



08/9 Laboratory Approval

ANIMAL PRODUCTS ACT 1999

OVERSEAS MARKET ACCESS REQUIREMENTS NOTIFICATION

Priority: Normal

Distribution Security Level: (1)

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1 Statutory Authority

Under section 60A of the Animal Products Act 1999, I notify the following export requirements (as specified under section 60 of that Act) for animal material and animal product for the purpose of enabling the issue of official assurances in respect of animal material and animal product for overseas authorities, entitled '08/9: Laboratory Approval'.

This notice takes effect from the date of signing.

Dated at Wellington this 4th day of June 2008.

Dr Bill Jolly
Deputy Director (Export Standards)
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
(Acting under delegated authority)

2 Requirements

2.1 Official tests are: -

2.1.1 Any analysis required to be performed by a laboratory as specified in an OMAR (or Manual 12) for any red meat, ostrich, emu or poultry or any resulting products produced from this animal material intended for animal or human consumption.

2.1.2 Any potable water tests specified in IS3/IAS3 part 4, Circular 86/3/2, Circular 86/3/5 and Animal Products (Specification for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004 (other than routine chlorine, pH or turbidity measurements).

2.2 Specifications – Laboratories and Signatories

2.2.1 When official tests are required to be performed:

- a. They must be performed by a LAS approved laboratory and the signatory signing the report must be approved for the particular official tests required;
- b. The scope of the laboratory testing for which a LAS laboratory is approved can be confirmed by matching the official tests with the laboratory name and signatory name from the “Laboratory Signatories – Recognised Persons List” published at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/registers-lists/laboratory-signatories/index.htm>

2.2.2 Requirements for official tests are described in Appendix 1 and Appendix II of the Laboratory Approval Scheme.

The scheme specified, in clause 8.7.4, that certain samples for testing must be collected for formally trained persons.

Lists of trained samplers are found in: -

- a) The lists of Certified/Associate Trainers published at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/milab/index.htm>

and;

- b) The list of samplers trained by those listed in paragraph (a) held by the LAS approved laboratory.

2.2.3 Laboratory test results for official tests are invalid if: -

- a. The laboratory conducting the test is not LAS approved;
- b. The laboratory is LAS approved for some official tests but not for the particular official tests required;
- c. The laboratory signing the test report is not LAS approved for that particular official test.

2.2.4 Operator responsibilities

- a. Operators must ensure that official tests are performed in LAS approved laboratories;
- b. Operators must consult with the laboratory as to the specific requirements for the test where the methodology may have a particular requirements for the protection and handling of the test samples;
- c. Operators must, if required, supply official test results to the appropriate official assurance verifier or recognised person (as appropriate) before the relevant eligibility documents or export certificates are presented for signing.

2.2.5 Responsibilities of official assurance verifiers or recognised persons

The appropriate official assurance verifier or recognised person must ensure that: -

- a. Official tests results are reported from laboratories that have current LAS approval for the particular test;
- b. Results of official tests are signed by a signatory. This can be checked by viewing the "Laboratory Signatories – Recognised Persons List" or, if not listed, by contacting the Las Administrator. Any change in the name or signature of the person reporting the official test results must be verified;
- c. Where testing requires the use of trained samplers the laboratory records must be checked to confirm that the samplers have been trained by, or the samplers were themselves listed as, Certified/Associate Trainers;
- d. Eligibility documents or export certificates which state or imply that the animal material or product or process conforms to any parameter specified in the list of official tests, must not be signed until that parameter can be verified by a report from a LAS approved laboratory;
- e. All official test results are sighted and statements verified, if appropriate, before signing export certificates.

3 Revocations

- 3.1 OMAR 01/185 – Laboratory Approval is hereby revoked and replaced by this OMAR.

4 Definitions

- 4.1 For the purposes of this document:

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999;

export certificate is the form of an official assurance determined by the Director-General pursuant to section 62 of the Act.

LAS means the Laboratory Approval Scheme, outlining specific requirements for laboratories that carry out laboratory tests in support of market access assurances;

LAS approved laboratory means a laboratory meeting the requirements of LAS;

NZFSA VA means New Zealand Food Safety Authority, Verification Agency;

Official assurance verifier means a person recognised under section 103 of the Act to undertake official assurance verification and includes animal products officers employed by NZFSA VA;

Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR) means an export requirement specific for intended market(s) as specified under section 60 of the Act and notified or made available under section 60A;

recognised person means a person recognised under Part 8 of the Act;

signatory means a person who holds technical accountability for the performance of the testing, meets the requirements of LAS for Laboratory Signatories, and approved by the LAS Administrator to sign reports on behalf of a LAS approved laboratory.

4.2 Any term or expression that is defined in the Animal Products Act 1999 but is not defined in this document has the same meaning as in the Act.