



Proposed Animal Products Notice: Dairy Recognised Agencies and Persons Specifications context and changes

Purpose

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is proposing to make amendments to the Animal Products Notice: Dairy Recognised Agencies and Persons Specifications 2017. We invite your comment on the accompanying draft notice, which proposes certain changes to the recognition of agencies, persons and the classes of persons. Responses from interested parties about the proposed changes will be considered before the notice is finalised.

Context

The proposed amendments in the draft Notice would affect:

- farm dairy assessors;
- farm dairy assessment organisations;
- recognised agencies providing RMP or RCS evaluation or verification functions;
- recognised persons providing RMP or RCS evaluation or verification functions; and
- dairy RMP operators.

Background

The production of raw milk that meets international standards is essential for a successful and thriving export dairy industry. The independent assessment of farm dairies by suitably qualified individuals provides confirmation that milk production practices meet defined standards. This avoids the need for a recognised verifier to undertake onsite verification of every farm dairy covered by a farm dairy risk management programme.

Because of the importance attached to farm dairy assessments there is a general expectation that MPI will have a system for recognition of persons who carry out this out.

Likewise, in many countries the Competent Authority (this is MPI in New Zealand) is responsible for managing farm dairy assessments, often as part of an inspection service, and so some form of recognition of third party organisations is expected.

Description of changes

Farm dairy assessors and farm dairy assessment organisations

Farm dairy assessment is an operator verification activity under each farm dairy RMP. It is proposed to introduce a requirement that farm dairy assessors and farm dairy assessment organisations be recognised persons and agencies. The key drivers for establishing MPI recognition of farm dairy assessment organisations and farm dairy assessors are:

- providing MPI with greater visibility;
- establishing direct lines of communication between MPI, farm dairy assessors and farm dairy assessment organisations; and

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- formalising the duties and obligations that are being fulfilled through the delivery of farm dairy assessments.

The proposed scheme will continue to minimise the verification cost to industry while providing a more robust framework for issuing assurances to other competent authorities.

The proposed amendment allows an appropriate period for transition, though affected parties may wish to comment on these proposed timeframes.

Elevating competencies for Recognised Persons from guidance

This draft Notice supports MPI to meet the Whey Protein Concentrate (WPC) Inquiry recommendations for increased clarity between requirements and guidance. As such elements related to the competence of recognised persons have been moved from the Guidance Document: Dairy: Recognition of Agencies and Persons into the Notice. The Notice also provides for the Director-General having some level of discretion on the competence of recognised persons.

Elevating reporting requirements from guidance

To help recognise agencies understand the minimum reporting requirements this draft Notice includes reporting requirements that have been moved from guidance (previously set out as Approved Criteria) into the Notice. The purpose is to ensure that all parties understand the reporting elements that must be met.

Review of the categories for recognition

The categories and product groups previously set out in the Guidance Document: Dairy: Recognition of Agencies and Persons have been revised and moved into the Notice. These are now presented as functions and activities. These have also been expanded to capture additional recognitions related to dairy, such as regulated control schemes or OMARs.

Maintaining recognition

This draft Notice provides agencies with the opportunity to complete on-going peer reviews of recognised persons at a performance based frequency.

Key Technical Personnel (KTP) Model

The KTP model under which an agency can operate for the purposes of gaining accreditation has been incorporated into this draft Notice.

Consequential amendments to the Guidance Document: Dairy: Recognition of Agencies and Persons

Consequential amendments will be made to this guidance document, with the information moved into the notice being deleted.

How to have your say

You may comment directly on any sections of this discussion document or any provisions in the proposed notice. Submissions can be made using the accompanying template for comment on the proposed Animal Products Notice: Dairy Recognised Agencies and Persons Specifications.

Where possible, comment should be specific to a particular section in the document. All major sections are numbered and these numbers should be used to link comments to the document. The use of examples to illustrate particular points is encouraged.

MPI encourages submitters to make their submissions electronically so please email your submissions to: animal.products@mpi.govt.nz by **5pm Monday 7 May 2018**.

If you wish to convey your submissions in writing, these should be posted to the following address:

Dairy RA & P Consultation
Animal & Animal Products
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140

Please note that your submission is public information. Submissions may be the subject of requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA specifies that information is to be made available to requesters unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it, as set out in the OIA. Submitters may wish to indicate grounds for withholding specific information contained in their submission, such as the information is commercially sensitive or they wish personal information to be withheld. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.