Are there similar restrictions on the export of beef and products of non-UK origin?
The restrictions apply to beef and products from cattle born or reared in the UK. There are no restrictions on the export of beef or bovine material of non-UK origin. However, exporters must be able to demonstrate that the beef or bovine material does not come from cattle born or reared in the UK.

Are there any restrictions on the sale of beef and products over the Internet?
The rules and responsibilities for the sale of beef and products containing bovine material over the Internet are the same as for all other exports. It remains an offence to advertise or supply through the Internet any beef or products which are in breach of the EU and UK Regulations.

Do any non-EU countries still ban imports of beef and bovine products from the UK?
A number of non-EU countries have bans on the import of beef and bovine products from the UK. Some ban such imports from all EU Member States. It is the responsibility of the exporter to find out whether the import of beef or bovine products is permitted by the country of destination. If necessary, check with the Embassy or Consulate of the country of destination and ask importers to check with their domestic authorities whether it is lawful for them to import beef and bovine products from the UK. You can also consult Defra’s International Animal Health Division at iah-exports@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Is any export certification required?
No export certification is required for EU countries, but exports must be traceable back to the date of slaughter of the batch of cattle from which the beef content was derived. Exports to non-EU countries must also be traceable and must be accompanied by an export health certificate as agreed between Defra and the importing country.

The conditions for export to non-EU countries may be different to those for trade to EU Member States. Exporters should be realistic about how quickly agreement can be reached with non-EU countries. For the latest list of certificates available and the requirements, please see Defra’s website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/default.htm

Do premises from which beef or bovine products are to be exported, require any special licensing?
EU rules do not require special licensing of premises from which beef or bovine products are to be exported in addition to those requirements which already apply for sales onto the UK market. However, some non-EU countries will only accept imports from premises that they have approved.

Further information
The information contained in this note is correct as at April 2006. The leaflet will be updated as required. Further information can be obtained from:

- your local State Veterinary Service Animal Health Divisional Office. A list of addresses and telephone numbers is online at http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/contacts/ahdo.htm
- Defra’s International Animal Health Division at: iah-exports@defra.gsi.gov.uk
This note gives you the main rules which apply to the export of beef and bovine products for food and petfood from the UK. It can also be found on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/guidancebeef2.pdf

From 3 May 2006, you can start to export beef and products containing bovine material for food and petfood, as long as you meet certain rules.

The rules relating to the export of live cattle are covered in a separate leaflet, which can be found on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/leaflet_cattle-exports.pdf

The conditions for export will depend on whether the export is to a European Union (EU) member state or to a third country outside the EU. Third countries may not allow exports, or may set additional conditions. Some EU countries may take a little time to amend their national rules prohibiting the import of beef and bovine products from UK. You can check the situation with respect to EU countries’ import rules at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html

**What can I export?**

You can export any beef or bovine product except:

- beef or products derived from cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August 1996.
- beef or products derived from cattle born or reared in the UK after 1 August 1996 and slaughtered before 15 June 2005.
- beef containing vertebral column, or products derived from vertebral column, from cattle born or reared in the UK after 1 August 1996 and slaughtered before 3 May 2006.
- beef or products derived from cattle born or reared in the UK after 1 August 1996 and slaughtered before 15 June 2005.

**How can I find out whether the beef or products I want to export comply with these rules?**

Irrespective of whether you are exporting to an EU Member State or a non-EU Country, it will be your responsibility as the exporter to ensure that all goods exported comply with the EU rules and any additional requirements from non-EU countries.

**If you are in any doubt, you must not export the consignment.**

Under beef labelling, food hygiene and animal feed legislation, all beef, food and feed must be traceable back to its raw material. It should be labelled with a batch number. This will enable you to trace back to the date of slaughter of the cattle from which any beef or bovine material has been derived.

A single product may include material from several batches. This means that several different dates of slaughter may be involved. You must establish that the dates of slaughter of all the cattle involved in the production of the beef or the product comply with the EU conditions above.

To comply with the law, you must make sure that products for export are sourced from manufacturers and suppliers who can provide clear evidence of a chain of traceability back to the date of slaughter.

For example, for frozen meat pies, you will have to ask the manufacturer to provide evidence that the requirements are met. It may be that the manufacturing practices operated by the producer will guarantee that all products made after a certain date comply with the law. But you, the exporter, must be sure of this.

If required, you must be able to produce documentary evidence of slaughter dates by identifying the sources of all bovine materials down to all the abattoirs involved.

If the manufacturer does not provide evidence of the date of the slaughter, it will be your responsibility as exporter to approach the suppliers to obtain this information.

If you cannot find out the dates of slaughter, or if the dates do not meet the EU conditions above, the beef or products must NOT be exported.

You are strongly advised to consider exporting products from sources which make bovine products specifically intended for the export market following the lifting of the ban. This will avoid the problems you may otherwise experience in tracing the slaughter dates for products currently held in store.

**Will exports be checked?**

The State Veterinary Service will conduct random checks on exports at ports, airports and elsewhere. For some consignments we will require exporters to provide documentary evidence of traceability to slaughter dates. This will be checked.

**How will the EU rules be enforced?**

If any consignment is found to be in breach of the EU and UK Regulations, the exporter will be liable to prosecution under the UK’s current TSE Regulations 2006.

A person guilty of an offence under the TSE Regulations is liable:

- on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £5,000 or to imprisonment for a term of three months or both.
- on conviction on indictment, to an unlimited fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

In addition, the responsible authorities in the country of destination will be informed. This could lead to the goods being recalled or destroyed and further legal action in that country.
This note gives you the main rules which apply to the export of beef and bovine products for food and petfood from the UK. It can also be found on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/guidancebeef2.pdf

From 3 May 2006, you can start to export beef and products containing bovine material for food and petfood, as long as you meet certain rules.

The rules relating to the export of live cattle are covered in a separate leaflet, which can be found on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/leaflet_cattle-exports.pdf

The conditions for export will depend on whether the export is to a European Union (EU) member state or to a third country outside the EU. Third countries may not allow exports, or may set additional conditions. Some EU countries may take a little time to amend their national rules prohibiting the import of beef and bovine products from UK. You can check the situation with respect to EU countries’ import rules at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/index.html

What can I export?

You can export any beef or bovine product except:

• beef or products derived from cattle born or reared in the UK before 1 August 1996.

• beef or products derived from cattle born or reared in the UK after 1 August 1996 and slaughtered before 15 June 2005.

• beef containing vertebral column, or products derived from vertebral column, from cattle born or reared in the UK after 1 August 1996 and slaughtered before 3 May 2006.

How can I find out whether the beef or products I want to export comply with these rules?

Irrespective of whether you are exporting to an EU Member State or a non-EU Country, it will be your responsibility as the exporter to ensure that all goods exported comply with the EU rules and any additional requirements from non-EU countries.

If you are in any doubt, you must not export the consignment.

Under beef labelling, food hygiene and animal feed legislation, all beef, food and feed must be traceable back to its raw material. It should be labelled with a batch number. This will enable you to trace back to the date of slaughter of the cattle from which any beef or bovine material has been derived.

A single product may include material from several batches. This means that several different dates of slaughter may be involved. You must establish that the dates of slaughter of all the cattle involved in the production of the beef or the product comply with the EU conditions above.

To comply with the law, you must make sure that products for export are sourced from manufacturers and suppliers who can provide clear evidence of a chain of traceability back to the date of slaughter.

For example, for frozen meat pies, you will have to ask the manufacturer to provide evidence that the requirements are met. It may be that the manufacturing practices operated by the producer will guarantee that all products made after a certain date comply with the law. But you, the exporter, must be sure of this.

If required, you must be able to produce documentary evidence of slaughter dates by identifying the sources of all bovine materials down to all the abattoirs involved.

If the manufacturer does not provide evidence of the date of the slaughter, it will be your responsibility as exporter to approach the suppliers to obtain this information.

If you cannot find out the dates of slaughter, or if the dates do not meet the EU conditions above, the beef or products must NOT be exported.

You are strongly advised to consider exporting products from sources which make bovine products specifically intended for the export market following the lifting of the ban. This will avoid the problems you may otherwise experience in tracing the slaughter dates for products currently held in store.

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The State Veterinary Service will conduct random checks on exports at ports, airports and elsewhere. For some consignments we will require exporters to provide documentary evidence of traceability to slaughter dates. This will be checked.

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This note gives you the main rules which apply to the export of beef and bovine products for food and petfood from the UK. It can also be found on the Defra website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/bse/pdf/guidancebeef2.pdf

From 3 May 2006, you can start to export beef and products containing bovine material for food and petfood, as long as you meet certain rules.

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Irrespective of whether you are exporting to an EU Member State or a non-EU Country, it will be your responsibility as the exporter to ensure that all goods exported comply with the EU rules and any additional requirements from non-EU countries.

If you are in any doubt, you must not export the consignment.
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Are there similar restrictions on the export of beef and products of non-UK origin?
The restrictions apply to beef and products from cattle born or reared in the UK. There are no restrictions on the export of beef or bovine material of non-UK origin. However, exporters must be able to demonstrate that the beef or bovine material does not come from cattle born or reared in the UK.

Are there any restrictions on the sale of beef and products over the Internet?
The rules and responsibilities for the sale of beef and products containing bovine material over the Internet are the same as for all other exports. It remains an offence to advertise or supply through the Internet any beef or products which are in breach of the EU and UK Regulations.

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Is any export certification required?
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The conditions for export to non-EU countries may be different to those for trade to EU Member States. Exporters should be realistic about how quickly agreement can be reached with non-EU countries. For the latest list of certificates available and the requirements, please see Defra's website at http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/default.htm

Do premises from which beef or bovine products are to be exported, require any special licensing?
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Further information
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Useful information for exporters on requirements for exports of beef and products containing bovine material for use for food and pet food.
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