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## **REASSESSING HACCP PLANS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS (SRMs)**

2/17/2004

To: AAMP MEMBERS  
MEAT SLAUGHTERS AND MEAT PROCESSORS

SUBJECT: REASSESSING HACCP PLANS TO ADDRESS SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS (SRMs)

FSIS Notice 4-04 (*Awareness Meeting Regarding New Regulations That Prohibit Non-ambulatory Disabled Cattle and the Use of Certain Materials From Cattle for Human Food*) instructs inspectors to inform their plants of new regulations and hazard analysis reassessment to determine what steps, if any, are necessary to ensure its products are free of materials that present the risk of transmitting BSE infectivity. This notice as well as all other that have been published can be viewed at [www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/topics/bse.htm](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/topics/bse.htm).

All plants handling beef products should reassess their HACCP plans. If you do not slaughter and handle only boneless beef products, this is very simple. State that you handle only non-SRM material.

If you handle bone-in beef products (i.e. contains portions of the vertebral column considered SRM in cattle 30 months of age and older), FSIS is currently requesting that establishments have letters from vendors pertaining to compliance with the BSE notices and interim final rules. These letters should be verified periodically.

If establishment only process bone-in product from cattle 30 months of age and older or if the establishment handles all bone-in beef as if it were from cattle 30 months of age and older, a standing letter on file that is verified periodically is generally accepted.

If carcasses or portions of carcasses (i.e. quarters) are received from outside vendors, documentation should be received that includes a statement of the age of the cattle at the time of slaughter. A standing letter on file from each supplier would not be sufficient in this example. Bone-in beef arriving without information regarding age will be treated as if it were from cattle 30 months of age and older.

Although SRMs are not allowed to leave slaughter establishments unless specific arrangements have been made with a further processing facility to remove them, some of the requirements that FSIS are mandating are unnecessary and redundant. Establishments must comply with the new FSIS notices and interim final. Suppliers should be able to provide information verifying that product they ship to further processing facilities does not contain SRMs.

AAMP has produced a sample SOP to address BSE that can be used as a guide for establishments when reassessing their HACCP Plans. Information can be utilized from the sample SOP so establishments can accommodate it to their own unique processing techniques. More information is available at [www.aamp.com](http://www.aamp.com).