

BSE Reference for “Equal To” Plants Regulatory Reference: 9 CFR 310.22

Which materials are considered “Specified Risk Materials”?

For cattle 30 months or older: brain, skull, eyes, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia

For all cattle: tonsils, distal ileum

Can the any part of the small intestine be used for human food?

Yes. The establishment must have written procedures and demonstrate their procedures for removing the ileum from the rest of the small intestine. The specific requirements for this are clearly outlined in FSIS Notice 58-05.

What are the specific requirements for the written BSE control procedures?

The written procedures must contain the methods the establishment will use to remove SRM's, segregate SRM's, and dispose of SRM's. The procedures can be incorporated into the HACCP Plan, SSOP or a pre-requisite program. No other specific requirements are outlined for the plant's written procedures.

When does the establishment need to perform corrective actions?

Appropriate corrective actions need to be taken anytime the establishment (regardless if they find a noncompliance or if the inspector detects it) fails to ensure that SRM's were adequately and effectively removed, segregated from edible materials, and disposed of.

What are the requirements for monitoring for SRM removal?

Establishments must routinely evaluate the effectiveness of their procedures. The frequency with which this must

be done is not specified. Procedures must also be revised as necessary whenever changes occur that may affect the effectiveness of the removal, segregation and disposal procedures.

Must BSE be listed as a hazard likely to occur (HLTO) in the HACCP plan?

No. The plant should assess the likelihood that this hazard will occur and handle it accordingly. BSE control can be addressed in their HACCP plan, SSOP's or another prerequisite program. However, the establishment must have performed a reassessment of their HACCP plan for BSE in the past and if any changes occur that might affect their ability to control this hazard.

What records are required for BSE?

The records the plant maintains need to be sufficient to document the implementation and monitoring of the procedures they use to remove, segregate, and dispose of SRM's and any corrective actions taken. No specific requirements for content (like time, date, etc.) are stated but the content must be sufficient to demonstrate that SRM's are being controlled.

Must the establishment segregate animals that are 30 months of age or older during slaughter?

While segregation of the animals known to be 30 months of age or older is optimal, it is not required, nor always possible or practical. If a 30 month and older animal is slaughtered and the plant wishes to slaughter animals determined to be less than 30 months of age after it, they must clean and sanitize their splitting saw between slaughter of the older and the younger animals.