



Ref: CTO 2014 154 [G]

Meat Products: Returned New Zealand and Australian Origin Meat and Meat Products Due to Damaged Cartons

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of damaged cartons of New Zealand and Australian origin meat and meat products, rejected in the USA, the country of intended import.

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Marnie Thomas, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for damaged cartons of New Zealand and Australian origin meat and meat products, rejected in the USA, the country of intended import to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standards for returning New Zealand origin meat, meat products and deer velvet, *MEANZOIC.ALL* (issued 19 July 2001) and beef/deer/sheep and goat meat and meat products from Australia, *MEABDSIC.AUS* (issued 23 May 2000):

MEANZOIC.ALL

6.1 The meat products shall be within their original unopened packaging on arrival.

The carton seals must be intact or in the case of full container loads, the official New Zealand seals must be intact.

MEABDSIC.AUS

7.2 The products shall be commercially packed in the original unopened packaging. Full containers of meat shall be sealed.

Cartons rejected overseas because of carton damage, are considered equivalent to unopened packaging providing that:

- The packaging including the liner is the original packaging, with the seal intact in the case of New Zealand origin product.
- The damage is obvious handling damage and not an attempt at opening the carton.
- The damage to the carton is not big enough to allow manipulation of its contents.
- The history of the consignment is completely traceable including but not limited to:
 - o The original export certification or certified copies thereof;
 - o The bill(s) of lading;
 - o Importer details;
 - o Customs entry number for the overseas country;
 - o Import vessel;
 - o Date of import;
 - o Port of lading;
 - o The original shipping mark;
 - o Refusal notification (including date and reason for refusal);
 - o Evidence that the consignment was never released from bond.

Australian-origin meat and meat products that have been rejected overseas but meet the traceability criteria outlined above are deemed equivalent to Australian-origin meat that was directly imported into New Zealand from Australia and is eligible for clearance. The entire consignment including paperwork must be made available for inspection when entering New Zealand. It may not be deemed fit for purpose. In this case the product may be downgraded or destroyed.

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This assessment of equivalence will be included in relevant import permits.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.