

Protection against TSE: Specified risk material should continue to be removed from small ruminants and destroyed

Joint opinion No 017/2016 of the BfR and FLI of 2 December 2015

To comply with the current legal situation in the European Union, the so-called risk material must be removed and destroyed during the slaughter of cattle, sheep and goats. The specified risk material (SRM) includes the skull, tonsils and spinal marrow of animals older than 12 months, as well as the spleen and ileum (the third section of the small intestine before the large intestine) of animals of all age classes. The regulation has the goal of preventing the possible introduction of TSE-infected material to the food and feed chain. The transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE) include BSE in cattle and scrapie in sheep and goats.

In a joint opinion, the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) and Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI) dealt with the question of whether the specified risk material of small ruminants, which include sheep and goats, still poses a TSE risk.

The institutes came to the conclusion that the transfer of the disease via specified risk material is possible, even in countries with low incidences of TSE. The decree to remove and destroy the specified risk material from sheep and goats should therefore continue to be upheld throughout the entire EU.

The full version of this BfR Information is available in German on <http://www.bfr.bund.de/cm/343/schutz-vor-tse-spezifiziertes-risikomaterial-von-kleinen-wiederkaeuern-sollte-weiterhin-entfernt-und-vernichtet-werden.pdf>

About the BfR

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