

Safety of bovine bone gelatin in oral and topic drugs, food and cosmetics

Questions to the committee

1. Do the results of these new studies demonstrate a reduction in infectivity that is sufficient to protect human health?
- 2a. Do the scientific data and information available support the following current FDA recommendation on bone gelatin

“At this time, there does not appear to be a basis for objection to the use of gelatin in FDA-regulated products for oral consumption and cosmetic use by humans when the gelatin is produced from bones obtained from cattle residing in, or originating from, BSE countries, if the cattle come from BSE-free herds and if the slaughterhouse removes the heads, spines, and spinal cords directly after slaughter. Nor does there appear to be a basis for objection to gelatin for oral consumption and cosmetic use which is produced from bones from countries which have not reported BSE but which fail to meet OIE standards, if the slaughterhouse removes the heads, spine, and spinal cords after slaughter. Gelatin processors should ensure that slaughterhouses that supply bovine bones for gelatin production remove heads, spines, and spinal cords as the first procedure following slaughter”?

- 2b. If the answer is NO, what specific changes does the Committee recommend?