

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

Date: March 05, 2026

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Report Name: Taiwan FDA Clarifies BSE Import Restrictions for Low-Risk Countries

Country: Taiwan

Post: Taipei

Report Category: FAIRS Export Certificate Report, FAIRS Country Report, FAIRS Subject Report, Livestock and Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

On February 13, 2026, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) clarified that countries with negligible bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) risk and no classical BSE cases in over ten years are not subject to certain BSE-related import restrictions under Taiwan's food safety law. However, all current regulations remain in effect, and there are no changes to U.S. beef and beef product exports to Taiwan.

On February 13, 2026, ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday, the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration (TFDA) issued an official interpretation clarifying that countries classified as having negligible risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and that have not reported any cases of classical BSE for more than ten years, are not subject to the BSE-related import restrictions outlined in Taiwan's Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation. The official interpretation is available at the following link:

<https://www.fda.gov.tw/TC/newsContent.aspx?cid=3&id=31425>

Please note that all existing BSE-related regulations remain unchanged and in effect. There are currently no changes regarding the import of beef and beef products from the United States.

Below is an unofficial translation of the interpretation, prepared by the American Institute in Taiwan's Agricultural Section:

Announcement of the Ministry of Health and Wealth

Publication date: February 13, 2026

Announcement no.: MOHW Food No. 1151300348

Regarding Paragraph 3, Article 15 of the Act Governing Food Safety and Sanitation:

"Substances harmful to human health, as specified in Subparagraph 3, Paragraph 1, include the skull, brain, eyes, spinal cord, ground meat, viscera, and related products of cattle originating from countries or regions that, while not classified as epidemic areas, have reported cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease within the past ten years." The interpretation is as follows:

1. In accordance with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) classification, BSE is categorized as either classical (feed-borne) or atypical (arising spontaneously with age). The restrictions under this provision do not apply to atypical BSE.
2. Countries or regions recognized by WOAH as having negligible BSE risk, and that have not reported any cases of classical BSE for more than ten years following the implementation of this provision, are not subject to these restrictions.
3. This interpretation takes effect immediately.

Minister Shih Chung-Liang

Attachments:

No Attachments.