

Animal Feeds Review Discussion Paper

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is reviewing the animal feeds sector. It is anticipated that this review will improve consistency and reduce complexity in regulation, and will enhance the ability of MPI and regulated parties to contribute to the safety of the feed supply.

Animal feeds provide a critical input to the animal-based primary industries. Feed from both imported and domestic sources, creates a direct exposure pathway to animals for biological and chemical hazards, creating risks to biosecurity, food safety and market assurances. Examples of such feed hazards include endoparasites, prions, mycotoxins, dioxins, and feed additives. Prior to the amalgamation forming MPI, systems in New Zealand to manage these risks evolved in a disjointed manner.

A variety of controls exist under the:

- Biosecurity Act (e.g. Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations, Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations; Hydatids Controlled Area Notice; Import Health Standards for feeds and feed ingredients);
- ACVM Act (e.g. Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (Exemptions and Prohibited Substances) Regulations 2011); and
- Animal Products Act (e.g. Risk Management Programmes for renderers and primary petfood processors).

The intention is for the Standards Branch of MPI to review the existing animal feeds sector systems and develop a consistent “all hazards” approach that identifies and manages risks across the animal feed sector. This review is intended to involve consultation with the entire animal feeds sector (including feed and feed ingredient imports, petfood imports, Import Health Standards (IHS), feed manufacturer; waste feeding, ruminant protein controls, petfood, rendering).

Goal

The primary goal of this project is to develop a comprehensive and integrated risk management framework for the Animal Feeds sector.

Objectives

The objectives of the review are:

1. To determine the gaps/issues relating to the existing systems to ensure the risk management framework is robust and transparent.
2. To ensure that the objectives of legislation are being met.
3. To ensure the regulatory programme review is in partnership with the industry sector.
4. To better align the regulatory framework with Ministry strategies and other initiatives including:
 - Our Strategy 2030: Growing and Protecting New Zealand;
 - Export Double;
 - Standards Integration Programme; and
 - Regulatory Reform.

Summary

This discussion paper and on-line survey are intended to provide the opportunity to submit information and comments in response to a series of questions provided for consideration at this time. Other opportunities for input into this review will be ongoing, including via day-to-day contact, stakeholder forums, etc.