



World Renderers Organization Defends International Trade of Rendered Products

The World Organization for Animal Health, formerly the Office International des Epizooties (OIE), is recognized around the world as the body to determine recommended rules to protect animal health. The World Renderers Organization is an active participant in OIE developments to protect the interests of renderers worldwide.

In 2021, a proposal on highly pathogenic avian influenza was adopted at the OIE general session with important adjustments for the global trade of rendered animal products. The classification of rendered products as “safe commodities” in Article 10.4. is remarkable. Not only is the process safe in terms of viral deactivation, but the influenza virus also loses its viability in a few days when exposed to animal protein meals and fats.

Therefore, the OIE recommendation is there should not be any kind of international trade barrier for animal meals and fats, regardless of the country’s HPAI status, as the commodities are safe. Detailed information can be found at: https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/standards/codes-and-manuals/terrestrial-code-online-access/?id=169&L=1&htmlfile=chapitre_avian_influenza_viruses.htm.

This was an important achievement for the WRO, which had presented a literature review on the subject to the Terrestrial Animal Health Standard Commission of OIE.

There was a foot-and-mouth disease proposal in 2020, not voted on 2021, which will remain in consultation this year among member countries. While other points are under discussion, the current understanding is that animal protein meals should be classified as safe commodities for

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international trade in the face of FMD as well. Details can be read in the proposed Article 8.8.1bis: <https://www.oie.int/app/uploads/2021/11/a-tahsc-sept-2021-part-b-1.pdf>. WRO supports this understanding and looks forward to this chapter being put to a vote at the OIE general session in 2023.

If OIE accepts that animal protein meals are safe commodities at the 2023 general session, it will again be a great and important step forward, ensuring more stability to the international trade of rendered products worldwide.

When it comes to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, the perception is not as positive as in the cases of avian influenza and FMD. WRO has argued against many of the points proposed by TAHSC and requesting, through official channels, necessary adjustments to proposals for changes in chapters 11.4 and 1.8. There was great concern about the February 2021 report from TAHSC, leading WRO to issue a call to action to our members in March 2021 and generating a technical and scientific argument to support their countries’ veterinary-health authorities to oppose the suggested BSE chapters.

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However, when the September report was released, despite some improvement, they had not accepted key points from the animal rendering sector. Of concern is TAHS reported the proposal will go to the OIE general session for a vote this May, shortening the deadline for discussion and changes. For this reason, WRO officially requested, and was granted, a virtual meeting with TAHS.

On Jan. 16, a virtual meeting with OIE took place where I represented WRO as president, together with: Martin Alm (Germany), David Meeker and Doyle Leefers (U.S.), Fernando Mendizabal and Joaquim Degadillo (Mexico), Damian Evans (Australia), Lars Krause-Kjær (Denmark) and Graham Clarke (Canada), all speaking as WRO and on behalf of their national associations.

On behalf of OIE were Dr. Montserrat Arroyo Kuribreña, deputy director general of international standards and science and Dr. Gillian Mylrea, head of the standards department, accompanied by Drs. Francisco D’Alessio and Yukitake Okamura from TAHS. After almost two hours, WRO was able to present all the points on which we strongly believe could have a negative impact on rendering cattle by-products in all exporting countries.

Main Change Proposed by TAHS Regarding BSE

TAHS is proposing new restrictions for negligible risk countries (NRC) by establishing a “new feed-banned specified risk material, or SRM,” to the international trade. The main differences between the current rule and the proposed rule for NRCs are in the following table:

NRC with No Classical BSE (Existing Code)	NRC with Classical BSE (Existing Code)	All NRC (New Proposed Code)
No restrictions	Products must be free of cattle born before the “feed ban”	Products* must be free of** - Distal ileum of cattle of any age. - Skull, brain, eyes, vertebral column and medulla of bovines that are more than 30 months old at slaughter. - Commodities derived from cattle born before the date when the risk to BSE agents (classical and atypical) within the cattle population has been demonstrated to be negligible.

* The products are animal protein meals, food, feed, fertilizers, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, including biologicals or medical devices.
 ** This is the “new feed-banned SRM”

If this proposal is accepted as is, even a country with negligible risk would have to be free of this new list of SRM to be allowed to trade their rendered products. This new list is not in the OIE Codes nor in any country legislation with negligible risk WRO is aware of. This change has been proposed due to two TAHS understandings that WRO tried to tackle at this meeting:

1. That the term “BSE agents” in the proposed chapter will include prions from classical BSE and both atypical (L and H) BSE. The BSE Ad Hoc Group of TAHS is proposing there is a theoretical amplification risk in relation to atypical prions, in particular the “L” BSE type by oral exposure (feeding) of the cattle. But WRO disagrees with this understanding and grounded its position to the OIE-based scientific and industry data presented in the virtual meeting:

- Cattle were commonly fed ruminant protein for decades before the BSE crisis, which likely contained atypical prions of BSE, and prion amplification did not even though the average age of cattle at slaughter was older than today and no removal of SRM was performed.

We do not know of any country that takes preventive measures specifically designed for atypical BSE.

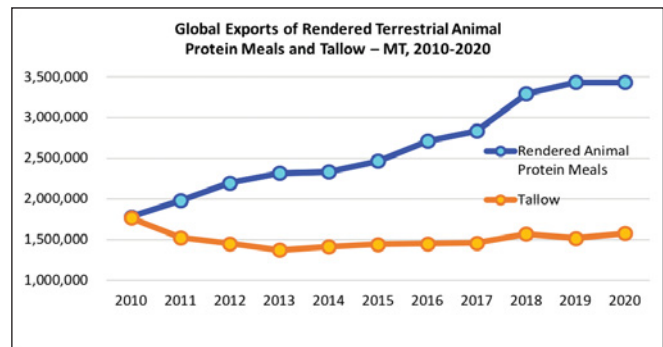
- WRO is not aware of any epidemiological field study on atypical BSE amplification, nor did the report presented by BAG mention any study in this regard.
- A well-known scientific article, which reported an atypical BSE prion inoculation challenge test, stated that “our results suggest that the risk of oral transmission of L-BSE among cattle may be very low ... the only case of transmission occurred in a cow that had been inoculated with a high dose of L-BSE-infected brain homogenate” (Okada et al, 2017).
- The rendering process has a high dilution potential – considering the findings of Okada et al, 2017, WRO questioned why BAG did not consider the rendering process of meals and fats as a valid tool for mitigating risk of amplification for prions of BSE L-atypical.
- Most countries, when adopting classical BSE control measures (feed ban, ante-mortem examination, surveillance system, removal of the brain and spinal cord at slaughter, among others), will exponentially reduce the possibility that cattle will be exposed to a dose capable of contaminating cattle with atypical L-BSE prion.
- The fact is, at that moment, no cases of atypical BSE amplification have been reported.

WRO hopes to have demonstrated to OIE the qualitative evidence is clear in endorsing that the existing OIE rules are highly effective in mitigating an unlikely risk of atypical BSE prion amplification, and it has never occurred in the field, concluding that the proposed changes are not justified.

2. Some of the newly banned SRM materials for international trade are classified as food grade.

BAG is proposing animal protein meal and other ruminant by-products, such as fertilizers, cosmetics and other goods, should not be traded. During the meeting with the OIE, WRO reported:

- From 2010 to 2020, approximately 28.8 billion kilograms of terrestrial animal meals and 16.6 billion kilograms of tallow were sold internationally (see graphic). Just for reference, the nearly 29 trillion kilograms of land animal meals represents about 10% more protein than the combined soybean-meal exports of the U.S. and Brazil in 2020.



- All traded rendered products now in full compliance with the existing Terrestrial Animal Health Code would be unlikely to comply with the “new feed-banned SRM” list for international trade proposed by BAG.
- Assumptions made by BAG in last September’s report about export certificates are likely to be true for edible

meat, but not true for rendered animal proteins and fats.

- WRO has no evidence of any international health certificate that would comply with the new rule proposed to the “new feed-banned SRM” from international trade.
- WRO is not aware of any OIE member country that has an official and operational tracking system capable of proving the processed raw material is free of the “new feed-banned SRM” for the internationally traded product, at all collection points (retail establishments or meatpackers), since probably some of these materials will be classified as “fit for human consumption” and sold in the local market.
- The rendering sector is usually a decentralized operation, collecting raw material from a wide area and at several collection sites, ensuring the safer destination for animal by-products. WRO does not foresee how any country could develop and operate a tracking system capable of confirming the absence of the “new feed-banned SRM” for international trade, proposed by BAG.

The BSE cases reported by OIE members show the mitigating measures adopted are adequate. In particular, the feed ban recommended by the OIE and practiced by all OIE member countries is working very well. International trade of rendered products should not be subjected to any restrictions without a robust scientific and epidemiological study and widely accepted by the scientific community.

Again, no case of classical or atypical BSE amplification has ever been associated with any rendered by-product traded internationally since the BSE outbreak.

WRO hopes to have demonstrated to OIE quantitative evidence that existing OIE rules are highly effective in mitigating the amplification risk of both classical and atypical BSE, and that nothing supports the proposed changes in the proposed chapters.

Despite the progress achieved with the HPAI chapter and with the likely advance in the FMD chapter, the possible impacts caused by the proposed changes to the TAHC for BSE have the potential to obliterate previous advances, causing a severe interruption in the flow of these products on a global scale.

WRO has been taking all necessary preventive measures to avoid this possible impact, repeatedly asking BAG to reconsider Chapter 11.4. and 1.8. WRO has been working intensively, prior to the May 2022 OIE general session, where country members will be allowed to approve or deny the proposed new BSE chapters 11.4. and 1.8.

For the greater good of our entire industry around the globe, WRO will stay alert, hoping that BAG heard our arguments and will review its position, making the necessary adjustments to the text before the voting in May.

If BAG does not change its understanding and maintains its recommendations, the only “solution” we envision to avoid a huge damage to international trade in the sector, is that all WRO members must convince their veterinary-health authorities to disapprove the changes proposed during the upcoming OIE general session.

Only with the support and action of all WRO members by convincing their national authorities, will we prevent these unwanted and unneeded changes in the TAHC regarding the BSE chapters. **R**

// THE NEW BENCHMARK IN RENDERING – SP280R.

- Raw material, slaughterhouse waste and animal carcasses: 14-17 mt/h
- Dried semi-finished product: 5.3 – 6.5 mt/h
- Total length screw press: 205 Inch
- Total width screw press: 70 Inch
- Total length strainer cage: 110 Inch
- Main drive motor: 160-200 kW
- Total net weight: 16.00 mt

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Optional with foots shearing device inclusive hydraulic unit
- Press frame available in stainless steel

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