

**MEAT ACT 1981
TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE 02/104**

02/104 Operational Requirements for Rabbits, Hares and Possums

Meat Technical Directive		Priority	Normal
From:	Judy Barker, Assistant Director (Animal Product Standards)	File:	M800-200, M800-300
Date:	8 November 2002 (1)	Publication Ref:	TD 01/096 and TD 01/140

1	Background
1.1	The requirements for processing of rabbits and hares and possums have been outlined in TD 01/096 and TD 01/140.
1.2	There is no reason to maintain separate standards for the processing of these species and the intention of this directive is to align these requirements within the framework of the current Industry Standards.
2	Application
2.1	The requirements in this directive shall apply to all existing operations processing rabbits and hares or possums for human consumption. Note: Existing operations are permitted under the Meat Act 1981, new operations must now comply with the Animal Products Act 1999.
2.2	Facilities shall comply with Industry Standard (IS) 2, Design and Construction.
2.3	Hygiene shall comply with IS 3, Hygiene and Sanitation.
2.4	Procurement shall comply with IS 4, Procurement of Animals for Food.
2.5	Dressing, and slaughtering in the case of possums, shall comply with IS 5, Slaughter and Dressing.
2.6	Ante-mortem and post-mortem procedures and dispositions shall comply with TD 02/105
2.7	Processing shall comply with IS 6, Processing of Edible Product.
2.8	Waste management shall comply with IS 7, Byproducts.
2.9	Quality Assurance shall comply with TD 02/35 and should conform to IS 8, Quality Assurance.

2.10	Storing and transport shall comply with IS 9, Storing and Transport.
2.11	Branding shall comply with Manual 15: Approvals Brands – Inspection Legend Material – Container Seals.
2.12	Exports shall comply with the Official Assurances Programme and the Overseas Market Access Requirements. Note: for possums, it may be necessary to obtain a CITES certificate for some markets. These can be obtained from the Department of Conservation.
2.13	MAF Verification Agency surveillance shall comply with any requirements for Performance Based Verification.
3	Cancellation
3.1	Technical Directives 01/096 and 01/140 are cancelled as from the date of implementation of this Technical Directive.
4	Implementation
	Upon receipt of the technical directive.