

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 06/2017 (Revised)

To: All Food Business Operators at Approved Beef Slaughter and Cutting Plants

Subject: Use of a Red-Striped Label on Carcasses Over 30 Months of Age

Background

EU Regulation No 999/2001 states that the vertebral column of bovine animals over 30 months of age is Specified Risk Material (SRM).

In 2016 the EU Commission published [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2016/1396](#) which contained amendments to EU Regulation No 999/2001.

The most significant of these amendments is the changeover from a blue-striped label on carcasses aged 30 months and under to a red-striped label on carcasses over 30 months.

Scope

This Trader Notice applies to all beef carcasses whose vertebral column is classified as Specified Risk Material (SRM), i.e. those over 30 months of age.

Changes to be implemented

1. Until **30 June 2017**, when removal of the vertebral column is ***not*** required, carcasses or wholesale cuts of carcasses of bovine animals containing vertebral column must be identified by a clearly visible blue stripe on the carcass label
2. From **1 July 2017**, when the removal of the vertebral column is required, carcasses or wholesale cuts of carcasses of bovine animals containing vertebral column must be identified by a clearly visible **red stripe** on the carcass label.
3. As before, where applicable, specific information on the number of bovine carcasses or wholesale cuts of carcasses, from which the removal of the vertebral column is required, shall be added on the commercial document relating to consignments of meat.

Role of Plant Management

FBOs are required to amend the relevant SOPs to include this new requirement to mark carcasses whose vertebral column is SRM with a Red Striped label from 1st July 2017.

The FBO may continue to use the Blue Striped label on carcasses 30 months or under for their own purposes.

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Meat Hygiene