authorised cutting plant or exported with the red label to the destination country before signing the certificate for that meat.

The current EHCs allow the export of goods processed from cattle from NR and CR to be included on the same EHC, as long as the appropriate SRM is removed.

Controls in cutting plants authorised for VCremoval

OTM carcasses, half carcasses and quarters from animals originating from England, Wales and Scotland that are exported to the EU or NI do not need to have the red stripe label anymore. The exception to this rule is to carcasses born, reared or raised in Isle of Man, Guernsey or Greece or any other territories with controlled or undetermined BSE risk. In addition, in those cases, the VC from these carcasses still need to be removed from any smaller portions (e.g. roasting joints, T-bone steaks, etc) before they are exported, as per the FBOs own SOPs or required method of operation (RMOP).

As before, the verification in cutting plants of the removal of VC from OTM bovines that were born, raised and slaughtered in England, Scotland or Wales is no longer needed.

However, the need to dispatch OTM carcasses to an authorised cutting plant for the removal of the vertebral column (VC) is still a legal requirement for bovines originating from territories such as Greece, the Isle of Man, Guernsey or any other territories with

controlled or undetermined BSE risk. FSA supervision of these sites is still to be provided to ensure effective SRM removal.

The vertebral column from red stripe marked carcasses must be removed and disposed of as cat 1 as they have been produced in line with the requirements that apply to countries with BSE CR status, and these requirements are to be followed through the process.

Summary of what it has been explained above as follows:

As of 4th of November 2025, the European Union has officially updated Commission Decision 2007/ 453, recognising England, Scotland, and Wales as having **BSE Negligible Risk (NR) status**. This update means that:

- Products derived from bovine animals in GB using NR status controls can now be exported to the EU and Northern Ireland.
- SRM handling and certification requirements for export to the EU and NI will now align with regulations that applies to countries under NR.
- FBOs should now update their HACCP and SOPs to reflect NR status for both domestic and export markets.

Some British territories and some imported cattle are still not Negligible Risk and are still to be treated accordingly.