

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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<b>FSIS NOTICE</b>	26-16	4/26/16
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**SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL (SRM) CONTROL VERIFICATION TASK**

**I. PURPOSE**

This notice reissues the content of FSIS Notice 9-15, *Specified Risk Material (SRM) Control Verification Task*, without significant changes. These instructions apply to inspection program personnel (IPP) assigned to beef slaughter establishments and apply to IPP assigned to beef processing establishments that handle SRMs.

**II. BACKGROUND**

A. On October 30, 2013, FSIS published FSIS Notice 70-13, *Specified Risk Material (SRM) Control Verification Task*. This notice instructed IPP to verify that establishments had implemented their SRM programs by performing only the Review and Observation activity in observing the establishment's handling of product.

B. In June of 2014, an establishment recalled bone-in beef products ([FSIS-RC-034-2014](#)) that may have contained SRM (dorsal root ganglia). The recall resulted, in part, from failures in SRM program design and execution.

**III. PERFORMANCE OF THE SRM CONTROL VERIFICATION TASK**

A. When performing the SRM Control Verification Task, IPP are to verify that establishments maintain adequate written SRM procedures and records as well as effectively remove, segregate, and dispose of SRMs. IPP are to verify that records demonstrate carcasses containing SRMs are correctly identified and handled throughout slaughter and fabrication. IPP are to perform this verification activity for a selected lot of product.

B. IPP are to document the SRM Control Verification Task by performing Review and Observation and Record Keeping activities at beef slaughter establishments and at processing establishments that handle SRM.

C. The only SRMs that are permitted to be transported from one federally-inspected facility to another are vertebral columns. 9 CFR 310.22(g) prescribes the conditions under which establishments may ship carcasses or parts that contain vertebral columns from cattle 30 months of age or older to another federally-inspected establishment for further processing. IPP are to verify 9 CFR 310.22(g) compliance as instructed in [FSIS Directive 6100.4](#), *Verification Instructions Related to Specified Risk Materials*.

D. If processing establishments receive product with SRM, IPP are to ensure the SRM Control Verification Task is enabled in the Public Health Information System (PHIS). IPP are to refer to PHIS Quick Reference Guide 12.1 and [FSIS Directive 5300.1](#), *Managing the Establishment Profile in the Public Health Information System (PHIS)*, for information on how to view or edit the establishment task list in the PHIS profile.

E. If processing establishments do not receive product with SRM and maintain an SRM program and records, IPP are to ensure the SRM Control Verification Task is enabled in PHIS and document the SRM Control Verification Task by performing the Record Keeping activity. These establishments may have a program and records used to ensure that purchased beef does not contain SRM.

F. If processing establishments do not receive product with SRM and do not maintain an SRM program and records, IPP are to ensure that the SRM Control Verification Task is disabled in PHIS, and that the SRM Control Verification Task is not performed.

G. If processing establishments begin receiving product with SRM or begin to maintain an SRM program and records, IPP are to ensure that the SRM Control Verification Task is enabled in PHIS, and that the SRM Control Verification Task is performed.

H. IPP are to perform the SRM Control Verification Task approximately once every two weeks on each shift. The inspection team may increase the number of tasks performed by adding Directed tasks to the schedule. IPP are to consider the establishment's SRM compliance history when deciding to perform additional tasks. IPP are to notify their Frontline Supervisor when additional tasks are scheduled.

I. If IPP observe 9 CFR 310.22 noncompliance, IPP are to document the finding in a noncompliance record (NR) and cite all relevant SRM regulations. [FSIS Directive 6100.4](#), *Verification Instructions Related to Specified Risk Materials*, and [FSIS Directive 5000.1](#), *Verifying an Establishment's Food Safety System*, provide instructions for verifying compliance with SRM regulations.

#### IV. DATA ANALYSIS

The Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) assesses industry compliance and policy implementation by analyzing noncompliance reports (NRs) citing noncompliance with 9 CFR 310.22 SRM regulations.

#### V. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Policy Development Staff through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 26-16**  
Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible  
Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu  
Category Field: Select **Regulations/Agency Issuances** from the drop-down menu  
Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** or **International (Import/Export)** from the drop-down menu

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

**NOTE:** Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.



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