

BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)

Communication by Switzerland

The following communication, received on 12 June 2008, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Switzerland.

In one and a half years, no BSE cases in Switzerland

1. In 2007 and the first six months of 2008, for the first time after the outbreak of BSE in our country, no new cases have been detected in Switzerland.
 2. The first case of BSE in Switzerland was reported in 1990. After the outbreak of the epidemic, Switzerland undertook maximum efforts and implemented strict measures for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk mitigation, surveillance and eradication.
 3. Since 1995 the number of new BSE cases in Switzerland decreased dramatically. The measures taken have been proven highly effective; therefore in May 2006 the cattle population in Switzerland was officially classified by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as a country with controlled BSE risk. Thirty-one OIE members are now been recognized as having controlled BSE risk, and ten OIE member countries as having negligible BSE risk.
 4. Based on the OIE. classification "controlled BSE risk" and in accordance with Chapter 2.3.13. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Switzerland requests all trading partners to remove any remaining restrictions on the importation of Swiss cattle and their genetics, meat and meat products.
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