

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 2/2018

**To: All Food Business Operators at Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
approved meat establishments**

Subject: Correct categorisation of digestive tract content as Category 2 Animal By-Product

[Regulation \(EC\) No. 1069/2009](#) defines the 3 Categories of Animal By-Products (ABPs) that are produced from the processing of animals for human consumption. Article 9 of this regulation defines what is categorised as Category 2 ABP, which includes, *inter alia*, digestive tract content.

During the current FVO audit of ABP processing establishments, digestive tract content (category 2 ABP) from different species has been found at a Category 3 rendering plant, contrary to EU Regulations.

Scope

This Trader Notice covers the correct categorisation of digestive tract content as Category 2 ABP.

Role of FBO

All Food Business Operators (FBOs) must have an up-to-date Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on ABP detailing their systems and procedures to achieve compliance with the regulations. This SOP must include procedures for the production, collection, segregation, identification, handling, storage, and transport of ABPs at all DAFM approved meat establishments.

In this context, digestive tract material must be categorised as **Category 2 ABP** and must be treated as Category 1 ABP for the purpose of rendering unless alternative processes (e.g. used as fertilizer) permitted by Article 13 of [Regulation \(EC\) No. 1069/2009](#) are used. These alternative processes require separation of the digestive tract contents from the digestive tract itself.

The digestive tract itself may then be processed as Category 3 ABP, except those parts of ruminant digestive tract that are categorized as Specified Risk Material¹ (SRM) which must be segregated, stained and disposed of as Category 1 ABP.

FBOs must continuously monitor their own compliance with ABP regulations.

DAFM officers will take strict enforcement action in the case of FBOs that are found in breach of the rules on correct categorisation of ABPs. Any Category 3 containers containing Category 1 or 2 ABP will be re-categorised as Category 1 ABP.

Audrey Lyons
Meat Hygiene Division
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¹ In the case of cattle, intestinal SRM is still defined as the intestine from the duodenum to the rectum, for market access reasons. In the case of sheep, the ileum *is defined as SRM*