

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DODVSA/OTSG

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL
5109 LEESBURG PIKE
FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041-3258

08 MAR 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY
COMMANDER, ARMY AND AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICESUBJECT: Compliance with 9CFR 94.18, Restrictions on Importation of Meat and Edible Products
From Ruminants due to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy.

1. The consumption of meat products from cattle infected with the fatal neurologic disease Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), has been implicated as a potential risk factor in the development of a similar, fatal disease in humans, new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD). Following the appearance of nvCJD in the United Kingdom in 1996, the purchase of beef and beef products from countries with BSE was prohibited.
2. The importation of meat and edible products from ruminants into the United States from Europe has been restricted by Title 9, US Code of Federal Regulations (9CFR94.18) (Enclosure 1). USDA made this decision to prohibit importation to protect human and animal health, to protect the security of our export markets, and to protect the safety and the integrity of our food supply.
3. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have issued a travelers' health advisory that the current risk of acquiring nvCJD from eating beef and beef products produced from cattle in Europe appears to be extremely small, if it exists at all (Enclosure 2.) The European Union Scientific Steering Committee recommends as a general guideline any exposure should be prevented and if this is not fully possible, the dose should be minimized by all means.
4. Procurement agencies need to ensure they comply with 9CFR 94.18. With the health interests of service and family members paramount, the purchase or sale of ruminant meat or meat products of European origin should cease immediately, to include troop dining facilities, commissaries, delicatessens, shoppettes, and concessions.

Encl 2

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Lieutenant General
The Surgeon GeneralCF:
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[Code of Federal Regulations]
[Title 9, Volume 1, Parts 1 to 199]
[Revised as of January 1, 1999]
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TITLE 9--ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

CHAPTER I--ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

PART 94--RINDERPEST, FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE, FOWL PEST (FOWL PLAGUE), EXOTIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE, AFRICAN SWINE FEVER, HOG CHOLERA, AND BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY: PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED IMPORTATIONS--Table of Contents

Sec. 94.18 Restrictions on importation of meat and edible products from ruminants due to bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

(a)(1) Bovine spongiform encephalopathy exists in the following regions: Belgium, France, the Republic of Ireland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Oman, The Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

(2) The following regions, because of import requirements less restrictive than those that would be acceptable for import into the United States and/or because of inadequate surveillance, present an undue risk of introducing bovine spongiform encephalopathy into the United States: Albania, Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

(3) A region may request at any time that the Administrator consider its removal from a list set forth in paragraphs (a)(1) or (a)(2) of this section by following the procedures set forth in Secs. 92.2(b) (1) through (4), 92.2(b) (5) through (11), and 92.2(c) of this chapter.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the importation of fresh, frozen, and chilled meat, meat products, and edible products other than meat (excluding gelatin, milk, and milk products), from ruminants that have been in any of the countries listed in paragraph (a) of this section is prohibited.

(c) Gelatin. The importation of gelatin derived from ruminants that have been in any region listed in paragraph (a) of this section is prohibited unless the following conditions have been met:

(1) The gelatin must be imported for use in human food, human pharmaceutical products, photography, or some other use that will not result in the gelatin coming in contact with ruminants in the United States.

(2) The person importing the gelatin must obtain a United States Veterinary Permit for Importation and Transportation of Controlled Materials and Organisms and Vectors by filing a permit application on VS form 16-3.¹⁵

(3) The permit application must state the intended use of the gelatin and the name and address of the consignee in the United States.

(d) Transit shipment of articles. Fresh (chilled or frozen) meat, and edible products other than meat, that are prohibited importation into the United States in accordance with this section may transit the United States for immediate export if the following conditions are met:

(1) The person moving the articles must obtain a United States Veterinary Permit for Importation and Transportation of Controlled Materials and Organisms and Vectors by filing a permit application on VS form 16-3.¹⁶

(2) The articles must be sealed in leakproof containers bearing serial numbers during transit. Each container must remain sealed during the entire time that it is in the United States.

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(3) The person moving the articles shall notify, in writing, the Plant Protection and Quarantine Officer at both the place in the United States where the articles will arrive and the port of export prior to such transit. The notification must include the:

(i) United States Veterinary Permit for Importation and Transportation of Controlled Materials and

Organisms and Vectors permit number,

- (ii) Times and dates of arrival in the United States;
 - (iii) Times and dates of exportation from the United States;
 - (iv) Mode of transportation; and
 - (v) Serial numbers of the sealed containers.
- (4) The articles must transit the United States in Customs bond.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 0579-0015)

[56 FR 63868, Dec. 6, 1991, as amended at 58 FR 65104, Dec. 13, 1993; 59 FR 24638, May 12, 1994; 59 FR 67616, Dec. 30, 1994; 62 FR 18264, Apr. 15, 1997; 62 FR 46181, Sept. 2, 1997; 62 FR 56023, Oct. 28, 1997; 62 FR 61434, Nov. 18, 1997; 62 FR 66000, Dec. 17, 1997; 63 FR 408, Jan. 6, 1998; 63 FR 4347, Jan. 28, 1998; 63 FR 71210, Dec. 24, 1998]

¹⁵ VS form 16-3 may be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import-Export, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231.

¹⁶ VS form 16-3 may be obtained from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Center for Import-Export, 4700 River Road Unit 38, Riverdale, Maryland 20737-1231.



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Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy ("Mad Cow Disease") and New Variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (nvCJD)

Health Information for International Travel, 1999–2000

Since 1996, evidence has been increasing for a causal relationship between ongoing outbreaks in Europe of a disease in cattle called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease") and a disease in humans called new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD). Both disorders are invariably fatal brain diseases that are caused by an unconventional transmissible agent. From 1995 through 1998, a total of 38 human deaths in the United Kingdom and one human death in France were attributed to nvCJD. Although there is strong evidence that the agent responsible for these deaths is the same agent responsible for the BSE outbreaks in cattle, the specific foods, if any, that may be associated with the transmission of this agent from cattle to humans are unknown. However, through 1998, bioassays have identified the presence of the BSE agent in the brain, spinal cord, retina, dorsal root ganglia (nervous tissue located near the backbone), and possibly the bone marrow of infected cattle.

Cases of BSE in cattle have been reported almost exclusively (more than 99% as of 1998) from the United Kingdom, but endemic cases of BSE have also been reported in other European countries, including Belgium, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, and Switzerland. Most of these latter countries reported their first endemic case of BSE during 1994–1998. The numbers of reported cases, by country, are available on the web site of the Office International des Epizooties. These numbers should be interpreted with caution, however, because of presumed but unmeasured differences in the intensity of surveillance over time and by country.

Public health control measures have been instituted in each country of Europe to prevent potentially BSE-infected tissues from entering the human food chain. The most stringent of these control measures have been applied in the United Kingdom and appear to be highly effective. In addition, strict bans on the use of ruminant protein for ruminant feed, a practice believed to have amplified the spread of BSE in cattle, have been instituted throughout Europe.

The current risk of acquiring nvCJD from eating beef (muscle meat) is

and beef products produced from cattle in Europe appears to be extremely small (perhaps fewer than 1 case per 10 billion servings), if it exists at all. However, to reduce this possible risk, travelers to Europe may wish to consider either 1) avoiding such beef and beef products altogether or 2) selecting beef or beef products, such as solid pieces of muscle meat (versus beef products such as burgers and sausages), that might have a reduced opportunity for contamination with tissues that may harbor the BSE agent. Milk and milk products are not believed to pose any risk for transmitting the BSE agent.

To learn about other precautions to take, see the Safe Food and Water section.

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