



Animal Products (Regulated Control Scheme – On-farm and Stock Saleyard Verification) Notice 2015

Pursuant to sections 40(1)(b) and 167(1)(f) of the Animal Products Act 1999, I, Tim Knox, Director Market Access, issue the following notice for the purpose of establishing a regulated control scheme for on-farm verification of the overseas market access requirements for the European Union specified under the Animal Products (European Union Export Requirements – Animal Material and Products Notice) 2009.

Signed at Wellington this 14 day of December 2015.

[signed]

Tim Knox
Director Market Access
(Acting under delegated authority)

Certified in order for signature

[signed]

Solicitor
Legal Services
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Notice

1 Title

This notice is the Animal Products (Regulated Control Scheme – On-Farm and Stock Saleyard Verification) Notice 2015.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on 1 January 2016.

Part 1 Preliminary Provisions

3 Purpose

The purpose of the regulated control scheme established by this notice is—

- (a) to provide for the verification of farms and stock saleyards supplying specified animals to be processed for export to the EU; and
- (b) to support the EU overseas market access requirement provided for in the EU export notice.

4 Application

- (1) This regulated control scheme applies to suppliers of animals to export primary processors.
- (2) This regulated control scheme imposes verification requirements in respect of animals for supply to export primary processors.

5 Interpretation

- (1) In this notice, unless the context otherwise requires,—

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999

animal means live cattle, sheep, lambs, deer, goat and horses; and does not include any other species

animal material or animal products for the purposes of this notice means material or products derived from an animal

ASD means an animal status declaration required to be submitted under the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2013

EU means countries within the European Union

EU Export Notice means the Animal Products (European Union Export Requirements—Animal Material and Products) Notice 2015

export primary processor means a risk management programme operator who is a primary processor of animals intended for processing into animal material or animal products for export to the EU

farm means land and premises used to raise animals for supply to an export primary processor, but does not include farms predominantly used for raising ostriches or emus

MPI VS means the verification agency of the Ministry for Primary Industries, recognised under section 101 of the Act to perform verification services for animal product businesses

premises means farms and stock saleyards

programme means the annual farm and stock saleyard verification programme provided for in Part 3 and includes the general requirements in clause 6

specified premises means premises of the following type selected from ASDs in accordance with, and for the purposes, of clause 8

(a) stock saleyards which are supplying large volumes of animals to export primary processors:

(b) small or 'hobby' farms:

(c) farms in respect of which an export primary processor or verifier has detected in one or more ASDs:

(i) inconsistencies or misleading information; or

(ii) non-conformance or non-compliance with the requirements set out in clause 6 of the EU Export Notice

supplier means an owner or owners or the person or persons in charge of a farm and includes the owner or owner or person or persons in charge of a stock saleyard.

(2) Any words or expressions used but not defined in this notice that are defined in the Act, have the meaning given to them in the Act.

Part 2 Requirements for Verifiers

6 Qualifications and requirements for verifiers

Verifiers who are conducting verification at premises under this regulated control scheme must—

be registered veterinarians currently working for MPI VS at an export primary processor premises; and

(b) be recognised under section 103 of the Act to conduct verification; and

(c) conduct verification at premises in accordance with the requirements and procedures set out in this notice.

Part 3

Annual Verification Programme

7 Annual Farm and Stock Saleyard Verification Programme

- (1) For the purposes of ensuring verification of the obligations on export primary processors under the EU Export Notice, the Director-General must establish an annual verification programme on premises in accordance with the requirements of this regulated control scheme.
- (2) The annual verification programme must include scheduled verification visits to farms and stock saleyards in accordance with this Part.
- (3) The Director-General must—
 - (a) develop, maintain, publish, and issue to verifiers, procedures and documentation required to support the annual verification programme at a national level; and
 - (b) make such material available for inspection at the registered office of the Ministry for Primary Industries.

8 Selection of farms and stock saleyards for the annual verification programme

- (1) As soon as is practicable after 1 January in each year, the Director-General must—
 - (a) select a range of premises (being no fewer than 600 in any calendar year) on which verification for the purposes of the annual verification programme will be conducted; and
 - (b) maintain a current list of selected premises for verification.
- (2) Selected premises must be selected —
 - (a) based on information from ASDs provided to export meat processors when animals are supplied to those processors for slaughter; and
 - (b) in a way that ensures adequate coverage of the major geographic areas from which animals for export to the EU are sourced.
- (3) In any calendar year, 50% of premises at which the annual verification programme is undertaken must be specified premises.
- (4) Premises verified as part of the annual verification programme in any year must be notified of that fact in writing at least one calendar month prior to the first proposed verification visit of the year.

9 Scheduling of verification visits

- (1) Verification visits to farms for the annual verification programme must be scheduled—
 - (a) on dates between 1 January and 31 December in each calendar year; and
 - (b) with the objective of capturing seasonal activities related to farming practices and avoiding bias in verification outcomes relating to particular parts of the year.
- (2) For each verification visit the verifier and the supplier must agree on a day and time for the visit (being a time during normal hours of operation for the premises).

- (3) The verifier may agree to a change of date and time agreed to under subclause (2), on provision of valid reasons by the supplier to the verifier (given prior to the scheduled visit).
- (4) No later than one calendar month prior to a scheduled verification visit the verifier must send the supplier at the premises scheduled for verification, a letter outlining the nature and purpose of the visit and enclosing the check sheet that will be used for verification purposes.
- (5) The letter referred to in clause (4), must include a request for information about whether the farm belongs to an industry farm assurance programme.
- (6) Verification visits must—
 - (a) cover all animal species present on the farm at the time of the visit; and
 - (b) assess the supplier's compliance with all requirements set out in clause 6 of the Animal Products (European Union Export Requirements—Animal Material and Products) Notice 2009.

10 Notification of outcome of verification visit

- (1) Following each verification visit, the verifier must prepare a report which outlines the findings of the verification and assesses the outcome as—
 - (a) 'Acceptable' without any further action required (where no or only minor non-conformances have been identified); or
 - (b) 'Acceptable' with follow-up action (where the verifier has identified non-compliance with the matters outlined in clause 6 of the EU export notice); or
 - (c) Unacceptable (where the verifier has identified critical non-compliances with the matters outlined in clause 6 of the EU export notice)
- (2) Where a verification visit is conducted under this Part and the verifier considers under subclause (1) that the outcome of the verification is unacceptable, the verifier must as soon as practicable advise that result in writing to the supplier and any export primary processor of which the verifier is aware, who are currently being supplied with animals for export slaughter by the supplier.

Part 4 Record-keeping

11 Suppliers to retain records of supply

- A supplier who is participating in the annual verification programme must—
- (a) retain for a period of three years following the date of each supply made after notification of their entry into the programme, records of the names and addresses of all export primary processors to whom they have supplied animals for slaughter; and
 - (b) provide verifiers with reasonable access to any records or documentation in their possession relating to export primary processors to whom they supply animals for export processing.

12 Export primary processors to retain records of supply from premises and other suppliers

Export primary processors who in any year are purchasing or otherwise obtaining for processing animals from premises selected for the annual verification programme must—

- (a) retain for a period of three years following the date of each supply to that processor, made after the premises has entered the programme, records of the names and addresses of suppliers from whom they have purchased or otherwise obtained animals for slaughter; and
- (b) provide verifiers with access to any records or documentation in their possession recording the names of suppliers from whom they source animals for export primary processing.

**Part 5
Revocation**

13 Revocation

The Animal Products (Regulated Control Scheme – On-farm and Stock Saleyard Verification) Notice 2009 is revoked on 1 January 2016.

Issued under sections 40(1)(b) and 167(1)(f) of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Date of notification in *Gazette*:

This notice is administered in the Ministry for Primary Industries.
