



## **UTM Slaughterhouse**

There are three categories of bovine animals over 24 months of age and not more than 30 months of age that are slaughtered for human consumption which must be tested, these are:

1. Casualty animals slaughtered on-farm.
2. Casualty animals slaughtered in the plant.
3. Suspect bovines following ante-mortem inspection - animals suspected by the Veterinary Officer of being affected by zoonotic disease or having symptoms of a systemic disease or disorder or having had substances with pharmacological effects administered (except in certain cases where animals originate from herds which are residue sampled due to suspicion of use of growth promoting substances) or consumed substances which may make the meat harmful. These animals must also undergo detailed post mortem inspection and/or appropriate bacteriological examination and/or residue testing as required by Directive 64/433/EEC.

Category 3 above should include any animal which appears to be sick or injured but should not include those with very localised lesions such as lameness due to a lesion below the carpal / tarsal joints or localised swellings with no systemic effects. Animals with broken limbs and other serious injuries must be included as the clinical effects of BSE make such injuries more likely.

Cattle in the categories above which are more than 24 months of age at slaughter must have the brainstem sampled by a meat plant operative following normal post mortem inspection. Two training courses for meat plant staff on sampling brainstems were run on 18/9/03 and 11/11/03 at Lisburn Proteins. The brainstem must be placed into a sample jar (the outside of the jar should be cleaned if necessary) and the kill number written on the top and side of the jar.. The tag number of the animal should be written on a clean blank label which is then stuck onto the jar. This may happen at a different location in the plant to the sampling point. The jar should then be placed inside one and then another plastic bag.

The equipment used to take the sample (spoon, forceps, scalpel) shall be provided by the Meat Inspection Team to the plant operatives until such time as the Plants are taking samples from Over Thirty Month animals. These can be ordered by the MIT through VS staff at Lisburn Proteins (ph 92 622285).

The meat plant operative should then package the sample for dispatch (ie place jar in plastic bag and then in box provided by VS MIT, complete paperwork – (place copy in plastic bag in box and retain copy for records), ensure box is labelled and sealed, and place box at agreed courier pick up point.

Information (animal details and dispatch details) must be faxed by meat plant staff to VS staff at Lisburn Proteins (fax 92622747) to enable an electronic upload of the sample details to go to VSD. The form should then accompany the sample to Veterinary Sciences Division in Stoney Road, Belfast and a copy of this form should be given to VS staff. Special containers for TSE samples are in the process of being ordered and, when they arrive, should be used to place the plastic bag containing the brainstem sample into. The sample should be dispatched to VSD by the meat plant staff using the daily courier service for DARD (Hayes-DX). Meat

Plant staff retain the responsibility for the transport of samples to the lab and will be held accountable if any samples are not received by the lab.

The carcass and all other material, including the hide, from the animal to be tested must be prevented from entering the human and animal food chains until a negative result has been received for the BSE test. There are two possibilities for the by-products:

- i) All edible offal, by-products, fat, trims and hide can be detained until there is a negative result to the test.
- ii) If it is not convenient to detain the edible offal and by-products, etc. they can be dispatched with the SRM for rendering and burial. The hide should not normally be dispatched for rendering without the authority of the rendering plant, therefore it must be detained at the slaughterhouse pending the result of the test.

Where the carcass is dressed separately from other carcasses then it is necessary to detain only the carcass which is being tested for BSE. Separately means in a casualty bay away from possible contact with other carcasses or on the line with one empty space before and two after the carcass to be tested. Operatives should use the period available after dressing the carcass for testing to clean and sterilise their equipment, and clean hands and aprons. The offal and by-products etc. from the carcass for testing should be removed and detained / treated as SRM without coming into contact with other material for human or animal consumption.

If no space is left on the line then the carcass before and the two carcasses after the carcass for testing must be detained pending the result of the test. The offal and by-products from these additional carcasses must be detained or disposed of as SRM.

The carcass for testing must be detained in such a way that it does not come into contact with other carcasses. Any additional detained carcasses must be separate from the carcass for testing and from other carcasses.

### Health Mark

The health mark must **not** be applied to the carcass pending the result of the test. Only when a negative test result has been obtained can the health mark be applied.

### Blood

Animals in category 1 will have been killed and bled on farm therefore blood will not be an issue.

Animals in categories 2 and 3 will be bled on line and it is necessary to control this blood. Given the small number of animals in this category, the blood should be caught in a leak proof receptacle at the bleeding area and disposed of into the SRM skip (there will continue to be blood drip during processing but as much blood as is reasonable should be controlled at sticking). If mixed with other blood all the blood must be treated as SRM or retained until there is a negative result then released.

### Detention / Release and Seizure Documents

1. Carcasses and other material must be detained using FSO 17A-1 or FSO 02. These can be issued by VO, SMI or MI.

2. When negative results are received the carcasses and other material are released using FSO 19A or FSO 03 respectively. On this you must state that a result has been obtained. Form FSO 19A can be issued only by the VO. Form FSO 03 can be issued by VO, SMI or MI.
3. Where there is a positive / inconclusive or no result (the latter can happen for a variety of reasons) then an FSO 04 must be issued to seize the carcasses and any other material (offal, hide, etc) which has been retained. This can be issued only by the VO and opens the way for FSO 01 (voluntary surrender) or FSO 05 (JP procedure).

All FSO documents can be found on the Veterinary Service Intranet in Meat Hygiene Section folder, Forms folder, FSO Enforcement folder in which there is a list of all the FSO documents from which the appropriate word document icon is selected.

### Owner compensation

There is no established mechanism for payment of compensation when a positive, inconclusive or no result status is confirmed. Where an owner wishes to apply for compensation they should be advised to write to TSE Branch, Room 714, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3SB in the first instance giving details of the animal, its weight at slaughter, value and the circumstances with a request for compensation.

**Note** that the CVO has written to PVPs advising that DARD will not pay compensation in the case of animals shot with a shotgun from which a suitable brain sample cannot be taken.

Also **note** that the operators of meat plants were written to on 09/07/04 and told that the responsibility for the carriage of BSE samples to VSD will transfer to the plants from the 14/07/04.

### Dead on Arrival and Dead in Pen animals

Where such animals are more than 24 months of age then the whole cadaver must be collected and transported to Ulster Farm By-Products, Glenavy where the appropriate samples will be collected for BSE testing as for any fallen animal. Collection of the cadaver can be arranged by telephoning Lisburn Proteins, 028 92621441 with details of the animal, the owner and where it can be collected (this is the responsibility of the owner / haulier / plant management). Disposal of animals aged less than 24 months is the responsibility of the owner.

### **Test Result**

#### Negative result

Vet Service HQ will advise the VO / MI team and plant management of a negative result by e-mail / fax following which the carcase(s) and all detained material can be released.

Eartag numbers and kill numbers should be cross-checked pre-release of detained material.

#### Positive/Inconclusive/No result

Should there be a positive / inconclusive or no result to the screening Biorad test, Vet Service HQ will advise the VO / MI team.

Where there is no result the carcase and other detained material must be seized using documents outlined above and disposed of as SRM.

Eartag numbers and kill numbers should be cross-checked pre-seizure of detained material.

If the screening test result is positive / inconclusive, Vet Service HQ will instruct the VO / MI team on arrangements for the seizure and disposal by incineration of the detained carcass(es), hide and other detained material.

Queries may be directed to TSE Branch ph 90-524642.

#### REPORTS

A weekly report on TSE sampling, including nil returns, must be made to Norma Beck (TSE Division) by e-mail using the attached form TSE/UTM/WK1.

**UNDER THIRTY MONTHS**

**TSE/UTM/WK1**

**Weekly Report on TSE sampling at**

**Week Ended**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Totals
Number of cattle am findings <sup>1</sup>						
Number of casualty cattle <sup>2</sup>						
Number of SES <sup>3</sup>						
Total samples taken						
Total missed						
Total No of hides detained <sup>4</sup>						
Hides not identified						
Negative results	Number					
	Date received					

**Comments**

<sup>1</sup> Enter only 24 - 30 month cattle requiring TSE sampling
<sup>2</sup> Enter only Schedule 18 animals
<sup>3</sup> Enter only Schedule 19 animals
<sup>4</sup> Hides from sampled 24 - 30 month animals must be detained pending a negative TSE test result

## **OTMS slaughterhouse**

The following categories of OTMS bovines must be sampled for BSE testing:

1. OTMS on farm slaughter casualties (at Lisburn Proteins)
2. OTMS bovines showing problems at ante-mortem inspection (equivalent to ii above).
3. OTM bovines born on or after 1-8-1996 and aged more than 42 months of age (Survey animals)
4. OTMS bovines – random selection

**Note:** Some animals will fall into more than one category – see later instruction.

### **1. OTMS casualties**

Category 1 animals will not normally be present in OTMS slaughterhouses as they are sent to Lisburn Proteins where the heads are removed and samples collected.

“Dead on arrival” and “Dead in pen” animals which are not therefore eligible for the OTMS must be dealt with as per the OTMS staff instructions, i.e. the whole cadaver treated as that of a fallen animal and sent to UFBP, Glenavy where a brain sample will be collected for testing. The ear tag(s) must be left intact in the ear and no paper work is necessary). Collection and transport to UFBP, Glenavy will be arranged by telephoning Lisburn Proteins 028 92621441 with details of the animal, the owner and where it can be collected (this is the responsibility of the owner / haulier / plant management).

A weekly report on TSE sampling at Lisburn Proteins and UFBP Glenavy, including nil returns, must be made to Norma Beck (TSE Division) by e-mail using the attached form TSE/CAS&FAL/WK1.

### **2. OTMS Ante-mortem problems**

There will be category 2 and 3 animals identified during the ante-mortem inspection. The same criteria apply to the selection of OTM animals for testing under this category. Residues are not a consideration in relation to eligibility for the OTMS but where you are aware that an animal has been treated for clinical disease and those drugs are still effective then the head should be collected for testing.

It will **not** be necessary to dress these animals separately from other OTMS animals or collect blood separately as all material will eventually be incinerated. (See note on hides in section 3.)

The heads of these animals must be identified and brainstem sampled by meat plant staff. SSI forms and sampling team documentation should be retained by the meat plant and VS staff as well as copies of sample results.

### **3. OTMS Survey animals**

The Survey animals will form the largest and continually expanding category of animals for head collection and sampling. This is an extension of the Window animals that were sampled previously.

The plant management in each OTM plant have produced a protocol for the brainstem sampling of heads by meat plant staff. This protocol should be reviewed periodically.

## Procedure

The following is a brief outline of how the system will work for the information of staff who will be involved, admin staff in the lairage, AHWIs and the Meat Inspection team.

- i) APHIS will identify Survey animals when the MC2 / MC2L is presented for checking with an indicator, “BSE H”
- ii) The Survey animals will be highlighted on the MC2 / MC2L and “BSE H” written at the end of the row containing the details of the animal. The kill number is added as usual at the chute.
- iii) Survey animals will be identified at the chute in line with the protocol agreed in the slaughterhouse. Putting animals for head collection in a separate pen and putting them up the line in batches has proved to be the most secure way to ensure that a minimum number of samples are missed. Additional identification can be applied to these animals to ensure that both the head and carcass remain identifiable after separation.
- iv) Trained meat plant staff will mark the kill number on the top and side of the jar, take the samples, apply the correct label as printed from APHIS to the jar and package the samples, as per individual plant protocols. They will transfer the packaged samples to the dispatch area and refrigerate samples that will not be dispatched to the testing laboratory that day.
- v) COGNOS reports listing all BSE H (Survey) and BSE J (Cohorts) animals slaughtered on that day must be printed from APHIS. This will give the ear tag number and other details of each of the animals falling into this category. Sampling team documentation should be retained by the meat plant and VS staff as well as copies of sample results.
- vii) Hides should be categorised on a daily basis into 3 groups: firstly, ineligible hides (DOB pre 01/08/96); secondly, survey animals; and thirdly ante-mortem failures and randoms.
- viii) VS staff will notify test results to plant staff as soon as possible after receipt. Hides should be released on receipt of negative results as per plant protocols.

#### 4. OTMS Random animals

In addition to the above categories a number of animals at OTMS plants must be selected at random for head collection and sampling. The sampling regime will be monitored by HQ DVO for TSEs to see whether expected targets are being reached and will be reviewed in the case of any shortfall/excess.

The random animals will be selected by the plant VO/ AHWI. All the Random animals must be selected from animals born prior to 1<sup>st</sup> August 1996. The current rate is to be set at 20 random samples per week per OTM plant. The VO/AHWI should take account of the presenting herd number, the time of day and any other factors in order to maximise the randomness of the survey.

The MC2/2L should be noted “Random” once an animal has been selected for sampling. The random animals will be identified at the chute in line with the protocol agreed at the slaughterhouse. Then continue as per the Survey category above, except for the COGNOS report.

SSI forms, detailing the animals selected at random, must be retained by the sampling team and VS staff. Sampling team documentation should be retained by the meat plant and VS staff as well as copies of sample results.

A weekly report on TSE sampling, including nil returns, must be made to Norma Beck (TSE Division) by e-mail using the attached form TSE/OTM/WK1.

---

**Please note:** Some animals will fall into more than one category. In particular some ante-mortem failure animals will also be Survey animals. Where an animal falls into both categories, Ante Mortem Failure is the category that the sample should be collected under. However any significant ante and post mortem observations should be noted and passed to the investigating VO should the BSE test prove positive.

**OVER THIRTY MONTHS**

**TSE/OTM/WK1**

**Weekly Report on TSE sampling at**

**Week Ended**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Totals
No of BSE H samples required (COGNOS)						
No of BSE H samples taken (tray sheets)						
No of BSE H samples missed						
BSE J samples required						
BSE J samples taken						
BSE J samples missed						
<b><i>No of BSE H+J hides detained</i></b>						
No of Random samples required (SSI forms)						
No of Random samples taken (tray sheets)						
No of Random samples missed						
<b><i>No of Random hides detained</i></b>						
No of OTMAMF samples required (SSI forms)						
No of OTMAMF samples taken (tray sheets)						
No of OTMAMF samples missed						
<u>No of OTMAMF hides detained</u>						
Samples from BR animals not taken						
Total samples taken						
Total missed						
Total No of hides detained						
Hides not identified (OTMAMF and Random only)						
Negative results	Number					
	Date received					
<b><u>H&amp;S Supervision</u></b>						
Comments						

**WEEKLY REPORT ON TSE SAMPLING AT LISBURN PROTEINS AND GLENAVY**

**TSE/CAS&FAL/WK1**

**W/C**

<b>OTMS CASUALTIES SLAUGHTERED ON FARM</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>TOTAL S</b>
No of OTM Casualties Samples Taken							0
No of OTM Casualties Samples Missed							0
Reason for Missed Samples							0
<b>FALLEN STOCK AGED 24 - 30 MONTHS</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>TOTAL S</b>
No of Samples Taken							0
No of Samples Missed							0
Reason for Missed Samples							0
<b>FALLEN STOCK AGED 30+ MONTHS</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>TOTAL S</b>
No of OTM Fallen Samples Taken							0
No of OTM Fallen Samples Missed							0
Reason for Missed Samples							0

Main reasons for missed samples are:

- 1 Brain stem absent due to method of slaughter.
- 2 Head not removed due to animal being Br reactor or In contact animal.
- 3 Head not removed due to carcass being badly decomposed.
- 4 Brain stem not present due to decomposed nature of head.