BEEF CARCASS RECEIVING AND FABRICATION STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) FOR CONTROL OF SPECIFIED RISK MATERIALS (SRMs)

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This document is to be used as an example of an SOP for control SRMs in a Fabrication operation, in accordance with USDA-FSIS Notices 4-04 and 5-04. Each operation should modify this document or create a new SOP according to the in-plant operations

Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) in Fabrication

SRM are prohibited for use as human food. They are designated in 9 CFR 310.22(a) as:

- Spinal cord, vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum), and dorsal root ganglia (DRG) of cattle ≥30 months of age.

Receiving Beef Carcasses From Outside Establishments

Procedures:

1. Beef carcasses arriving from outside establishments will have carcass identification and documentation of the age of the live animal upon arrival.
2. Beef carcasses will receive proper in-house carcass identification.
3. Beef carcasses of will receive proper in-house age tags to identify them as <30 months old or ≥ 30 months old, or the vertebral column of carcasses ≥ 30 months old will be marked with edible marking ink.
4. If no records are available, at arrival, for a beef carcass(s), the carcasses will be tagged with the proper in-house tags to identify them as ≥ 30 months old. If records are received for these carcasses the same day and document them as < 30 months, the tags will be replaced with the < 30 months carcass tags.

Fabrication of Beef Carcasses of ≥ 30 Months Old Animals

Procedures:

1. Beef carcasses of ≥ 30 months old animals will be fabricated after beef carcasses of < 30 months old animals. If possible beef carcasses of ≥ 30 months old animals will be fabricated on separate days.
2. The vertebral column (excluding the vertebrae of the tail, the transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, and the wings of the sacrum) will be removed during the fabrication process
3. Sanitation of equipment at the end of the day will be conducted in accordance with the plant's SSOPs.
    a. If beef carcasses of ≥ 30 months old animals are fabricated before beef carcasses of < 30 months old animals, fabrication operators will clean and sanitize equipment used to cut through SRMs* before fabricating beef carcasses of < 30 months old animals. The equipment will be rinsed free of organic materials with hot water. The equipment will then be dipped in the sterilizer or sprayed with the plant's sanitizing solution.

* As stated in FSIS Notice 10-04, this equipment need not be cleaned to a pre-operational state before sanitizing. The organic materials must be removed to ensure adequate sanitization.

Monitoring:

- Records of control procedures will be collected by the Fabrication manager or designee.
- Records will be a visual observation of the SRMs control procedure to ensure proper performance.
- Visual observation will be conducted once per day on days carcasses are received.
- Visual observation will be conducted once per day on days carcasses are fabricated.

Corrective Actions:

1. If carcasses at receiving do not have identification and/or age documentation, the supplier will be notified in writing of the plant's identification and age documentation requirements.
2. If carcasses are not properly identified in the cooler, fabrication operators will be retrained in proper SRMs control procedures.
3. If SRMs are not properly removed during fabrication, fabrication operators will be retrained in proper SRMs control procedures.

Records:

- Beef Carcass Receiving SRMs Control Log
- Beef Carcass ≥ 30 Months Fabrication SRMs Control Log

Carcass Receiving SOP (SRMs) LOG

Date	Received Carcass ID	Classification		In-house Identification	Carcass Age Identification	Monitor (time/initials)
		< 30 Months	≥ 30 Months			

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BEEF CARCASS ≥ 30 MONTHS FABRICATION SOP (SRMs) LOG

Date	Age Identification	SRMs Disposal	SRM Sanitation	Monitor (initials/time)

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