



Memorandum

To: New Zealand only primary processors of mammals and birds
 Abattoir Association – Kim Doran
 New Zealand Pet Food Manufacturers Association – Richard Brake
 Poultry Industry Association – Michael Brooks

Cc: Matthew Stone, Director (Animal & Animal Products) – Standards Branch
 Tony Zohrab – MAF (Standards)
 Brian Astridge, Peter Brown, Chris Mawson – MAF (Verification Services)

From: Judy Barker
 Manager (Animal Products)
 Standards Branch

Date: 23rd April 2012

Subject: **AMENDMENT TO 2005 VERIFICATION STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Summary

An amendment has been made to the *2005 Verification Statement of Policy (2005 Statement)* to increase the ceiling frequency step for certain primary processing sectors, limited to those who only supply the New Zealand market and/or export without an official assurance. The *2005 Statement* and this amendment are available at <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/verification-statement-policy-2005/>.

The amendment increases the ceiling verification frequency for primary processors of mammals and birds (for both human and animal consumption) from 3 monthly to 6 monthly. In addition the highest initial frequency for primary processors of mammals and birds *for animal consumption* has been increased from 2 monthly to 3 monthly.

The amendments are highlighted in Table 1:

Table 1: Initial verification frequencies and ceilings

Animal product business	Domestic	
	Highest Initial Frequency	Ceiling Frequency
Primary processors of mammals and birds for human consumption	Step 5	Step 6 [6 monthly] [was step 5 – 3 monthly]
Primary processors of mammals and birds for animal consumption	Step 5 [3 monthly] [was step 4 – 2 monthly]	Step 6 [6 monthly] [was step 5 – 3 monthly]

Table 2: Explanation of verification frequencies at each step

Verification step	Verification frequency
Step 4	2 monthly
Step 5	3 monthly
Step 6	6 monthly



Background

The *2005 Statement*, including any amendments, specifies the policy that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) applies to verification under the Animal Products Act for animal materials and products other than dairy, live animals and germplasm.

The *2005 Statement* **only applies to** animal product businesses who:

- = supply the New Zealand market; or
- = export without an official assurance

This is subject to the following exception:

- = animal material and product may leave primary processors of mammals and birds on an Eligibility Document (ED) for **industrial use** (e.g. material for rendering).

Note: this exception does not apply to animal material or product (including offals, casings, green runners etc.) leaving on an ED for any other use. Where this occurs verification is governed by the Animal Products (Export Verification Requirements) Notice 2011 (<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/animal-products-verification-export/index.htm>).

The *Amendment to 2005 Verification Statement of Policy* contains:

1. a revocation of the 'Amendment to Verification Statement of Policy' signed on 30 June 2009; and
2. an amendment to the 2005 Verification Statement of Policy signed on 31 March 2005.

As it incorporates the 2009 Amendment there is only one amendment to the *2005 Statement*.

The 2009 Amendment made changes to the verification requirements for fishing vessels. No changes have been made to these requirements in this amendment.

The overall performance of the three sectors affected by this change forms a key part of the justification for increasing the ceiling verification frequency. As a result, if the overall performance of a sector significantly deteriorates MAF reserves the right to return the ceiling verification frequency to 3 monthly.

These changes were made following requests from the Abattoirs Association, the New Zealand Pet Food Manufacturers Association and the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand.

In addition to this, increasing the ceiling frequency only affects well performing operators. This is because it takes consistently acceptable verification outcomes to reach the ceiling frequency. Therefore any change to the ceiling only benefits operators that are already performing well. It also provides an incentive for other operators to improve their compliance performance.

It should be noted that the current verification ceiling frequency of 3 monthly for these sectors still compares unfavourably with the verification frequency that applies to operators under the Food Act 1981. Under the Food Act operators are typically verified annually and can produce products, including foods that have significant potential risk, such as ready-to-eat foods, while primary processors of mammals and birds for human consumption produce raw meat that requires further processing before it is consumed.

Yours faithfully

(signed)

Judy Barker
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Standards Branch
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry