

2.1 Policy

Statutory Authority

1. Enabling legislation is the *Health of Animals Act* and *Regulations*. Current versions of the legislation as well as any recent amendments are found on the CFIA's Web site: (www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/rege.shtml.) BSE is listed as a reportable disease in the *Reportable Diseases Regulations*, which are prescribed pursuant to section 2 of the *Health of Animals Act*. Any person suspecting an animal of demonstrating signs consistent with BSE must therefore report the animal to a CFIA veterinarian at the nearest district office. (<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/offbure.shtml>) Failure to report such a disease is punishable by fines not to exceed \$250,000.00 or two years imprisonment.

The definition of prohibited material for feeding to ruminants, requirements for feed labelling, and record keeping requirements are detailed in Part XIV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

The enabling legislation for SRM removal is both the *Food and Drug Regulations* and the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

Policy Statement

2. In 1997, to prevent the potential transmission and amplification of the BSE agent, Canada banned the feeding of rendered protein products (other than milk, blood, gelatin or rendered animal fat) from ruminant animals (cattle, sheep, goats, bison, elk or deer) to other ruminants.

Upon the detection of BSE, Canada's primary strategy for eliminating BSE infected animals to avoid further challenge to the human food and animal feed chains is stamping out pursuant to Section 48 of the *Health of Animals Act*.

Principles for Control and Eradication

3. The characteristics of the disease, specifically the primary route of transmission being feed, and the OIE requirements establish the strategic framework for control and eradication of BSE in Canada. This strategy includes the following elements:
 - Identification of the probable source of BSE agent;
 - Quarantine, destruction and testing of the clinically affected animals;
 - Quarantine, destruction and appropriate disposal of the carcasses from the clinically affected animals to prevent their entry into the food or feed chain;
 - Identification, quarantine, destruction and testing of the equivalent risk animals*;
 - Quarantine, destruction and appropriate disposal of the carcasses of positive equivalent risk animals to prevent their entry into the food or feed chain.

** In exceptional circumstances, equivalent risk animals will be quarantined for an extended period until destroyed and tested.*

These components form the foundation of the response strategy and will be implemented regardless of whether the affected animal is imported or indigenous.

Case Definition 4. A bovine exhibiting all of the following signs upon clinical examination must be classified as a **BSE suspect** case and all diagnostic samples collected must be submitted as confirmatory negative. Such an animal is:

- BSE Suspect*
- appropriate age (approximately 24 months of age or older)
 - in poor body condition
 - ataxic (difficulty turning, falls)
 - exhibiting an abnormal head carriage
 - nervous
 - apprehensive
 - exhibiting hyperaesthesia and tremors.

Inconclusive An inconclusive BSE test is a sample submitted to a non CFIA TSE laboratory which is non negative on the preliminary screening tests.

Non Negative A BSE **non negative** is a sample submitted to a CFIA lab (usually Winnipeg) which is non negative on the preliminary screening tests.

Confirmed BSE Positive A **confirmed BSE positive** is a brain sample submitted to the National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NC-FAD) in Winnipeg, Manitoba, or other internationally recognized BSE reference laboratory which tests positive by immunohistochemistry.

BSE Equivalent Risk Animals See 3.3 Premises Control Actions.