

Annex B

Guidance on disposal of SRM vertebral column from butchers' shops

1. Difference between category 1 and category 3 material

Category 3 animal by-products are essentially material that have been passed fit for, but are no longer intended for, human consumption. They are low risk material. Most butcher's waste will fall into this category – trimmings, unsold meat etc will normally be category 3 material. Category 3 material must be disposed of to a plant approved to handle animal by-products. Category 3 material can be processed (rendered), incinerated, or sent for use in petfood production or composting or biogas in suitably approved premises.

Category 1 animal by-products include material designated as specified risk material (SRM). These are the tissues identified as those most likely to carry BSE. The lifting of the beef export ban brought the list of tissues designated as SRM in the UK into line with the rest of Europe. This means that vertebral column (VC) from bovine animals aged over 24 months (as opposed to 30 months previously) is now SRM and must be disposed of as category 1 material.

Category 1 material must be stored completely separately from category 3 material e.g. separate container. Category 1 material must be labelled as 'category 1 material' and '**for disposal only**'.

Specified risk material must be stained blue with a 0.5% weight/volume solution of the colouring agent Patent Blue V (E131, 1971 Colour Index No 42051) in such a way that the colouring is clearly visible over the whole surface of the material.

Mixing two categories of material together means that all the material must be treated as the higher risk material. Mixing category 3 material with category 1 material would mean all the material would have to be treated as category 1 material.

2. How can vertebral column designated SRM be sent for disposal?

- 1) Processing (rendering) plants already have collection rounds for some butchers. Previously these have been for category 3 material, for which there is commercial use for the processed animal protein produced e.g. use in petfood. However, following the implementation of these rules, there may be sufficient volume of category 1 material generated to justify further category 1 collection rounds by the rendering industry to take the VC to plants approved to take category 1 material.
- 2) Collection by knackers, who will deliver it to an approved category 1 plant (processing, incineration or intermediate).

- 3) Butchers can transport the VC direct to an approved category 1 plant (processing, incineration or intermediate) themselves.
- 4) Return the VC to the abattoir it came from. This would require the abattoir to also have an intermediate plant approved on site. Guidance has been drawn up for the approval of such intermediate plants at abattoirs. Intermediate plants approved under the above guidance may have as a condition of the approval that the only material this type of intermediate plant can take back is category 1 VC from animals slaughtered at that abattoir.

For all of the above options, butchers are permitted to store and bulk-up VC to make disposal options more viable.

How must it be transported?

- The vertebral column must be transported in leak proof packaging, containers or vehicles and **must** be labelled, 'category 1 material' and, 'For disposal only.'
- Vehicles, containers and reusable items of equipment that come into contact with animal by-products must be cleansed and disinfected after each use.
- Materials of different categories must be kept separate and identifiable throughout collection and transportation, unless all material is treated as the highest category of material transported. If transported in a vehicle used to transport meat for human consumption it should be transported in a separate compartment within the lorry or in a trailer. It should not be transported while there is fresh meat in the lorry. Also the outside of the container should be clean. These requirements are precautions against cross-contamination and the possibility of transfer of blue food dye to food.
- Original commercial documents must accompany the material giving details of the date of transport, description and quantity of material, origin, carrier and destination. These can be used to complete the records that must be kept by anyone consigning or receiving animal by-products. Commercial documents must be completed in triplicate (one original and two copies). The original must accompany the consignment to its final destination. The receiver must retain it. The producer must retain one of the other copies and the carrier the other. All copies must be retained for two years.

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