



Enhanced Animal Health Protection from BSE

New Requirements for Transporting Cattle

As of July 12, 2007, enhanced animal health safeguards are in place to help eliminate bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, from Canada. Certain cattle tissues, known as specified risk materials (SRM), are banned from all animal feeds, pet foods and fertilizers. As a result, there are new requirements for anyone handling, transporting and disposing of cattle carcasses.

In practical terms, all dead cattle require a permit issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to be transported and received.

Cattle dying in transit

As of July 12, 2007, if cattle die during transportation, the carcass is considered to be SRM. Therefore, a permit is required to bring the carcass back to the premises of origin or to a facility in Canada that is permitted by the CFIA to store, process or dispose of SRM.

SRM transportation permits

If a commercial trucking company regularly transports cattle for auction or slaughter and there is a chance of mortalities during transit, the CFIA recommends that the company apply for an annual SRM transportation permit. This allows the company to transport an unlimited number of bovine carcasses under the same permit for up to one year. One permit number will be issued for the entire fleet, with each of the vehicles in the fleet listed on the permit itself.

To apply for an annual SRM transportation permit, contact the nearest CFIA district office. The permit application form is also available online at www.inspection.gc.ca/bse. All permits for transporting, receiving and disposing of SRM are free of charge.

If a cow dies in transit and the company does not have an annual SRM transportation permit, the driver should call the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 and request an emergency SRM permit. The CFIA permit officer on-call will request the following information:

- the transporter's name, address, phone number, e-mail address;
- a description of the conveyance used to transport the SRM (license plate of truck or description of tarp/bucket);
- the SRM permit number of the site that will be receiving the SRM (unless it is the farm of origin of an animal dying in transit);
- the number or carcasses and approximate weight of SRM being transported; and
- CCIA or ATQ tag number(s).

At the conclusion of the call, the inspector will provide the number of a permit, which will be valid for 48 hours or less. An actual copy of the SRM permit will be provided during an ensuing inspection. This copy should be retained for record-keeping purposes.

More information

For more information about SRM handling requirements or the permit application process, contact the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342 or visit www.inspection.gc.ca/bse.

