

for personal use makes it highly unlikely that the product will enter the commercial food chain for animals. (In § 94.0, we would add a definition of *personal use* to mean only for personal consumption or display and not distributed further or sold.) If the game and wildlife service of the jurisdiction where the ruminant was harvested has not informed the Administrator either that the jurisdiction conducts no game feeding program or has complied with, and continues to comply with, the feed ban, we would direct U.S. inspectors at the designated ports of arrival not to allow such hunter-harvested ruminant products from the jurisdiction to be imported into the United States.

Fresh (Chilled or Frozen) Meat of Cervids Either Farm-Raised or Harvested on a Game Farm or Similar Facility

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

- The product is fresh (chilled or frozen) meat derived from cervids that were born after an effective feed ban was implemented, that were not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime, and that were members of a herd not known to be infected with or exposed to a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.
- If the product is ground meat or sausage, it was derived either from all cervine meat or from cervine meat mixed with nonruminant meat.
- The shipment is accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met.

No natural infection of BSE has been documented in cervids, and we believe there is a very low risk that any tissue in cervids is likely to contain the BSE agent. Therefore, we believe it is unnecessary to prohibit the importation of ground meat or sausage that is exclusively cervid meat or cervid meat and nonruminant meat. However, because it has not been proven that cervids are not susceptible to BSE, we believe it is necessary to require that the cervid meat and meat products be derived from cervids that were members of a herd not known to have been infected with or exposed to a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

Fresh (Chilled or Frozen) Meat From Wild-Harvested Caribou, Musk Ox, or Other Cervids

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

- The meat is from wild caribou, musk ox, or other cervids harvested within a jurisdiction specified by the Administrator for which the game and wildlife service 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.
 - The cervids from which the meat is derived were either slaughtered in a slaughtering establishment that slaughters only cervids eligible for entry into the United States 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 shipment is accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met.
- This meat differs from the meat described above under the heading "Hunter-harvested wild ruminant products" in that, although it is hunter-harvested, it is done so on a larger scale for commercial sale.

Gelatin

Section 94.19, paragraph (j), would allow the importation of gelatin from bones of 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, provided the shipment is accompanied by authorized official certification that these conditions have been met.

Importation of Certain Tallow and Offal

Section 95.4 of the regulations currently restricts the importation of animal protein, tankage, fat, glands, tallow other than tallow derivatives, and serum from regions where BSE is known to exist or that present an undue risk of BSE. Of these products, we believe that certain tallow and offal could be imported from BSE minimal-risk regions under certain conditions with little likelihood of containing infectious levels of the BSE agent, and are proposing to amend § 95.4 to allow the importation of such materials. We do not have evidence at this time that the other products prohibited under § 95.4 could be imported with little likelihood of containing infectious levels of the BSE agent.

As one of the conditions for importation, the tallow and offal, if arriving at a U.S. land border port,

would have to arrive at one of the ports we would list in new § 94.19(k).

Tallow

In the case of tallow, we would require that it contain less than 0.15 percent protein and be obtained from bovines less than 30 months of age when slaughtered. This product would be considered low risk because it is primarily lipid material with a minimal cellular component. When it is derived from low-risk bovines and the level of protein is low, the material would be unlikely to contain prion protein.

Section 95.4, paragraph (f), would allow the importation of tallow under the following conditions:

- The tallow is composed of less than 0.15 percent protein.
- The tallow was derived from animals that were less than 30 months of age when slaughtered, that were born after the region of origin implemented an effective ban on the feeding of ruminant protein to ruminants, and that were not known to have been ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime.
- The tallow is not derived from an animal that died otherwise than by slaughter.
- The intestines were removed from each animal at slaughter.
- The shipment of tallow to the United States is accompanied by authorized official certification that the above conditions have been met.

Cervine Offal

In the case of offal, we would require that it be derived from cervids born after the implementation of an effective feed ban that were not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein. Because the offal would be derived from low-risk animals, we would consider the product to be unlikely to contain the BSE agent. We would limit the importation of offal to cervine offal, because bovine offal could contain the distal ileum, which is a tissue with confirmed infectivity in BSE-infected bovines.

Section 95.4, paragraph (g), would allow the importation of offal from cervids under the following conditions:

- The offal was derived from cervids that were born after the feed ban, that were not known to have been fed ruminant protein, other than milk protein, during their lifetime, and that were members of a herd not known to be infected with or exposed to a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.
- The shipment of offal to the United States is accompanied by authorized