

slaughtering could be accomplished, for instance, by slaughtering bovines over 30 months of age only at the end of the day on lines and with equipment dedicated exclusively to slaughtering such older animals.

Fresh (Chilled or Frozen) Whole or Half Carcasses of Bovines Less Than 30 Months of Age

Section 94.19, paragraph (b), would allow the importation of bovine carcasses under the following conditions:

- The products are fresh (chilled or frozen) whole or half carcasses derived from bovines that were less than 30 months of age when slaughtered and that are not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime.
- The bovines from which the carcasses are derived were slaughtered in a slaughtering establishment that slaughters only bovines less than 30 months of age or complies with a segregation process approved by the national veterinary authority of the region of origin and the Administrator as adequate to prevent contamination or commingling with products not eligible for importation into the United States.
- The intestines of the bovines were removed at slaughter.
- The shipment is accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met.

Fresh (Chilled or Frozen) Bovine Liver

Section 94.19, paragraph (c), would allow the importation of fresh (chilled or frozen) bovine liver, provided the product is combined with no other product, is derived from bovines for which no air-injected stunning process was used at slaughter, and is accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met. In and of itself, the liver is unlikely to contain infectious levels of the BSE agent, so we are not proposing to require that liver be derived from animals less than 30 months of age or not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime. However, we would prohibit the importation of liver derived from bovines for which an air-injected stunning process was used. The liver, because of its anatomical location and size of its blood vessels, is the organ that could potentially receive emboli or tissue fragments distributed in the animal due to the use of an air-injected stunning process. Because there would be no age limit on the bovines from which the liver is derived, we believe it is necessary to ensure that the liver be

free of such potentially high-risk material.

Fresh (Chilled or Frozen) Bovine Tongues

Section 94.19, paragraph (d), would allow the importation of fresh (chilled or frozen) bovine tongues that meet the following conditions:

- The tongues are derived from bovines that were born after the implementation of an effective feed ban.
 - The bovines are not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime.
 - The tonsils of the bovines were removed at slaughter.
 - The tongues are accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met.
- The tongue itself is unlikely to contain the BSE agent in animals of any age. However, because the tongue and the tonsils are connected, and the tonsils consist of tissue with demonstrated infectivity, we believe it is necessary to require that the tonsils have been removed from bovines greater than 30 months of age from which tongues for importation are derived. To eliminate the need to determine the exact age of the animals from which tongues are derived, we would require that the tonsils have been removed at slaughter from all bovines from which tongues intended for importation from a BSE minimal-risk region are derived.

Fresh (Chilled or Frozen) Meat of Sheep or Goats or Other Ovines or Caprines

Section 94.19, paragraph (e), would allow the importation of meat under the following conditions:

- The product is fresh (chilled or frozen) meat from sheep or goats or other ovines or caprines less than 12 months of age at the time of slaughter that are not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime.
- The animals from which the meat is derived were slaughtered in a slaughtering establishment that slaughters only sheep and/or goats or other ovines or caprines less than 12 months of age or complies with a segregation process approved by the national veterinary authority of the region of origin and the Administrator as adequate to prevent contamination or commingling of the meat with products not eligible for importation into the United States.
- The product qualifies as meat according to the definition of meat set forth in USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) regulations at 9 CFR 301.2.

- The shipment is accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met.

Fresh (Chilled or Frozen) Carcasses of Ovines or Caprines

Section 94.19, paragraph (f), would allow the importation of fresh (chilled or frozen) carcasses of ovines and caprines under the following conditions:

- The carcasses are derived from ovines or caprines that were less than 12 months old when slaughtered and that are not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime.
- The ovines or caprines from which the carcasses were derived were slaughtered in a slaughtering establishment that slaughters only ovines and/or caprines less than 12 months of age or complies with a segregation process approved by the national veterinary authority of the region of origin and the Administrator as adequate to prevent contamination or commingling of the carcasses with products not eligible for importation into the United States.
- The carcasses are accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met.

Hunter-Harvested Wild Ruminant Products

Section 94.19, paragraph (g), would allow the importation of hunter-harvested wild ruminant products under the following conditions:

- The product is meat or a dressed (eviscerated and the head is removed) carcass of a wild sheep, goat, cervid, or other ruminant;
- The meat or dressed carcass is intended for personal use, and the hunter provides proof to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection official that the animal was a legally harvested wild (not ranched) animal. Such proof will include the hunting license, tag, or equivalent;
- The game and wildlife service of the jurisdiction where the ruminant was harvested has informed the Administrator that the jurisdiction either: (1) Conducts no type of game feeding program, or (2) has complied with, and continues to comply with, the ban on the feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants in the BSE minimal-risk region.

Meat and meat products from wild animals not maintained on ranches or farms are unlikely to have ingested contaminated commercial feed and are unlikely to have infectious levels of the BSE agent. Also, the nature of hunter-harvested ruminant products to be used