



Notification Number: 1997/867/UK

## The Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997

Date received : 16/12/1997

End of Standstill :

### Message

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DE LA RECHERCHE  
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INSTITUT BELGE DE NORMALISATION,  
ATT. M. CROON

SERVICE DE L'ENERGIE DE L'ETAT, LUXEMBOURG  
ATT. M. J.P. HOFFMANN

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE  
ATT. M. CAVANNA

DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,  
ATT. MRS. B. O'GRADY

GOVERNMENT SERVICE OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, NSAI  
ATT. MR. O. BYRNE

MINISTERIE VAN ECONOMISCHE ZAKEN, (DEPT OR),  
ATT. MR. VAN DER HEIDE

ERHVERVSFREMME STYRELSEN  
INDUSTRIMINISTERIET  
ATT. MR. KELD DYBKJAER

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY  
ATT. MR. Z.P. MAVROUKAS

HELLINIKOS ORG. TYPOPISOES  
ATT. MR. MELAGRAKIS

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER WIRTSCHAFT (BMWI)  
ATT. DR. WINKEL

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER WIRTSCHAFTLICHE ANGELEGENHEITEN  
ATT. ABT I/A/4 FRAU GREGORICH / FRAU HASLINGER-FENZEL

MIN PARA RELACIONES CON LA COMUNIDA



ATT M. LUIS ANTONIO RICO URIOS

INSTITUTO PORTUGUES DA QUALIDADE  
ATT MR. CANDIDO DOS SANTOS, PORTUGAL

KOMMERSKOLLEGIUM  
ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
ATT. MS. NIEMINEN

DGS INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM

REP PERMANENTE ROYAUME UNI

REP PERMANENTE IRLANDE

REP PERMANENTE GRECE

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION  
ATT. MS. BAKKE-D'ALOYA

TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (97) D/53536  
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION  
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO - ILMOITUS  
ANMÄLAN : 97/0867/UK.

FRISTERNE INDLEDES IKKE -KEIN FRISTBEGINN - DOES NOT OPEN THE  
DELAYS - NO ABRE EL PLAZO - N'OUVRE PAS DE DELAIS - NON FA  
DECORRERE LA MORA - GEEN TERMIJNBEGIN - NAO INICIA O PRAZO  
MÄÄRÄAIKA EI ALA TÄSTÄ - INLEDER INGEN FRIST.

- 3B1 : 9703536.EN

**1. Structured Information Line**

TLX 001 IND- 97 0867 UK- EN ----- 971216 --- ---

**2. Member State**

United Kingdom

**3. Department Responsible**

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical  
Regulations



Directorate

**3. Originating Department**

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

**4. Notification Number**

97/0867/UK

**5. Title**

The Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997

**6. Products Concerned**

Specified Risk Material (SRM)

**7. Notification Under Another Act**

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**8. Main Content**

A. This legislation will partly implement the provisions of EC Decision 97/534/EC and will extend UK domestic controls on the use of specified risk material derived from cattle, and on the heads of sheep and goats. The existing prohibition on the sale and use of UK Specified Risk Material (SRM) in food for human consumption will be

extended to cover a wider range of SRM in relation to sheep and goats slaughtered in the UK.

The sale and use in food of SRM and certain products containing or derived from SRM, imported from other Member States and third countries will also be prohibited: the definition of SRM for these purposes is more limited than that applicable to material from animals slaughtered in the UK, and reflects the definition in Commission Decision 97/534.

Also imported SRM The Regulations (together with the Specified Risk Material Order 1997 which is being notified in parallel with this notification) will amend and partially replace the Specified Bovine Material Order 1997 (which came into force on 28 March 1997) and the Heads of Sheep and Goats Order 1996 (which came into force on 15 September 1996).

Controls on the handling, staining, storage, use and disposal of Specified Bovine Material (SBM) have been in place in the UK since 1989. Similar controls on the heads of sheep and goats have been in place since 1996 following scientific advice; these are stained and disposed of in the same way as SBM. These are repeated in these Regulations.



Until now the prohibition on the sale and use of specified material in food for human consumption has applied only to material from cattle, sheep and goats which have died or been slaughtered in the UK; the amending legislation would apply this prohibition equally to imported specified material.

The Department of Agriculture in Northern Ireland (DANI) are to introduce similar legislation. This will be notified in due course.

The UK will fulfil its obligation under Article 12 of Directive 83/189/EEC (as amended) when these Regulations are officially published.

B. The United Kingdom would like to be kept informed by other Member States of their own standards or regulations offering an equivalent level of safety and security.

#### **9. Brief Statement of Grounds**

The introduction of this legislation follows a recommendation earlier this year by the UK Government's independent scientific advisors (the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC)), that early action be taken to introduce tighter controls on the use of SRM (ie those parts of cattle, sheep and goats which are considered to pose a significant risk of infection by a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy), preferably on an EU-wide basis. Commission Decision 97/534/EC was adopted in July 1997. It is due to be applied on 1 January 1998 but introduction of controls may be deferred following failure to agree on a new proposal designed to overcome a number of problems identified since July. (These concerned the effect of the decision on trade with third countries in pharmaceutical and cosmetic products, its effect on certain industries using SRM in processes posing no risk to public health, and the fact that it may cause shortages of essential pharmaceutical products.) The UK considers that, pending the implementation of any replacement Decision, it is necessary for health reasons to implement controls on the lines of the original Decision (though taking into account the Commission's more recent proposals) by the prescribed date. This is partially achieved in this Order.

#### **10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts**

- i. (a) The Specified Risk Material Regulations 1997
- (b) Above replaces amends the text notified in Notification 97/0125/UK
- ii. -

#### **11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

Yes



**12. Grounds for the Emergency**

This measure has been introduced under the emergency procedure in the interest of public health.

**13. Confidentiality**

No

**14. Fiscal measures**

No

C. TROJAN  
COMEUR  
NNNN