

HISTORY OF BY-PRODUCTS NOT INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION IN GALICIA

Within the term meat by-products not intended for human consumption we find the non-edible parts of animals slaughtered for human consumption, carcasses of animals from livestock farms, carcasses of other animals, domestic or not, and meat foodstuff not apt.

Galicia generates 130.000 tons a year of meat by-products not intended for human consumption.

The appearance of the illness known as BSE, also known as mad cow disease, marked a before and an after in the treatment and use of meat by-products. Before, it was the treatment of meat by-products following RD 2224/1998 and the destination of the elaborated materials, flours and fats, for animal nutrition. After, it has been that since the end of the year 2000 a bigger amount of raw material to be processed appears and most important legislative changes are introduced: the classification of processing methods according to the categories of the by-product and the elimination outside the food chain of the products obtained. Much has been the legislation that appeared since the year 2000 but it really was the Regulation CE 1774/2002 which established the guidelines for the future of the activity.

As a summary, in this regulation meat by-products are classified into three categories, the procedures for processing are established and the permitted destinations of the products obtained after the processing are ordered. All this has resulted in each category of by-product being capable of having a different industrialization and destination from the elaborated product. That is to say: three types of industries different, separated and specialized. The prohibition of burying the carcasses of animals died in livestock farms, gathered in Regulation CE 999/2001, has been very important for the amount of new by-product to be processed and for the change of habits in livestock farms.