

Joint resolution between the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency and the Federal Agency for the safety of the Food Chain regarding the transport of bovine heads from Belgium 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 Belgium are willing to conclude a joint resolution that will allow the transport of bovine heads on basis of Regulation (EC) 999/2001, between establishments in Belgium and 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 Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain, hereafter named FASFC, having its seat at Boulevard du Jardin Botanique 55, 1000 Brussels, Belgium,

have agreed the following:

Definitions scope and conditions

For the purposes of this joint resolution:

1. Authorities: AESAN and FASFC.
2. States: Spain and Belgium.
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 Belgium to an establishment located in Spain for the harvesting of head meat.

Spain and Belgium shall take the necessary measures within the framework of their respective competences to achieve the defined objectives. AESAN and FASFC 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:

- Permission to dispatch heads in the context of the current joint resolution shall only apply to the establishments included in the List of establishments authorized to dispatch bovine heads (see Annex I).
- 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 Belgium 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.
- An attestation by the Food Business Operator, in accordance with the model set out in Annex III, stating that all heads in the shipment are conform to the above stated 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 Belgium to Spain.
- Permission as establishments of destination to receive heads under the current joint resolution shall only apply to the establishments included in the List of establishments authorized as establishments of destination of bovine heads (see Annex II).

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 the other authority of any non-conformities detected after certification on the heads or during transport of the heads.
- 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 as of the additional specific conditions mentioned in the current protocol.
- To inform the other 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 receiving authority for the suspension of the dispatch of bovine heads from a dispatching 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, unless the dispatching or receiving member state authority raised an objection against this addition.
- In the event of cancellation or non-application of this joint resolution due to changes to the European regulations or the membership status of the authorities or in the event of termination of this joint resolution, the relevant establishments will be informed thereof by their respective authority.

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 the preceding paragraph. 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 [enter date]

Drawn up: Brussels, on [enter date]

For the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain, the delegated Administrator
Christine Romeyns
(e-signature)

For the Spanish Food Safety and Nutrition Agency, Director
Ana María López-Santacruz Serraller
(e-signature)

Annex I: List of establishments authorized to dispatch heads from a negligible BSE risk status country.

The following establishments are authorised to dispatch bovine heads within the framework of the joint resolution signed between Spain and Belgium.

Belgium

Approval number	Name	Address	Post code	Town
1	Abaco BV	Quai Industrie 168	1070	Anderlecht
2	Lommel Vee en Vlees, van	Industriealaan 21	2250	Olen
6	Swaegers & Co	Industrieweg 5	2320	Hoogstraten
36	Tambev bvba	Statiestraat 153	8810	Lichtervelde
56	Flanders Meat Group	Baaijensstraat 33	9240	Zele
59	Velzeke Slachthuis BV	Slachthuisstraat 1	9620	Zottegem
83	Abattoir de Liège	Rue de Droixhe 15	4020	Liège
126	Pegri AG	Alte Aachener Strasse 15	4780	Krefeld
129	Euro Meat Group nv	Rue de l'Abattoir 46	7700	Mouscron
136	Abattoir Communal d'Aubel	Rue de Merckhof 111	4880	Aubel
136	Ardenne Bovin sprl	Rue des Houppettes, Rossart, 31	6880	Bertrix
136	Dierickx nv	Baaijensstraat 12	9240	Zele
136	Jean Gotta SA	Rue de Merckhof 113	4880	Aubel
136	Vaes BVBA	Overbroekstraat 6	3830	Wellen
160 / F104591	H+ BV	Haagdam 2A en +2A	9140	Temse
165	Roche4Abatt sa	Rue du Petit Granit 3	5580	Rochefort
174	Matanza slachterij	Paillartcamp 6	9600	Ronse
185	Slachtgroep Leiland (S.G.L.)	Spoorwegstraat 61	8530	Harelbeke
200	Wama Beef Scrl	Allée des Abattoirs 1	5590	Ciney
1068	Debaenst BV	Rue du Blanc Bleu Belge 11	7700	Mouscron
103627 / F94	Moerbeko	Baaijensstraat 29	9240	Zele
F484	Slachtproducten De Jaeghere BV	De Arend 7	8210	Zedelgem

Annex II: List of establishments authorized as establishments of destination of bovine heads from a negligible BSE risk status country.

The following establishments are authorised as establishments of destination for bovine heads within the framework of the joint resolution signed between Spain and Belgium.

Spain

Approval number	Name	Address	Postcode	Town
10.029027/M	MEAT PROTEIN Hispania, S.L.	Autov. A-1, Km. 32,1-D, polígono industrial sur	28750	San Agustin Del Guadalix Madrid

Annex III: Intra community trade of Bovine Heads from Countries with Negligible BSE Risk - Declaration Form to be completed by the Food Business Operator of the dispatching Member State

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.

1. Nom de l'établissement et numéro d'agrément	
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 between the Agencia Española de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición and the Federal Agency for the safety of the Food Chain These conditions are: • Bovine heads must be from animals born, reared in countries with negligible BSE risk status in the EU and slaughtered in Belgium. Provenance of the animals is guaranteed by proper and complete separation from all other animals and animal parts. • The tonsils have been removed prior to removing the heads from the carcass at the slaughter line. • The heads have been declared fit for human consumption after antemortem and postmortem inspection at the slaughterhouse according to Regulation (EC) No 2017/625. • When bovine heads are skinned, the skinning (flaying) is complete. • When heads are collected for dispatch, for the purpose of harvesting head meat, the following conditions have been met: - Control measures are in place to prevent the possible contamination of the head meat with central nervous system (CNS) tissue. - 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.	YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES

- A sampling plan using an appropriate laboratory test to detect 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.	YES
- 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.	YES
- 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.	YES
• 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.	YES
• 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	YES
• 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	YES / N/A ¹
• Transport of the heads to a collection centre in Belgium, 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	
I confirm that this consignment of bovine heads meets the conditions of processing, dispatch and transport that have been agreed between the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) and the Agencia Española de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutrición (AESAN). I confirm that the recipient food business operator in Spain has agreed to accept this consignment.	
Signed (dispatching Food Business Operator): 	

Print name:

Date:

¹ Direct transport to receiving company