



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

APHA Briefing Note 46/25

Issues arising from a change in GB BSE risk status from Controlled to Negligible Risk and checks at EU BCPs

Date issued: 28 November 2025

Purpose

To inform OVAs that Defra is aware of issues at EU BCPs arising from the change to GB's BSE risk status from Controlled Risk (CR) to Negligible Risk (NR). Some EU BCPs are interpreting the change in risk status, made effective on 24 November, as applying only to animals born on or after this date.

Background

As noted in [Briefing Note 44/25](#), England, Wales and Scotland are recognised by the EU as having BSE NR status as published in Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2025/2208 effective from 24 November. Defra understands that GB origin meat exported to the EU can be certified as originating from a BSE NR country, regardless of slaughter or production date. We have received confirmation from the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) for Northern Ireland (NI) that they will implement the change according to our view. However, we have heard that some EU BCPs interpret this point differently and would insist on GB origin meat deriving from animals born, slaughtered or produced prior to 24 November needing to be certified as derived from animals originating in a CR country. The French CVO has confirmed that SIVEP are implementing this view at their BCPs.

Defra has contacted the Commission, requesting urgent confirmation for the correct interpretation for how the relevant BSE attestations should be certified. Whilst Defra is waiting to hear back on this request, we understand that exports to the EU, certified as BSE NR, may be rejected by EU BCPs.

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.

Certifying GB origin meat as CR may not be possible if changes to processing have already been made at FBO sites. Changes to the Support Health Attestation ET241 also may make it difficult for OV's to certify the relevant Specified Risk Material removal requirements for CR goods.

Whilst Defra waits for confirmation from the Commission, it is the choice of exporting businesses whether they wish to export these goods to the EU during this time. It is advisable to contact the EU BCP of entry in advance.

The UK CVO has determined that any consignments rejected at an EU BCP on the basis of this NR/CR point can return to GB without the need to notify APHA to complete a risk assessment.

Action

For movements to NI, meat from animals born, reared, slaughtered and produced in GB can be certified as BSE NR.

For exports to EU member states, meat from animals born, reared, slaughtered and produced in GB certified as BSE NR may be rejected. In this eventuality, exporters can return their goods directly to GB without notifying APHA.

Defra will provide further clarification via a briefing note once the Commission has confirmed the correct interpretation.

Further Information

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