

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 9/2015

To: All Food Business Operators at Approved Meat Establishments

Subject: Specified Risk Material (SRM) and Beef Certificates

This is an **interim** Trader Notice which does not replace or amend any previous documents.

Scope

Obligations and actions under Commission Regulation 2015/728. This Trader Notice applies to the Definition of SRM in all beef slaughter plants.

Background

On the 6th May 2015 the EU introduced [Commission Regulation 2015/728](#) which amends Regulation 999/2001 on the definition of Specified Risk Materials (SRM) as they relate to cattle of all ages. This new definition takes effect from **27th May 2015**

Revised Definition of SRM

As from the 27th May 2015 the following tissues are designated as specified risk material in **bovine animals**:

- (i) the skull excluding the mandible and including the brain and eyes, and the spinal cord of animals aged over 12 months;
- (ii) the vertebral column excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the spinous and transverse processes of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar vertebrae and the median sacral crest and wings of the sacrum, but including the dorsal root ganglia, of animals aged over 30 months; and
- (iii) the tonsils, the last four meters of the small intestine, the caecum and the mesentery of animals of all ages.***

In other words, whereas previously the entire intestine from the duodenum to the rectum was defined as SRM, the revised definition reduces this to the last four meters of the small intestine and the caecum.

This interim Trader Notice requests all Food Business Operators to note the following:

- **While Commission Regulation 2015/728 is formally effective from 27th May 2015, Food Business Operators should not proceed on the basis of the revised SRM list therein until a further detailed Trader Notice is issued from this Department.**
- **The Department is preparing instructions and is cognisant that in addition to this change a more fundamental change in the SRM list is due in the near future following Ireland's expected move to 'negligible risk' BSE status.**

- **In order to ensure compliance with Third Country rules, there is a need to review all existing Third Country certificates/protocols and amend as necessary, in consultation and agreement with our trading partners.**

A definitive Trader Notice on this matter will issue shortly.

Audrey Lyons
Meat Hygiene Division

25th May 2015