

Specified risk material removal and cutting plant authorisation

What specified risk material is, how to remove it from your livestock and the authorisation required for cutting plants to carry it out

Specified risk material (SRM) are parts of cattle, sheep and goats that are most likely to pose a risk of infectivity from a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE) disease. It is essential that it is removed from both the human and animal food chains and destroyed.

A specified risk material (SRM) is either a Vertebral Column (VC) in cattle older than 30 months old.

You must follow the domestic Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Regulations.

It states that when SRM is a vertebral column from a bovine carcass, it can only be removed by slaughterhouses and in authorised cutting plant.

Guide to specified risk material (SRM) removal

[View Guide to removal of vertebral column Specified Risk Material \(SRM\) from primal cuts as PDF \(1.09 MB\)](#)

List of authorised plants

[View Cutting plants additionally authorised to remove bovine vertebral column as PDF \(116.09 KB\)](#)

Applying for authorisation

To apply for authorisation to remove VC in bovines older than 30 months, you can download both the:

- required method of operation form
- bovine vertebral column removal application form

An authorisation can be amended, suspended or revoked if it no longer meets the requirements in regulations eight and nine of the TSE Regulations.

Regulation ten of the TSE Regulations provides the right to appeal any suspension or revocation notice within 21 days of the date the notice is served. In the event of an appeal, written representation can be made to Approvals and Registration Team.

They will then refer the appeal to the Operations Head Veterinarian who will respond within 20 working days of receipt.

Application documents

[View Bovine vertebral column recommended methods of removal as Word \(118.65 KB\)](#)

[View Application for authorisation to remove SRM vertebral column from bovine carcasses as Word \(120.53 KB\)](#)