



# SUPPLYING FOOD WASTE FOR FEEDING TO PIGS

## RESTRICTIONS ON RECYCLING FOOD WASTE AS FOOD FOR PIGS

If you are a food manufacturer, food service operator, butcher, food retailer, hospital, school, or even a family household you will be generating food waste. Some of you may be recycling this waste as food for pigs. While this is an environmentally friendly way of disposing of your food waste, there is a risk associated with it that you will need to manage.

Illegally imported meat may harbour important exotic epidemic diseases such as foot and mouth disease (FMD) and the swine fevers. Feeding such meat to pigs can spread these diseases. For example, feeding contaminated food waste to pigs is considered to be the most likely cause of the 2001 FMD outbreak in the United Kingdom.

Despite border control measures to manage the biosecurity risks associated with importing meat products into New Zealand, unauthorised meat products could potentially enter the country. To supplement the border control measures the Ministry for Primary Industries developed the **Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005**.

## THE REGULATIONS APPLY TO YOU IF YOU SUPPLY FOOD WASTE TO PIGS

If you supply food waste that will be fed to pigs you must either:

- exclude from the waste any meat and all items that may have come into contact with meat. This meat-free food waste can be fed to pigs without further treatment; or,
- treat the food waste that contains meat or has come into contact with meat before supplying it to the person feeding the food waste to pigs.

Treating means heating the food waste to 100°C for one hour. The easiest way to comply with this requirement is to boil the untreated food waste for one hour while stirring frequently; the temperature must be maintained at boiling point for the whole one hour. By treating food waste according to the rules, you will destroy any disease-causing bacteria and viruses it may contain.

This treatment requirement applies to all food waste that contains raw or cooked meat or food waste that has come into contact with

raw or cooked meat. It applies to both commercial food waste and household food waste.

## WHAT IS “MEAT”?

The regulations define “meat” as any material taken or derived from an animal, with the exception of egg, milk and rendered material. Egg and egg products, milk and milk products, and rendered material (such as tallow, blood meal, meat and bone meal) don't need to be heat treated.

## IF YOU DO NOT TREAT THE FOOD WASTE

If you do not treat food waste that contains meat or has come into contact with meat, you must have reasonable grounds to believe that the person you supply it to will treat the non-compliant food waste before feeding it to pigs. We recommend that you obtain a written assurance from the person you supply the food waste to, stating that it will be treated according to the rules before it is fed to pigs. The written assurance is not a regulatory requirement but having one would ensure you meet your responsibilities under these regulations. The assurance could include consent for you to forward the food waste recipient's contact details onto MPI ([foodwaste@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:foodwaste@mpi.govt.nz)). This will enable MPI to stay in touch with all parties involved in the food waste supply chain.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information on the meat and food waste regulations at [www.mpi.govt.nz/foodwaste](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/foodwaste). You can also email your query to [foodwaste@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:foodwaste@mpi.govt.nz).



**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE MEAT AND FOOD WASTE REGULATIONS CAN RESULT IN A FINE OF UP TO \$5000 FOR INDIVIDUALS AND \$15,000 FOR CORPORATIONS.**

[www.mpi.govt.nz/foodwaste](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/foodwaste)

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