

BSE GUIDELINES FOR CUSTOM ESTABLISHMENTS

1. **Non-ambulatory disabled cattle**= mature cattle and calves that cannot walk into the ante-mortem area on its own; includes metabolic disease, broken limbs, broken back, ruptured tendons, etc
2. All non-ambulatory disabled cattle are considered adulterated, therefore all Custom Exempt, USDA and State Inspected establishments are subject to the ban on slaughter and processing of non-ambulatory disabled cattle.
3. Carcasses from all non-ambulatory disabled cattle must be denatured, and rendered as inedible, or composted. Testing of non-ambulatory disabled cattle for BSE is recommended. Contact the Maine Division of Animal Health, 287-3701.
4. **Cattle**, that are **certified to be ambulatory**, killed on the farm by the animal's owner, presented to a custom-exempt establishment in a condition ready for skinning, evisceration, and processing, **will be allowed to be processed**.
5. **Specified Risk Material (SRMs)**- must be removed from every carcass, either custom or inspected, then denatured, and rendered as inedible, or composted.
 - Specified risk material from all cattle:
 - Tonsils
 - Small intestines
 - Specified Risk Material from cattle 30 months of age or older
 - Tonsils
 - Small intestines
 - Brain
 - Skull
 - Trigeminal ganglia
 - Eyes
 - Spinal cord
 - Dorsal root ganglia (DRG)
 - Vertebral Column (excluding: transverse processes of the thoracic and lumbar vertebrae, wings of the sacrum, vertebrae of the tail; the "T" portion of the T-Bone, Porterhouse for example would be inedible, but the rest of the cut can be used)
6. Splitting saw must be sterilized after every carcass.
7. The vertebral column from cattle 30 months of age or older can be removed on the kill floor, or in processing area. If it is not removed on the kill floor, the carcass has to be identified as 30 months of age or older, and segregated from carcasses 29 months of age or younger in the cooler. Meat can be de-boned off the vertebral column as boneless cuts in lieu of using the band saw at processing to remove the vertebral column.
8. Any saws used to remove the vertebral column must be completely washed and sanitized before further use.
9. Tongues must be cut short enough as to not include tonsillar tissue on all ages.
10. Any non-compliance to these rules will precipitate immediate Detention and Seizure proceedings.