



Presentation for Post-Mortem Examination

Red Meat Code of Practice Chapter 6

31 May 2015

TITLE

Operational Code: Presentation for Post-Mortem Examination

COMMENCEMENT

This Operational Code is effective from 31 May 2015.

ISSUING BODY

This Operational Code is issued by the Animal Products group, Regulation and Assurance branch of the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Dated at Wellington this day of 2015.

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Operational Code, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

- (1) To ensure appropriate presentation of all relevant animal material for post-mortem (PM) examination, after slaughter and dressing has occurred.

Background

- (1) This document outlines the practical requirements for animal material presented for post mortem examination. These requirements consist of general requirements applicable across all the red meat species, including Ostrich and Emu. In addition there are species specific requirements and considerations that are listed separately.

Who should read this Operational Code?

- (1) This code 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?

- (1) Operating other than in accordance with this code is an offence under Part 10 of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Related requirements

- (1) This document should be read in conjunction with
 - a) Animal Products Notice: Ante-mortem and Post-mortem examination of Mammals, Ostrich and Emu
 - b) Post-Mortem Examination, Red Meat Code of Practice Chapter 7
 - c) Dispositions, Red Meat Code of Practice Chapter 8

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Definitions

HC Spec means the current version of Animal Products (Specifications For Products Intended For Human Consumption) Notice 2013

remove means, in parts 4 and 5 of this chapter, to decouple a specific animal tissue from other tissues of the same animal. This does not include physical separation of tissues that occurs as a part of the slaughter process.

For example, a pluck that is taken out of a carcass is not considered to be removed unless it cannot be linked to the originating carcass

1.2 Mandatory Requirements

HC Spec 75, 82, 89, 97:

Only animal material that has been examined in accordance with any relevant post-mortem regulations and specifications may be released from the final primary processor.

Part 2: Procedures

2.1 General

- (1) The Operator must present all relevant animal material for PM examination.
- (2) Pathological lesions must not be removed before PM examination. This does not include lesions on those parts normally discarded (e.g. hooves) unless an Animal Products Officer (APO) has prohibited the removal of those parts or they are to be saved.
- (3) Where conditions in the animal prevent compliance with these procedures on the chain, the workup can be done on the retain rail or other suitable area prior to PM examination.
- (4) Trimming activities prior to PM examination must ensure that no lymph nodes and parts which may affect disposition are removed.

2.2 Standards for Presentation for Post-Mortem examination (all classes of red meat animals other than bobby calves and ovine)

	Must	May	Must Not
Kidney	Enucleate.	Separate from carcass.	Remove or incise prior to post-mortem examination. However, a superficial nick in the cortex of the kidneys is acceptable.
Heart		Separate from lungs.	
Liver		Separate from viscera.	
Spleen		Separate from viscera.	
Diaphragm		Separate from carcass.	
Lymph nodes			
Carcass		Trim contamination prior to post-mortem examination.	Trim pathology prior to post-mortem examination.
Milky Udders	Take off prior to post-mortem examination.		
Head	Depends on class. Must be positively identified to carcass if detached unless specified.		
Animal Tissues	Ensure all relevant animal tissues are identified to one animal until final post-mortem examination unless there is an approved batch disposition programme for the unidentified tissues.		Remove edible parts prior to final post-mortem examination unless there is an approved batch disposition programme for those tissues.

2.3 Animal tissues

- (1) All relevant animal tissues must be identified to one animal until PM examination has been completed unless there is a batch disposition system for the unidentified tissues described in the operators registered RMP. This does not prevent detachment or separation that is required for processing or transport.

- (2) Parts destined for human consumption for food must not be removed prior to PM examination unless there is an approved batch disposition programme for these tissues.

2.4 Carcass

- (1) Carcass cavities must not be flushed out before PM examination.
- (2) Carcasses may be split before PM examination unless specifically prohibited in section 5 of this chapter.

2.5 Diaphragm

- (1) The diaphragm must not be removed prior to PM examination. Incisions into the diaphragm must be limited to those necessary for taking the pluck out.

2.6 Head

- (1) Heads must be washed before they are examined unless otherwise stated in part 3 of this chapter (Specific Species Requirements). Tongues must be presented clean for PM examination. Heads must be fully skinned unless otherwise stated in section 3 of this chapter. Tonsils must be left intact and attached to the head.

2.7 Heart

- (1) The heart must not be removed or incised prior to PM examination.
- (2) The pericardium must be opened.

2.8 Hocks

- (1) Hocks saved for human consumption must be presented skin-on with fibre (wool or hair) and hoof cuticle (nail) removed.

2.9 Kidney

- (1) Kidneys must not be removed or incised prior to PM examination, however they must be enucleated. Cortical damage must not occur.
- (2) This does not apply to ostriches and emus.

A superficial nick in the cortex of the kidney is acceptable. Compressed air may be used to remove the capsule.

2.10 Liver

- (1) The liver must not be removed or incised prior to PM examination.

A liver presented with less than one whole node will be designated petfood if not otherwise condemned. Refer to chapter 8, Dispositions

2.11 Lymph nodes

- (1) Lymph nodes must be left attached for PM examination unless otherwise specified in part 3 of this chapter.

2.12 Milky udders

- (1) Milky udders must be removed prior to PM examination. They should be separated from the carcass without milk spilling on the product. Refer chapter 5, Slaughter and Dressing.

2.13 Pizzles

- (1) Where needing inspection, the pizzle must be severed as a complete entity from its pelvic attachment to the carcass and freed from the prepuce prior to PM examination.

2.14 Spleen

- (1) The spleen must not be removed or incised prior to PM examination.

2.15 Testes

- (1) Testes must not be removed or incised prior to PM examination.

2.16 Other parts, e.g. tendons and tails

- (1) Other parts may be removed from the carcass and examined with the other viscera or may be left naturally attached to the carcass and examined with the carcass.

2.17 Viscera Table (or Gut Buggy) Operations

- (1) Offal and viscera must not be removed from the viscera table until PM examination is completed unless expressly allowed by the PM examiner.
- (2) Work up operations on the viscera table must be kept to a minimum until after PM examination. To facilitate PM examination, certain activities may be approved by MPI.

2.18 Missing Parts

- (1) When parts of an animal required for PM examination are not presented, the remaining parts must be retained pending the location of missing parts. See Chapter 8, dispositions for judgement and disposition of affected product in these cases.
- (2) Carcasses incompletely eviscerated because of workman error may be dealt with on the main chain or placed on the retain rail, together with all other parts necessary for PM examination. Repetitive faults may cause production to be slowed or cease.

2.19 Suspects

- (1) Suspect animals must be presented and retained for further PM examination. Positive identification of the head, viscera and carcass must be maintained until a disposition has been made. When necessary, any additional tissues or organs as directed by the ante-mortem examiner or an Animal Products Officer must also be presented.

Part 3: Specific Species Requirements

3.1 Cattle

3.1.1 Head Presentation

- (1) The internal and external cheek muscles must not be dropped before PM examination. This permits the head examiner to fully inspect these muscles in their natural position. The company must ensure that heads presented for PM examination:
 - a) are hygienically skinned according to intended use; and
 - b) have the tongue properly dropped; and
 - c) have the head lymph nodes present and intact.

Flushing of the oropharynx may be required to clear ingesta so that PM examination can be carried out, including specific examination of the tongue.

- (2) If neither the tongue nor masseter muscles are saved for human consumption, then in addition to the procedures above, skinning is not required provided the lymph nodes and tongue can be examined.
- (3) If the tongue is saved for human consumption, then in addition the ventral aspect of the head must be skinned so that the tongue can be removed in a hygienic manner.
- (4) If the tongue and masseter muscles are saved for human consumption, the lateral aspect of the head must also be skinned sufficiently to enable PM examination and removal in a hygienic manner.
- (5) Cross contamination, such as water transfer between the skin and meat, must be avoided.

Flushing of the oropharynx may be required for hygienic removal of the internal pterygoid muscles.

3.1.2 Carcass

- (1) The carcass must be split before PM examination unless a validated chilling process is established for intact carcasses.

3.2 Bobby Calves

3.2.1 Head Presentation

- (1) When the tongue is not saved for human consumption, the head does not need to be presented for PM examination.

The head may be hygienically disposed of prior to PM examination of the carcass.

- (2) When the tongue is saved for human consumption, the ventral aspect of the head must be skinned so that the tongue can be removed in a hygienic manner and presented for PM examination on the viscera table. The head does not need to be presented for PM examination.

The oropharynx may require flushing to enable hygienic removal of the tongue and appropriate examination. The head may be hygienically disposed of after the tongue has been placed on the viscera table.

- (3) When the brain is saved for human consumption, no PM examination of the head is required. The brain must be removed from the head in a hygienic manner. Cross contamination, such as water transfer between the skin and brain must be avoided. The head must be completely skinned unless it can be demonstrated that the method prevents cross-contamination.

If neither the head nor the tongue is required for human consumption, any parts of the head may be salvaged for petfood without PM examination, provided they are not defective in any way and not derived from carcasses condemned for disease conditions. Salvage may occur before PM examination using batch collection procedures.

3.2.2 Carcass and viscera

	Must	May	Must Not
Kidney	Enucleate.	Separate from carcass.	Remove or incise prior to examination. However, a superficial nick in the cortex of the kidneys is acceptable.
Heart		Separate from lungs.	
Liver		Separate from viscera.	
Spleen		Separate from viscera.	
Diaphragm	Separate from carcass, as near to its attachments to the carcass wall as possible.		
Lymph nodes			
Carcass		Trim contamination prior to examination.	Trim pathology prior to examination.
Head	As above.		
Animal Tissues	Ensure all relevant animal tissues are identified to one animal until final examination unless there is an approved batch disposition programme for the unidentified tissues.		Remove edible parts prior to final examination unless there is an approved batch disposition programme for those tissues.

3.3 Sheep, Goat and Lambs

3.3.1 General (all options)

Tissue	Must	May	Must not
Heart		Separate from lungs.	Remove or incise prior to examination.
Liver		Separate from viscera.	
Spleen		Separate from viscera.	
Carcass/lymph nodes		Hygienically remove contamination.	Remove or incise lymph nodes prior to examination unless under options 2 and 3 in sub-section 3.3.2 when the incidental removal of superficial lymph nodes is permitted.
Milky udders	Take off prior to examination.		
Head	If head or tongue is saved for human consumption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Head presentation and skinning must be sufficient for hygienic collection and PM examination. 		

Animal tissues	Ensure all relevant animal tissues are identified to one animal until final examination unless there is an approved batch disposition programme for the unidentified tissues.		Remove edible parts prior to final inspection unless there is an approved batch disposition programme for those tissues.
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3.3.2 Options specific requirements

Sheep/Goats and Lambs Option 1	Sheep/Goats and Lambs Option 2	Sheep/Goats and Lambs Option 3
	Take off tail. Take off pizzle. Incise abdominal wall. Take off fat curtain. Split brisket. Take off diaphragm. Present kidneys on the viscera table.	Take off tail. Take off pizzle. Incise abdominal wall. Take off fat curtain. Split brisket. Take off diaphragm. Present kidneys on the viscera table.
Good hygienic practice prevails.	Good hygienic practice prevails. No QA check of the forequarter /ventral neck.	Good hygienic practice prevails. This must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operator examination and trimming where necessary of ventral neck and Y-cut areas for contamination. A QA check of the forequarter/ventral neck.
Notes for option 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pizzle may stay on the carcass prior to PM examination. Diaphragm may be separated from the carcass or left within the carcass for PM examination. Kidneys may be separated from carcass or left within the carcass for PM examination. In both cases, kidneys must be enucleated prior to PM examination. Brisket may be left unsplit. 	Notes for options 2 & 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidental removal of superficial inguinal, supramammary, subiliac and superficial cervical lymph nodes is acceptable. Take off tail prior to PM examination in such a manner that facilitates viewing of the rectal cavity. Take off pizzle prior to PM examination sufficient to provide unobstructed view of the pelvic cavity. Incise abdominal wall to provide an unobstructed view of the pelvic cavity and caudal abdomen. A horizontal incision is preferred for better visualisation of the caudal abdomen. Extending the midline incision to the pelvic symphysis is acceptable. Take off fat curtain. The fat curtain is fat attached to the ventral pelvic cavity which hangs down obstructing viewing the pelvic cavity. Split brisket prior to PM examination to facilitate viewing the internal carcass surfaces. Remove diaphragm prior to PM examination. Remove as much of diaphragm as possible for examination on the viscera table. Enucleate kidneys prior to PM examination. 	

If neither the head nor the tongue is required for human consumption, any parts of the head may be salvaged for petfood without PM examination, provided they are not defective in any way and not derived from carcasses condemned for disease conditions. Salvage may occur before PM examination using batch collection procedures.

3.4 Horses

- (1) The attachment of one shoulder of each carcass must be loosened on grey and white horses before PM examination to permit the examiner to examine the muscles and lymph nodes beneath the scapular cartilage for melanosis and melanoma.

3.5 Farmed Deer

3.5.1 Head Presentation

- (1) When nothing is saved for human consumption, the head must be skinned sufficiently to expose the pharynx and the buccal cavity. All lymph nodes must be left in situ and exposed for examination.
- (2) When the tongue is saved for human consumption, the head must be skinned sufficiently to expose the pharynx and the buccal cavity and permit hygienic removal of the tongue. All lymph nodes must be left in situ and exposed for examination.
- (3) When head meats or the brain is saved for human consumption, the head must be presented for examination in the fully skinned state. Tonsils must be left intact and attached to the head.

3.6 Wild Mammals

3.6.1 Head Presentation

- (1) Heads may be detached provided positive identification of the carcass, viscera and head is maintained through to PM examination.

3.7 Game Estate Animals

3.7.1 Head presentation

- (1) Heads may be detached provided positive identification of the carcass, viscera and head is maintained through to PM examination.

3.8 Farmed Animals that have become feral and then been killed

3.8.1 Head Presentation

- (1) Heads may be detached provided positive identification of the carcass, viscera and head is maintained through to PM examination.

3.9 Ostriches and Emus

- (1) Heads may be discarded before PM examination.

Note: there are no lymph nodes in ostriches and emus