

This is a provisional English translation of an excerpt from the original full report.

Risk Assessment Report

Meat and offal of cattle, goats and sheep imported from Spain to Japan (Prions)

Food Safety Commission of Japan (FSCJ)
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ABSTRACT

FSCJ was requested by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) to conduct a risk assessment of meat and offal of cattle, sheep and goats imported from Spain. Using reference materials and documents submitted by the MHLW regarding the BSE situation in Spain, FSCJ assessed the risk of the BSE agent in cattle meat and offal from Spain in relation to such border measures as restriction of cattle age and definition of Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) as well as the risk of the BSE agent in goats and sheep in relation to border measures such as definition of SRMs.

The result of the risk assessment is summarized as follows.

① Cattle meat and offal

Considering comprehensively available evidence, FSCJ reached the following conclusions on the restriction of cattle age and definition of SRMs for meat and offal (excluding tonsils and distal ileum) derived from cattle. The conclusion was reached using the same assessment approach as the FSCJ's risk assessment, "Consideration of risk variations in Japan derived from the proposed revisions of the current countermeasures against BSE", compiled in October 2012.

(a) Restriction of cattle age

A difference between the following two border measures would be extremely small in the risk to human health. One is "the ban on import" and the other is setting the age threshold* for import at "30 months". Therefore, the effect on human health of the change of the border measure from the former to the latter is negligible.

*Age threshold means the limit of age of cattle from which meat and offal are derived.

(b) Definition of SRMs

A difference between the following two border measures would be extremely small in the risk to human health. One is "the ban on import" and the other is the import of the products containing no SRMs that are defined as "tonsils and ileum (limited to the part of two meters from the junction to the caecum) from all ages and head (excluding the tongue, cheek meat, hides/skins and tonsils), spinal cord and vertebral column from the cattle aged over 30 months". Therefore, the effect on human health of the change of the border measure from the former to the latter is negligible.

② Meat and offal of goats and sheep

Considering comprehensively available evidence, FSCJ reached the following conclusions using the same assessment approach as the FSCJ's risk assessment, "Revised countermeasures against BSE in sheep and goats", compiled in January 2016.

A difference between the following two border measures would be extremely small in the risk to human health. One is "the ban on import" and the other is the import of the products containing head (including tonsils but excluding tongue, cheek meat, hides/skins) and vertebrae column of the sheep and goats aged over 12 months as well as spleen and ileum of all ages. Therefore, the effect on human health of the change of the border measure from the former to the latter is negligible.