New Zealand Food Safety
Haumaru Kai Aotearoa

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REVOKED

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Animal Products Notice

Ante-mortem and Post-mortem examination of Mammals, Ostrich and Emu Intended for Human Consumption

31 May 2015

An animal products notice issued under the Animal Products Act 1999

New Zealand Government

TITLE

Animal Products Notice: Ante-mortem and Post-mortem examination of Mammals, Ostrich and Emu Intended for Human Consumption

COMMENCEMENT

This Animal Products Notice comes into force on 31 May 2015.

REVOCATION

This Animal Products Notice revokes and replaces the Animal Products (Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Examination of Mammals, Ostriches and Emu Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2006.

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Animal Products Notice is issued pursuant to sections 45 and 167(1)(h) of the Animal Products Act 1999, for the purpose of setting requirements and procedures for ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of Mammals, Ostriches and Emu intended for human consumption that are necessary to give effect to the standard specified in regulation 15 of the Animal Products Regulations 2000 –

(1) having had regard to the matters specified in section 44(7) of that Act; and

(2) after appropriate consultation has been carried out in accordance with section 163 of that Act.

Dated at Wellington this day of 2015

Matthew Stone
Director, Animal and Animal Products
Ministry for Primary Industries
(acting under delegated authority of the Director General)
A copy of the instrument of delegation may be inspected at the Director General's office.

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Contents

Page

Introduction **3**

Part 1: General requirements **4**
1.1 Application 4
1.2 Incorporation of material by reference 4
1.3 Definitions 4

Part 2: Ante-mortem Requirements **7**
2.1 Application of this Part 7
2.2 Assessment of suitability for slaughter 7
2.3 Assessment of suitability for processing 7
2.4 Injured, diseased or treated animals 8
2.5 Dead and moribund animals 8
2.6 Approval for removal of animals 8
2.7 Health schemes 8
2.8 Requirements for operators of risk management programmes 9
2.9 Ante-mortem examination at independent facilities 9
2.10 Waiver of requirements 10

Part 3: Post-mortem Requirements **11**
3.1 Application of this Part 11
3.2 Ante-mortem examination required 11
3.3 Requirements for post-mortem examination 11
3.4 Identification of animal material 11
3.5 Completion of the post-mortem examinations 12
3.6 Diseased or defective animal material 12
3.7 Assessment of fitness for intended purpose 12
3.8 Collection and submission of samples 12
3.9 Carcass disease and defect removal training 13
3.10 Specific examination requirements 13

Part 4: Miscellaneous provisions **14**
4.1 Documentation of procedures by agencies 14

Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Animal Products Notice, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

(1) The purpose of this notice is to establish the requirements applicable to ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of animal material and animal products.

(2) The requirements in this notice apply to production animals for domestic markets and are the foundation for any associated export requirements.

Background

Ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of animal material and animal products is critical to ensure that they are fit for human consumption. A robust system for ensuring all animal material and product has passed the appropriate examinations is needed to safeguard public health, and also to provide a foundation for export requirements.

Who should read this Animal Products Notice?

(1) This notice contains specifications that apply to all primary processing of animal material from all mammals, farmed ostriches and emu, where the resulting product is intended for human consumption.

(2) It applies to both risk management programme operators and ante-mortem and post-mortem examiners.

Why is this important?

Operating other than in accordance with this notice is an offence under Part 10 of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Document history

This document replaces the Animal Products (Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Examination of Mammals, Ostriches and Emu Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2006

Part 1: General requirements

1.1 Application

(1) This notice contains specifications that apply to all primary processing of animal material specified in subclause (3) where the resulting product is intended for human consumption.

(2) This notice applies to:

a) risk management programme operators; and
b) ante-mortem and post-mortem examiners.

(3) The animal material covered by this notice is farmed ostriches, farmed emu, and all mammals, including wild mammals, game estate mammals and farmed mammals that have become feral.

1.2 Incorporation of material by reference

(1) Under section 168 of the Act, the following documents are incorporated into, and form part of, this notice –

a) Presentation for Post-Mortem Examination, Red Meat Code of Practice chapter 6[1];
b) Post-Mortem Examination, Red Meat Code of Practice chapter 7[1]; and
c) Post-Mortem Dispositions, Red Meat Code of Practice chapter 8[1].

1.3 Definitions

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

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999

ante-mortem examiner means a person responsible for carrying out the ante-mortem examination functions and activities under a risk management programme in accordance with this notice

approved whole herd health scheme means a scheme that complies with clause 2.7 of this notice

batch system examination means a system for examining animal material from a group of animals where it is not possible or practicable to identify the individual animal from which the material derives

bobby calf means a calf that is intended to be slaughtered for the production of bobby veal; and includes any other calf that has a live weight of less than 45kg

competent detain rail personnel means a person who has undertaken a Carcass Disease and Defect Removal training programme, delivered by an Inspection Agency, that complies with clause 3.9

condemned means examined and judged by an ante-mortem or post-mortem examiner, or otherwise determined by an animal product officer or official assessor, as being unfit for human consumption and requiring disposal

Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance Regulated Control Scheme means the current version of the Animal Products (Regulated Control Scheme - Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance)

[1] http://www.mpi.govt.nz/

Regulations 2004, and any associated specifications, specific requirements, approvals, sampling plans and determinations given or made by the Director-General

Inspection Agency means a State Owned Enterprise approved by MPI to undertake ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of animal products and animal material for export to countries requiring an official inspection

mob means any number of farmed mammals, farmed ostriches, or farmed emu of the same species and same type presented by the same supplier and slaughtered as a continuous line

MPI means the Ministry for Primary Industries

operator means a risk management programme operator

post-mortem examiner means a person responsible for carrying out the post-mortem examination functions and activities under a risk management programme in accordance with this notice

Post-mortem Examination Procedures means chapters 6, 7 and 8 of Meat Code of Practice, issued by MPI

supplier includes a certified supplier and certified game estate supplier, as defined in the current version of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice

supplier statement has the same meaning as defined in the current version of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice

suspect animal material means animal material or animal material derived from a line of animals showing symptoms or suspected of being diseased or contaminated, or having an abnormality, that may affect the suitability for processing or the manner of processing of the animal material, and includes:

a) animals with clinical disease; and
b) tuberculosis (Tb) reactors; and
c) animals covered by a veterinary certificate of disease or injury; and
d) animals from risk sources named in surveillance lists issued under the Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance Regulated Control Scheme; and
e) animals covered by a supplier statement indicating an uncertain animal suitability status

veterinarian means a person currently registered as a veterinarian under the Veterinarians Act 2005; and includes a holder of a provisional certificate of registration under that Act

whole colony health scheme means a scheme for farmed rabbits that meets the requirements of the current version of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice

whole herd health scheme in relation to a herd of farmed mammals means a documented programme of health surveillance and includes where applicable:

a) disease control or eradication; and
b) the management of agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines according to any general or specific conditions of use; and
c) a scheme that complies with clause 2.7; and
d) includes a whole flock health scheme which has a corresponding meaning in relation to a flock of farmed sheep or farmed ostrich and emu

withholding period means a period after treatment or exposure to a veterinary medicine or other chemical substance within which the animal material concerned must not be presented for primary processing

(2) Any term or expression that is defined in the Animal Products Act 1999, or regulations made under that Act and used, but not defined, in this notice has the same meaning as in that Act or regulations.

Part 2: Ante-mortem Requirements

2.1 Application of this Part

This Part applies to farmed mammals, captured and held possums and farmed ostriches and emu, but does not apply to wild mammals, game estate mammals and farmed mammals that have become feral.

2.2 Assessment of suitability for slaughter

(1) Operators must ensure that prior to slaughter, all animals undergo an ante-mortem examination in accordance with subclause (2) and (3) to assess suitability for slaughter.

(2) The examination under subclause (1) must be carried out by an ante-mortem examiner:

a) within 24 hours of arrival of the animals at the place of slaughter; and
b) within 24 hours before the slaughter of the animals.

(3) The ante-mortem examiner must, within 2 hours of the start of slaughtering operations each day, conduct a general overview assessment of the condition of the animals in the holding facilities.

2.3 Assessment of suitability for processing

(1) The ante-mortem examiner must assess whether any animal that he or she examines under clause 2.2(1) presents any abnormality that may:

a) constitute a hazard in any resulting animal material or animal product; or
b) contaminate any animal material or animal product through the dressing of the animal; or
c) affect the processing environment to the extent that it may create a hazard in any animal material or animal product.

(2) On completion of the ante-mortem examination (or re-examination), and taking into account the assessment in subclause (1) and information supplied in any relevant supplier statement, the ante-mortem examiner must make a decision regarding the suitability for processing of the animal, and decide whether the animal:

a) is suitable for slaughter for human consumption; or
b) is suitable for slaughter pending treatment for, or recovery from, an abnormal condition, and, if appropriate, specify when the animal must be submitted for re-examination; or
c) must be slaughtered without delay to prevent the deterioration of an abnormal condition, provided the condition would not prevent all or part of the carcass being fit for human consumption, and processing of the carcass will not detrimentally affect the hygiene of the processing environment; or
d) is suspect animal material, and is required to be slaughtered at a time designated by the ante-mortem examiner; or
e) is not fit for slaughter for human consumption and is to be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

(3) The ante-mortem examiner must determine the appropriate manner of disposal of animal material that is not suitable for human consumption.

(4) The ante-mortem examiner must record the disease and defect information and provide this information to MPI in the format required by the Director-General for that purpose.

(5) The ante-mortem examiner must provide sufficient information to the post-mortem examiner for the purposes of clause 3.2.

2.4 Injured, diseased or treated animals

(1) Where an injured or diseased animal is not suitable for slaughter, and it is not possible to return the animal to its owner or supplier on animal welfare grounds, the animal may be slaughtered by the operator and the resulting animal material sent to rendering.

(2) Animals that are injured while in the care of the operator, or which have suffered injury during transportation to the primary processing place or premises must be slaughtered without delay.

(3) Animals that develop metabolic disorders while in the care of the operator, or have suffered a metabolic disorder during transport to the primary processing premises or place may be treated.

(4) Any animals that are injured, or have been treated as provided for in subclause (3), are suspect animal material for the purpose of assessment of suitability for processing under clause 2.3(2).

2.5 Dead and moribund animals

(1) Any moribund animal at a primary processing place or premises must be killed without delay.

(2) Dead (not slaughtered) or moribund animals at a primary processing place or premises are not suitable for human consumption, and the operator must dispose of the animal in an appropriate manner as advised by the ante-mortem examiner.

2.6 Approval for removal of animals

No animals may be removed from the operator's premises unless the ante-mortem examiner has given approval for the removal (either specifically or generally), in writing.

2.7 Health schemes

(1) A whole herd health scheme must –

a) contain the following particulars:

i) the defined group or class of animals, not including bobby calves, the scheme relates to
ii) a requirement that the defined group or class of animals be farmed, or managed, in accordance with the scheme, for not less than 6 weeks prior to being submitted for slaughter;
iii) a requirement that no new animals are introduced into the defined group within 6 weeks prior to slaughter;
iv) requirements for a unique animal identification system;
v) procedures to ensure that the animals are under the care of a veterinarian appointed by the supplier of animal material;
vi) a verifiable system for tracing the complete health status of all animals in the scheme;
vii) a verifiable system for tracing all animal treatments administered to the animal covered by the scheme throughout its life;
viii) procedures for checking animals for abnormalities prior to despatch to the slaughtering place; and
ix) requirements for the keeping of appropriate records;

b) be confirmed in writing to the operator by the Director-General that it complies with subclause (1)a).

(2) Despite clause 2.2(1), animals managed under a compliant whole herd health scheme, or farmed rabbits managed under a whole colony health scheme, do not require ante-mortem examination to assess suitability for slaughter.

(3) Operators receiving animals managed under an approved whole herd health scheme must check the animals for abnormalities prior to slaughter.

(4) If abnormalities are detected, the operator must comply with clauses 2.2 - 2.6 of this notice and must immediately notify the ante-mortem examiner of the abnormalities.

2.8 Requirements for operators of risk management programmes

(1) Operators must ensure that facilities for holding and handling animals at an operator's premises are adequate for performing ante-mortem examination, and must enable suspect animal material to be segregated, and waste to be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

(2) Operators must have in place a system for identifying all animals presented for slaughter at their premises, for the purpose of tracking the animal's origin. The system must ensure the following information is recorded in writing for each mob:

a) date and time of arrival;
b) supplier (name in clear wording or in code);
c) number of animals;
d) class of animals;
e) any marks, brands, or other distinguishing features if the holding facility contains animals from more than one supplier;
f) information to determine where the animals from the mob are being held;
g) the current ante-mortem status of the animals;
h) name and signature of the ante-mortem examiner and the date of examination;
i) relevant information from the supplier statement; and
j) additional information that may assist in the final assessment of suitability for processing.

(3) The operator must ensure that risk management programmes for the animal material covered by this notice include:

a) a system for identifying, controlling, and where required by the ante-mortem examiner, post-mortem examiner, official assessor or animal product officer, disposal of diseased, defective and condemned animal material;
b) requirements relating to the facilities and areas provided for carrying out post-mortem examinations; and
c) requirements relating to the facilities and areas provided for carrying out post-mortem examinations of animals declared unfit for slaughter for human consumption by the ante-mortem examiner.

(4) The operator must give all ante-mortem and post-mortem examiners the freedom, access and authority to carry out their responsibilities required by this notice.

2.9 Ante-mortem examination at independent facilities

(1) Ante-mortem examination may be performed at places that are independent of the operator's premises.

(2) The ante-mortem examiner must conduct ante-mortem examination of animals at independent facilities in accordance with this Part.

(3) Operators of independent facilities must keep records for four years, of all animals received and the outcome of any ante-mortem examination.

(4) Operators receiving animals that have undergone ante-mortem examination at places that are independent of the primary processing place or premises must check the animals for any abnormalities prior to slaughter, and if any abnormalities are found, the operator must comply with clauses 2.3 - 2.6 of this notice.

(5) Operators receiving animals that have undergone ante-mortem examination at places that are independent of the primary processing place or premises must keep records of those animals received and the independent places from which they were received.

2.10 Waiver of requirements

(1) The Director-General may waive the requirements specified in clauses 2.2 and 2.3 of this notice if-

a) the supplier has previously submitted animals for slaughter by that operator and no disease conditions of note have been identified in the last 2 years;

b) the operator provides evidence that the animals slaughtered, and any previously slaughtered animals that came from the same property, have not compromised hygienic processing or ante and post-mortem examination requirements;

c) the accompanying supplier statement does not indicate any food safety risks;

d) the operator supplies written information from the company yard persons on observations made when moving the animals around the yards, including unloading and transportation to stunning;

e) the supplier provides a statement from their veterinarian attesting to the satisfactory health status of the animals on the farm, currently and over the past 18 months;

f) the operator provides a written report of what has occurred in this specific instance and has documented the corrective and preventative actions taken to address the identified issue(s); and

g) the operator's risk management programme verifier has signed a statement stating that the verifier has reviewed the operator's corrective and preventative actions and considers that the operator maintains an effective internal verification programme.

(2) The information specified in subclause (1), including copies of all reports, statements, forms and comments from the verifier must be provided to the Director-General.

(3) Product from the animals concerned must be identified and detained pending a determination of disposition of the animal product.

Part 3: Post-mortem Requirements

3.1 Application of this Part

(1) This Part applies to animal material and animal products intended for human consumption from farmed mammals, ostriches, emu, wild mammals, game estate mammals, and farmed mammals that have become feral.

(2) For the purposes of this Part the terms 'meat inspector' and 'inspector' in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures mean the post-mortem examiner and the term 'inspection' means examination.

3.2 Ante-mortem examination required

Prior to undertaking any post-mortem examination, the post-mortem examiner must, where applicable, have information on the result of the ante-mortem examiner's assessment of the suitability of the animal for processing.

3.3 Requirements for post-mortem examination

(1) The operator must ensure that post-mortem examination is undertaken by a post-mortem examiner without delay following the dressing of an animal intended for human consumption and in accordance with the relevant risk management programme and this Part.

(2) The operator must present animal material for post-mortem examination to the post-mortem examiner in accordance with the procedures relating to presentation as described in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures.

(3) The post-mortem examiner must conduct post-mortem examination so as to minimise cross-contamination between carcasses and in accordance with the procedures relating to post-mortem inspection as described in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures.

(4) In addition to subclause (3) the post-mortem examiner must undertake additional incisions, examinations and sampling if necessary, to determine the presence, character and extent of any condition that may affect the fitness for intended purpose of the resulting animal product.

(5) When requested, the operator must provide assistance to enable the post-mortem examiner to perform any additional procedures which are necessary in accordance with subclause (4).

(6) Where any tissues are missing from a carcass, the post-mortem examiner must proceed with the examination in accordance with the procedures described in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures.

3.4 Identification of animal material

(1) The operator must ensure that all animal material which is required to be examined is identifiable as being derived from a particular individual animal until an assessment is made by the post-mortem examiner of the fitness of the resulting animal product for human consumption.

(2) Despite subclause (1), the post-mortem examiner may undertake a batch systems examination of animal material where this is provided for in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures.

3.5 Completion of the post-mortem examinations

Before determining fitness for intended purpose of the resulting animal product, the post-mortem examiner must complete post-mortem examination in accordance with clause 3.3.

3.6 Diseased or defective animal material

(1) The operator must ensure that diseased or defective animal material that is identified by the post-mortem examiner is removed from the animal material before the remaining material may be considered as fit for intended purpose.

(2) A post-mortem examiner, or a competent detain rail personnel, must ensure that the diseased or defective animal material described in subclause (1) has been removed before the remaining animal material may be considered as fit for intended purpose.

(3) The post-mortem examiner and competent detain rail personnel must ensure that the diseased or defective animal material described in subclause (1) remains under the control of the post-mortem examiner or competent detain rail personnel, until the diseased or defective material has been removed from the animal material and disposed of.

(4) The operator must ensure that diseased, defective or suspect animal material that is retained by the post-mortem examiner, excluding material described in subclause (3), is securely stored, identified as not intended for human consumption and included in the operator's inventory records.

(5) The post-mortem examiner must record the disease and defect information in accordance with the procedures as described in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures and must provide this information to MPI in the format required by the Director-General for that purpose.

3.7 Assessment of fitness for intended purpose

(1) On completion of the post-mortem examination, the post-mortem examiner must make a decision regarding the resulting animal product's fitness for intended purpose, and the appropriate method for disposing of the product (in part or in whole) in accordance with the procedures relating to disposition of material and product not fit for human consumption as described in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures.

(2) The operator must dispose of diseased or defective animal material or animal product (in part or in whole) in accordance with the decision of the post-mortem examiner under subclause (1).

3.8 Collection and submission of samples

(1) The post-mortem examiner must submit for laboratory analysis the lesions and other tissues specified in the procedures relating to dispositions as described in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures, in the manner specified and to a laboratory specified in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures.

(2) The post-mortem examiner may submit samples of animal material for laboratory analysis where necessary to assist with assessment of its fitness for intended purpose.

(3) The post-mortem examiner must not intentionally incise any suspect *Taenia saginata*, *Taenia solium* or *Echinococcus granulosus* lesions.

(4) The post-mortem examiner must comply with any relevant procedures for identification, packaging, security and dispatch of samples, set out in the Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance Regulated Control Scheme, in relation to samples that are subject to this clause.

(5) The post-mortem examiner must forward to MPI as soon as practicable, copies of all laboratory submission forms and reports relating to the analysis of lesions specified in subclause (3) whether or not the results are confirmed.

3.9 Carcass disease and defect removal training

A training programme for carcass disease and defect removal must include:

a) Theoretical training in recognising diseases and defects that have been identified by a post-mortem examiner; and
b) A practical demonstration of techniques applicable to the species concerned.

3.10 Specific examination requirements

If, under section 81 of the Act, the Director-General gives directions to the operator that certain kinds of animal material must be subjected to examination procedures that differ from those specified in the Post-mortem Examination Procedures, the operator must ensure that the post-mortem examiner is notified of the directions and the post-mortem examiner must comply with those directions.

Part 4: Miscellaneous provisions

4.1 Documentation of procedures by agencies

(1) Operators undertaking post-mortem examinations must have documented procedures for the following activities:

a) confirmation of the ante-mortem status of animals to the post-mortem examiner;
b) notification to the operator of suspect animal material;
c) methods of communication between ante-mortem and post-mortem examiners, and between post-mortem examiners;
d) the sequence of examination procedures;
e) the frequency of hand washing, knife sterilisation, and other hygienic measures by post-mortem examiners;
f) identification of diseases and defects for trimming, retention and re-examination;
g) the collection and submission to MPI of disease and defect information;
h) the use of facilities and areas provided for carrying out ante-mortem and post-mortem examinations described in the risk management programme;
i) the use of facilities and areas provided for isolating and examining suspect animals;
j) retaining animal material and animal products for extended periods;
k) monitoring the performance of post-mortem examiners; and
l) ensuring that the knowledge and skills of ante-mortem and post-mortem examiners are maintained on an ongoing basis.

(2) Subclause (1) also applies, in relation to each risk management programme, to agencies managing persons undertaking post-mortem examinations.