



United States
Department of
Agriculture

June 17, 2002

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Subject: Cancellation of Commercial Import Permits for Ruminant Materials Originating in Countries Considered to be Affected With or Have a Significant Risk Associated With Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE)

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

To: Importers, Brokers, and Other Interested Parties

Veterinary Services

National Center for
Import and Export

Products Program

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The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has been working diligently to prevent the introduction of BSE into the United States. As you are probably aware, several emergency measures have been taken to prevent introduction of this disease into the United States. The National Center for Import and Export has already implemented protective measures for the importation of all processed animal protein products from countries affected with BSE.

Restrictions on the importation of ruminants, meat and meat products from ruminants, and certain other ruminant products, due to BSE, were made effective December 12, 1997. The regulations found in Chapter 9 of the *Code of Federal Regulations*, section 95.4, published August 14, 2001, describe the restrictions on the importation of processed animal protein, offal, tankage, fat, glands, certain tallow and other than tallow derivatives, and serum due to BSE.

These various regulations specifically prohibit the importation of ruminant products used in many of the commercial medias, extracts, reagents, antisera, etc., for in vivo or in vitro use. Therefore, we will be cancelling a number of import permits that have been issued for such products. There will be a 3-month grace period, (beginning June 30, 2002, and ending September 30, 2002) to allow for re-sourcing of material.

Please submit any "re-sourcing" requests through our permit amendment or renewal process. Please mail or fax a copy of your permit with the proposed changes described on separate stationary, or complete your request on-line at our permit application web site, which is: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/ncie>.

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