

## **Joint resolution between the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency and General Directorate for Food and Veterinary regarding the transport of bovine heads from Portugal to Spain**

Having regard to REGULATION (EC) No 999/2001 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control, and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, in particular Annex V, point 10.1.

Whereas Spain and Portugal are willing to conclude a joint resolution that will allow the transport of bovine heads on basis of Regulation (EC) 999/2001, from an establishment from Portugal to an establishment in Spain for harvesting of head meat.

The Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency, hereafter named AESAN, having its seat at Calle de Alcalá, 56. 28014 Madrid, Spain

and

the General Directorate for Food and Veterinary, hereafter named DGAV, having its seat at the Campo Grande, 50, 1700-093 Lisboa, Portugal.

have agreed the following:

### **Definitions scope and conditions**

For the purposes of this joint resolution:

1. Authorities: AESAN and DGAV.
2. States: Spain and Portugal.
3. Regulation (EC) No 999/2001: REGULATION (EC) No 999/2001 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 May 2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.
4. Heads: heads of bovine animals aged over 12 months and from countries with negligible BSE risk status (NBRS).

The current joint resolution has been concluded on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, Annex V, point 10.1 and aims to create the possibility of moving heads from an establishment located in Portugal to an establishment located in Spain for the harvesting of head meat.

Spain and Portugal shall take the necessary measures within the framework of their respective competences to achieve the defined objectives. AESAN and DGAV shall guarantee that the tasks are carried out in accordance with the required standards.

The current joint resolution does not affect the applicable European or national regulations. In particular, the relevant provisions of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001, Annex V and in particular the provisions set out in points 9 (a), (b), (c) and (d):

Member States may decide to allow the harvesting of head meat from bovine in cutting plants specifically authorised for this purpose and provided that the following conditions are complied with:

- a) the heads intended for transport to the cutting plant shall be suspended on a rack during the storing period and the transport from the slaughterhouse to the cutting plant;*
- b) the frontal shot hole, and the foramen magnum shall be properly sealed with an impermeable and durable stopper before being moved from the conveyor or hooks to the racks. Where the brainstem is sampled for laboratory testing for BSE, the foramen magnum shall be sealed immediately after that sampling;*
- c) the heads which have not been properly sealed in accordance with point (b), where the eyes are damaged or lost immediately prior to or after slaughter or which were otherwise damaged in a way which might result in contamination of the head meat with central nervous tissue shall be excluded from transport to the specifically authorised cutting plants;*
- d) a sampling plan for the slaughterhouse using an appropriate laboratory test to detect central nervous system tissue shall be in place to verify the proper implementation of the measures to reduce contamination;*

The specific additional conditions are the following:

- Only the establishments listed in Annex I have permission to dispatch heads in the context of the current joint resolution.
- Only heads from animals born, reared and slaughtered in countries with negligible BSE risk status in the EU, that have not spent any time during their life outside of these areas, are eligible for dispatch from a facility located in Portugal to an establishment in Spain.
- During slaughter the provenance of the animals is guaranteed by proper and complete separation from all other animals and parts thereof that do not meet the above requirements.
- The tonsils have been removed prior to removing the heads from the carcasses at the slaughter line.
- The heads have been declared fit for human consumption after ante mortem and postmortem inspections at the slaughterhouse, according to Regulation (EU) n° 2017/625.
- When bovine heads are skinned, the skinning (flaying) is complete.
- Heads are considered offal and therefore need to be cooled down to a temperature of 3°C before transport and kept at or below this temperature during transport and storage.
- Attestation by the Food Business Operator, in accordance with the model set out in Annex III, stating that all heads in the shipment conform to the above conditions shall accompany each load of heads collected from each slaughterhouse and will accompany the shipment to the cutting plant in the receiving country.

- Each head must also carry a clearly legible identification that is clearly visible, allowing backtracking to the slaughterhouse.
- Bovine heads in which a form of cysticercosis was demonstrated and heads of bovine animals which had undergone emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse shall not be traded from Portugal to Spain.
- Only the establishments listed in Annex II have permission as establishments of destination to receive heads under the current joint resolution.

## **Execution of tasks**

Specific obligations of the authorities:

- To inform the establishments concerned of the obligation to comply with the conditions provided for in the current joint resolution and to ensure compliance with these conditions.
- To inform of any non-conformities detected on the heads or during transport.
- To inspect or have the competent official control authorities inspect the facilities at least once a year to verify if the conditions stated in this joint resolution are being properly observed, i.e. compliance with both the rules set out in Annex V of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 cited in Article 2 as of the additional specific conditions mentioned in the current protocol.
- To inform the authority without delay of any serious non-conformity identified during official controls of the establishments concerned, in accordance with point 11 of Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 and to suspend the dispatch of heads from the establishment on its own initiative.
- To follow up any request by the authority for the suspension of the dispatch of bovine heads from an establishment concerned; in such case, no heads shall be dispatched from that establishment during a period of at least 6 months, and the suspension shall start 5 working days after the announcement of the request.
- To inform about every decision to add an establishment to Annexes I and II. Any addition would be effective 15 days after the transfer of information.
- In the event of cancellation or non-application in connection with the application of Article 8 and in the event of termination as provided for in Article 9, whichever of the parties requests the termination of the joint resolution, the relevant establishments will be informed thereof.

The current joint resolution does not entail any financial obligation.

## **Follow-up and publication**

The current joint resolution as well as the annexes will be published on the website of the authorities who are responsible for updating the documents.

The current joint resolution will be revised or cancelled or will not be applied if changes to the European regulations or the membership status of the authorities so require.

The present joint resolution is concluded for an indefinite period, subject to the provisions of article 9. The two parties reserve the right to terminate the joint resolution unilaterally, provided this is notified to the other party. The resolution will be terminated 3 months after said notification.

The current joint resolution I shall enter into force on 05/02/2026

Drawn up: Madrid, on 05/02/2026

For General Directorate for Food and Veterinary, Director

Susana Isabel Ferreira Guedes Pombo

(e-signature)

For the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency, Director

Ana María López-Santacruz Serraller

(e-signature)

**Annex list:**

**Annex I:** List of establishments authorized to dispatch heads (negligible BSE risk (NBR) classified and originating from Portugal) in the framework of the protocol between Portugal and Spain

**Annex II:** List of establishments authorized as establishments of destination of heads (negligible BSE risk (NBR) classified and originating from Portugal) in the context of the protocol between the Spain and Portugal

**Annex III:** Accompanying document

**Annex I:** List of establishments authorized to dispatch heads (negligible BSE risk (NBR) classified and originating from Portugal) in the framework of the joint resolution between Spain and Portugal.

Name	Matadouro e Carnes Linda Rosa, Lda.
Address	Rua de Freitas, Tamel (S. Veríssimo)
City	4750-725 Barcelos
Country	Portugal
Approval number	D 12

**Annex II:** List of establishments authorized as establishments of destination of heads (negligible BSE risk (NBR) classified and originating from Portugal) in the context of the joint resolution between Spain and Portugal

Name	ESRO Hispania S.L.
Address	Autov. A-1, Km. 32, 1-D, polígono industrial sur
City	San Agustin del Guadalix, Madrid
Country	Spain
Approval number	10.029027/M

### Annex III: Intra community trade of Bovine Heads from Countries with Negligible BSE Risk - Declaration Form

In accordance with Annex V point 10.1 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies [applicable legislation from EU member state]

#### **Part 1 - To be completed by the Food Business Operator**

1. Establishment name and Approval Number	
2. Establishment address	
3. Details of consignment (quantity/ number of heads etc.)	
4. Details of receiving plant	
5. Does this consignment meet the conditions of dispatch and transport that have been agreed by DGAV?  These conditions are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bovine heads must be from animals born, reared and slaughtered in Portugal, that have negligible BSE risk status. Provenance of the animals is guaranteed by proper and complete separation from all other animals and animal parts.</li><li>• The tonsils have been removed prior to removing the heads from the carcass at the slaughter line.</li><li>• The heads have been declared fit for human consumption after antemortem and postmortem inspection at the slaughterhouse according to Regulation (EC) No 2017/625.</li><li>• When bovine heads are skinned, the skinning (flaying) is complete.</li></ul>	<div>YES</div> <div>YES</div> <div>YES</div> <div>YES</div> <div>YES</div>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When heads are collected for dispatch, for the purpose of harvesting head meat, the following conditions have been met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Control measures are in place to prevent the possible contamination of the head meat with CNS tissue.</li> <li>– Any bolt hole on the frontal bone, and the foramen magnum has been sealed with a bung, stopper or sponge; if the brainstem is required for BSE testing, the foramen magnum has been sealed immediately after sampling.</li> <li>– A sampling plan using an appropriate laboratory test to detect central nervous system (CNS) tissue is in place to verify that the measures to reduce contamination with CNS are properly implemented. Results of the tests to this effect are sent to the receiving company in Spain.</li> <li>– Heads where the eyes were damaged or lost prior to/ after slaughter and heads that have not been sealed as above, have been removed from the consignment.</li> <li>– FBO's HACCP systems, or equivalent control systems and checks (e.g. NBR SOP) reflect the measures taken to prevent contamination of the head meat with CNS material and ensure complete separation of the heads of negligible-risk cattle from heads of controlled-risk and undetermined-risk cattle.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Heads have been cooled down to a temperature of maximum 3°C before transport and kept at or below this temperature during storage prior to transport.</li> <li>• Arrangements are in place to ensure the transport of the heads will be done in a hygienic manner and at a temperature of maximum 3°C</li> <li>• A copy of this document and below certification by the FBO stating that all heads in the shipment conform to the above conditions is to accompany each load of heads</li> <li>• Transport of the heads to a collection centre in <b>Portugal</b>, and from there to the receiving company in Spain is done under such conditions that no heads, other than those complying to all criteria set out above, can be added to the shipment</li> </ul>	<p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES</p> <p>YES / NOT APPLICABLE (direct transport to receiving company)</p>
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**Part 2 - Food Business Operator Declaration:**

I confirm that this consignment of bovine heads meets the conditions of processing, dispatch and transport that have been agreed between the Direção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária and the Agencia Española de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición.

I confirm that the recipient food business operator in Spain has agreed to accept this consignment.

**Signed (Food Business Operator):**

**Print name:**

**Date:**