

Animal By-Products Regulation 2003

New rules for the storage, collection, treatment and disposal of animal by-products and catering waste are to be implemented as part of the EU Animal By-products Regulation, which came into force on 1 May 2003. The Regulation re-classifies some materials as animal by-products, when previously they were classified as catering waste. Where previously these wastes were disposed of in landfill, the Regulation requires that they are disposed of via one of several approved treatment and disposal routes. This change in definition will mainly affect food manufacturers and food retailers. The Regulation re-classifies some materials as animal by-products, when previously they were classified as catering waste. Where previously these wastes were disposed of in landfill, the Regulation requires that they are disposed of via one of several approved treatment and disposal routes.

The EU legislation is designed to govern health & disposal rules concerning Animal by-Products not intended for human consumption, the Animal by-Products Regulation 2003 came into effect from 1st July 2003.

- The definition and categories of Animal by-Products cover wastes derived from animals, including waste foodstuffs of animal origin, or waste foodstuffs containing products of animal origin.
- Disposal of Animal by-Products are required to be carried out under strictly regulated methods using Incineration, rendering or anaerobic digestion as the disposal options.

Landfill is not an option for Animal by-Products

- Strict record keeping and detailed documentation will be required for all storage, collection and treatment of Animal by-Products, as well as the requirement to clearly label containers and collection / transportation vehicles detailing category of Animal by-Product

and other labelling for each Category as follows;

1. Category 1 'not fit for human consumption'.
2. Category 2 'not for animal consumption' (other than manure and digestive tract content,

and processed products derived from this waste material).

- 3 Category 3 'not for human consumption'.

Allclear Environmental are currently working on implementing dedicated containers and collection routes appropriate for our customers wastes. Allclear have already established outlets with Incinerator, rendering plants & anaerobic digester operators which will enable Allclear Environmental to offer customers a safe dispose route for their waste. Allclear can also offer technical advice & updates to customers who may be affected by the legislation.

Categories of Animal By-Products under the regulations.

The waste falls into three categories dependant on the method of disposal, DEFRA has confirmed that the Regulations apply only to those wastes that contain meat, the categories are listed below.

Category 1

1. All body parts including hides and skins of the following animals:
 - a) Animals suspected or known to have a TSE disease
 - b) Animals killed in the context of TSE eradication measures
 - c) Animals that aren't farmed or wild animals (in particular pets, zoo and circus animals)
 - d) Experimental animals
 - e) Wild animals where they are suspected of having a disease that can spread to humans or animals
2. Specified risk material (or, where the specified material has not been removed, the whole animal)
3. Animals that contain traces of banned materials or environmental at concentrations over specified, safe levels
4. Sludges and screenings from plants that process Category 1 material
5. Catering waste from international transport
6. Any mixtures of animal by-products that contains any Category 1 material including any material destined for processing in a Category 1 processing plant.

Category 2

All the following by-products or any material containing them:

1. Manure and digestive tract contents
2. All sludge, grease, screenings etc from processing wastewater from slaughterhouses (other than ones that handle Category 1 material)
3. Products contaminated with veterinary drugs at concentrations above specified, safe levels
4. Imported animal products that fail veterinary requirements
5. Animals that die other than by being slaughtered for human consumption (including those killed to eradicate a epizootic disease)
6. Mixtures of Category 3 material and Category 2 material
7. Animal by-products other than Category 1 or 3 material

Category 3

All the following:

1. Parts of animals from slaughterhouse carcasses that were fit for human consumption but which are not intended for human consumption for commercial reasons
2. Parts of animals from slaughterhouse carcasses that were rejected as unfit for human consumption but are not affected by any signs of diseases communicable to humans or animals

3. Hides and skins, hooves and horns, pig bristles and feathers coming from slaughterhouse animals that were fit for human consumption
4. Blood from slaughterhouse animals that were fit for human consumption (except ruminants)
5. Animal by-products derived from the production of products intended for human consumption including degreased bones and greaves
6. Former foodstuffs (not catering waste), partly or wholly of animal origin that are no longer intended for human consumption because they have been withdrawn from sale but which aren't a risk to humans or animals
7. Raw milk from animals that show no sign of disease that might be passed on via the milk
8. Fish or other sea animals (except mammals) caught in the open sea for fishmeal production
9. Fresh by-products from plants processing fish for human consumption
10. Shells, hatchery by-products or cracked egg by-products from animals that did not show signs of a disease communicable through the eggs
11. Blood, hide and skins, hooves, feathers, wool, horns, hair and fur coming from animals that did not show signs of a disease that could be communicable through these items
12. Catering waste other than from international transport (i.e. catering waste destined for animal consumption or for use in a biogas plant or for composting).

TRANSITION PERIOD FOR FULL INTRODUCTION OF THE REGULATIONS

Due to the practical difficulties and implications of achieving compliance, DEFRA requested the European Commission for a transition period to allow certain types of former foodstuffs to continue to be disposed of to landfill. This transition period has now been agreed and will allow disposal of the following material to landfill until December 31st 2005:

(a) material from food manufacturing premises which is currently considered to be catering

waste under the Animal By-Products Order 1999 (i.e. waste from the production of products

which are not intended to be cooked before they are eaten);

(b) former foodstuffs from retail outlets, providing that "suitable measures" are in place to ensure that raw meat and fish is excluded from the foodstuffs.

The transition period does not apply to raw meat or raw fish or waste from the production of products that require further cooking (from food manufacturers).

These materials are already considered to be animal by-products under the Animal By-Products Order 1999 and should already be compliant.

the transition period DOES NOT apply to raw meat or raw fish from retail outlets.

Packaging wastes

- Packaging waste that is contaminated with animal by-products falling under the definition of catering waste or falls within the transition periods above is not an animal by-product at this stage.
- Packaging contaminated with quantities of animal by-product including raw meat, raw fish and blood is an animal by-product and does not fall under the transition periods above and cannot be disposed of to landfill.

Wastes that are not categorised as Animal By-Products.

The new Regulations will not apply to:

- milk and milk products;
- cakes and biscuits that may contain animal derived products such as milk and eggs.
- food such as biscuits, pastry and bread which do not contain meat but may contain other products of animal origin such as butter, lard or milk.
 - Packaging that has been ‘emptied’ of animal by-products is not be controlled as an animal by-product.

Useful additional sources of information

www.defra.gov.uk

www.esauk.org

www.ehsni.gov.uk