



P.O. Box 269, Elizabethtown, PA 17022
Phone: 717/367-1168 Fax: 717/367-9096
Website: www.aamp.com Email: aamp@aamp.com

SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL (SRM) SUMMARY

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Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) are tissue that contain the prions or agent that may transmit Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) disease (in cattle specifically) based on scientific research and field observation.

Specified Risk Materials were defined in:

- Docket No. 03-025IF
Prohibition of the Use of Specified Risk Materials for Human Food and Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle
- 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

Cattle 30 months of Age and Older

Brain
Skull
Eyes
Trigeminal ganglia (nerve tissue)
Spinal cord
Dorsal root ganglia (nerve tissue)
Vertebral column (excluding the tail, transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the wings of the sacrum)

All Cattle

Tonsils
Small intestine (*distal ileum*)

Specified Risk Materials removed on the slaughter floor

Cattle 30 months of Age and Older

Brain
Skull
Eyes
Spinal cord

All Cattle

Tonsils
Small intestine (*distal ileum*)

Guidelines can be followed to remove SRMs on the slaughter floor such as:

- Use good sanitary slaughter practices
- The skull contains the brain, eyes and tonsils (all SRMs can be removed without separation)
- Small intestine should be removed
- All visible portions of the spinal cord should be removed
- All SRMs should be disposed of properly in accordance to 9 CFR 314.1 and 314.3

Specified Risk Materials removed on the fabrication floor

Cattle 30 months of Age and Older

All Cattle

Trigeminal ganglia (nerve tissue)

None

Dorsal root ganglia (nerve tissue)

Vertebral column (excluding the tail, transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the wings of the sacrum)

Guidelines can be followed to remove SRMs on the fabrication floor such as:

- Use good sanitary fabrication practices
- When the vertebral column is removed the trigeminal ganglia and the dorsal root ganglia will also be removed (all SRMs can be removed without separation)
- The caudal vertebra (tailbones), transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum do not need to be removed
- All SRMs should be disposed of properly in accordance to 9 CFR 314.1 and 314.3

Specified Risk Materials removal SSOPs

Visible SRMs on carcasses during slaughter

- If SRMs are on the bone – Scrap the SRM off the bone
- If SRMs are on the meat – Trim the SRM off the meat with a knife

Visible SRMs on carcasses during fabrication

- SRMs (bone dust) – Scrap the SRM off all surfaces