

DAIRY STANDARDS REVIEW

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Update newsletter April 2013

WHAT IS THE DAIRY STANDARDS REVIEW?

This series of newsletters is intended to keep you informed during the Dairy Standards Review on planned changes to the dairy standards structure, progress on these changes and to give you the opportunity to be involved.

The Dairy Standards Review is part of MPI's Standards Integration Programme (SIP). The background to this programme can be viewed at this weblink:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/stds/sip-story.pdf>

Under this programme, dairy standards are being used as a pilot to commence "tidying the room" for requirements and related guidance documents by:

- » being clear about what are requirements and what is guidance;
- » establishing systems (procedures and templates) to present requirements and guidance in a manner that is easily understood.

Progress to date

The dairy documents have been categorised into requirements and guidance. The results of this have been captured in a document called the "Dairy Roadmap". This roadmap presents a visual picture of how all the requirements and guidance administered under the various pieces of dairy-related legislation fit together.

The roadmap is available at this weblink: [Dairy Legislation Roadmap](#)

The roadmap is an interim measure to help you find all the requirements and guidance for dairy operators in a single place. Industry feedback on the roadmap has been very positive.

The roadmap has been a useful tool for helping to map out a plan for tidying the dairy documents.

What happens next?

The results from the road map show that tidying all the requirements and guidance related to the dairy sector is a large and complex task. As a result, it is proposed that the dairy pilot initially focus on the requirements and guidance administered under certain parts of the Animal Products Act (APA). Narrowing the focus will enable meaningful progress to be achieved this year and for lessons to be learnt prior to rolling out the approach to the rest of the sector.

Our initial focus has been on tidying the requirements and guidance issued under Part 4 of the APA Animal Product Standards and Specifications, and related guidance in Part 2 of the APA Risk Management Programmes. This includes the Dairy Processing Specifications Notice 2011 and the Dairy Processing Criteria DPC 1-4.

Under the proposed approach to the dairy pilot, these documents will be:

- » **REPACKAGED** – Notices will be kept to the minimum required to adequately manage risk; guidance documents will be reviewed and consolidated to keep like material together. What are requirements and what is guidance will be clear. Any gaps will be identified.
- » **REWRITTEN** – to express them clearly and as consistently as practical;
- » **REFORMATTED** – presented in new templates that are currently being developed.

The intention is not to re-litigate risk management decisions or change the level of protection assigned to dairy production and processing. However, as we complete the work we may find that some of the requirements need to be reviewed. If this is non-contentious and quick to do, the review may occur at the same time. Otherwise the issue will be identified and "parked" to be reviewed separately to the pilot.

Timeframe

We are aiming to have some material for you to look at and comment on by the middle of this year. This is likely to be a single specification notice for dairy outlining the requirements. Material currently in the DPCs will be either clarified as a requirement and therefore incorporated into the dairy specifications, or clarified as guidance and moved into guidance documents.

Getting involved

We will need people with an interest in dairy legislation to be involved with consultation. As we go through the process we will have questions we need answered from an industry viewpoint. Do you want to be on the industry mailing list in order to give your opinions on these matters? If so, let us know by emailing the contact below.

We will send update newsletters every two months and we are interested in your feedback on the topics discussed, or the way we are progressing the dairy review.

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