

11/12/2025 BSE Risk status: Cattle from Guernsey and Isle of Man

Industry briefing

Key lines:

- Cattle that originate from the Isle of Man or Guernsey are considered Undetermined Risk (UR) for BSE and therefore require additional segregation and processing at slaughter. There is no 'GB residency' period applicable for these cattle, and they remain UR for their entire life.
- It is a commercial decision whether abattoirs will accept Controlled Risk (CR) or UR cattle. If you have cattle that originate from a region that does not have NR status, such as the Isle of Man or Guernsey, you should ensure the abattoir is prepared to accept them before moving them.
- These cattle and their parts (including ABP - Animal By Products) require segregation and processing in line with (EU) 999/2001 for a country listed as BSE CR or UR status
- Any over 30 months (OTM) bovine carcasses, half carcasses or quarters continue to require identification with a red striped label.

Background

On 29 May 2025, England, Wales and Scotland's BSE Negligible Risk (NR) status was recognised by WOA. Northern Ireland (NI) and Jersey achieved NR status in 2017 and 2020 respectively. Whilst the Isle of Man and Guernsey intend to apply to WOA for NR status, they do not currently hold NR status.

With GB's new BSE status, certain products that were previously considered Specified Risk Material (SRM) under Controlled Risk (CR) status are no longer SRM, and can now be used for human consumption, pet food or disposed of as Animal By-Product (ABP) category 2 or 3.

From 24th of November, GB meat-approved establishments could export bovine product following the measures that define what is SRM for countries and Regions under NR for SRM controls*. That is regardless of the date of kill or the date of birth of the live animal. Animals born before the 1st of August 1996 are still banned from the food chain. More information can be found on the FSA website: [Temp Op Instruction Action Note Template](#)

Exceptions

Animals originating from regions or countries that are not BSE NR status still require the removal of SRM as described in (EU) 999/2001 for a country listed as BSE CR or UR status. Cattle from the Isle of Man use a prefix UK 01, Guernsey cattle use UK02 – Examples are shown in the annex. Any over 30 months (OTM) bovine carcasses, half carcasses or quarters continue to require identification with a red striped label.

*Bovine tonsils, whilst no longer SRM under NR status, they must continue to be removed as required by food law. Commission Regulation (EC) No 1662/2006 which refers to No 853/2004, Annex III – Section I: Meat of Domestic Ungulates – Chapter IV: Slaughter Hygiene, Point 16(a)

Annex

Isle of Man cattle ear tags

1. Includes the triskelion emblem - three armoured legs with golden spurs, joined at the thigh, running clockwise, or the Crown
2. The number always start with UK 01



Guernsey cattle ear tags

1. Includes the Guernsey coat of arms of three gold lions, with a small branch of leaves at the top
2. The number always start with UK 02.



*Bovine tonsils, whilst no longer SRM under NR status, they must continue to be removed as required by food law. Commission Regulation (EC) No 1662/2006 which refers to No 853/2004, Annex III – Section I: Meat of Domestic Ungulates – Chapter IV: Slaughter Hygiene, Point 16(a)