



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 44/25

EU Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2208: Recognition of GB BSE Negligible Risk status

Date issued: 21st November 2025

Purpose

To inform Official Veterinarians that England, Wales and Scotland are recognised by the EU as having BSE negligible risk status (NR) as published on 4 November in [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2025/2208](#) which amended the Annex to Decision 2007/453/EC. Guidance on the implementation of EU legislation indicated that the implementation date will be 20 days from the date of publishing in the Official Journal. From 24 November 2025, GB origin meat exported to the EU can be certified as originating from a BSE NR country, regardless of slaughter or production date. Furthermore, meat derived from animals born, continuously reared and slaughtered in GB or another negligible BSE risk country/region as listed by Decision 2007/453 EC can be exported to the EU or moved to NI as meat derived from NR animals.

Background

On 29 May 2025, England, Scotland, and Wales were recognised by WOAHP as having BSE NR. Northern Ireland (NI) and Jersey achieved NR status in 2017 and 2020 respectively. The Isle of Man and Guernsey are not recognised as having BSE NR. 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 as Animal By-Product (ABP) category 2 or 3.

Although from that date, tissues no longer considered as SRM could domestically be used as fit for human consumption or treated as category 2 or 3 ABP, they could not be exported to the EU or moved to NI until the EU had formally recognised our NR status by updating Commission Decision 2007/453.

APHA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and also works on behalf of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Food Standards Agency to safeguard animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy.

Commission Decision 2007/453 was updated and published in the Official Journal on 4 November and recognised GB's BSE NR status granted by WOA. When an implementation date is not specified in the EU Regulation, the date when the change comes into force is 20 days following the publication date in the Official Journal. EU BCPs have confirmed this interpretation, that the change to NR status applies from 24 November. As slaughterhouses and cutting plants adopt NR SRM controls, certain tissues — previously classified as high risk under CR (such as OTM vertebral column) — will be eligible for export to the EU and movement to NI from 24 November.

SRM controls remain one of the most effective ways of protecting the public from BSE. The list of bovine SRM is greatly reduced where cattle originate from NR regions or countries (which excludes Isle of Man and Guernsey), however there are still parts of the bovine carcass that are SRM and must be removed, handled and disposed of as category 1 ABP.

Action

From 24 November, products exported from GB to the EU or moved to NI can be certified as originating from an NR country. There are further sub-options within affected EHCs that may have to be selected depending on the origin of the animals from which the meat derives. Further details will be provided in the amended NFGs on how to certify each sub-option.

The requirements of EHCs must be carefully read and Notes for Guidance documents further explain the options for certifying the statements within EHCs.

OVs should continue to ensure there is suitable segregation of products destined for other markets that may have additional requirements regardless of our BSE status.

Further Information

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