



## Animal Products (Official Assessors: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Inspectors) Notice 2009

Pursuant to section 167(1)(p) of the Animal Products Act 1999, I, Tony Zohrab, Director (Market Access) issue the following notice specifying competences, qualifications, experience and other requirements for official assessors undertaking ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections of products for export for inspection agencies.

Signed at Wellington this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May 2009

Tony Zohrab  
Director (Market Access)  
New Zealand Food Safety Authority  
(Acting under delegated authority)

Certified in order for signature  
Legal Services

Solicitor

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## Notice

### 1 Title

This notice is the Animal Products (Official Assessors: Ante-Mortem and Post Mortem Inspectors) Notice 2009.

### 2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on 1 August 2009.

### 3 Application

- (1) This notice applies to official assessors appointed to carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of animal material and animal product for export for inspection agencies.
- (2) Requirements and specifications relating to inspection agencies are set out in the Animal Products (Export Requirement: Inspection Agencies for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Inspection) Notice 2009.
- (3) To avoid doubt, this notice does not affect—
  - (a) ante-mortem or post-mortem examination of animal material or animal products carried out by any person working for NZFSA; or
  - (b) the functions and activities of any animal products officer.

### 4 Interpretation

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

**Act** means the Animal Products Act 1999

**animal product** has the same meaning as in the Act, but excludes—

- (a) live animals not exported as food; and
- (b) germplasm

**animal product business** means an animal product meat export business that has contracted a particular inspection agency to provide ante-mortem or post-mortem functions and associated tasks (being the tasks associated with ante-mortem or post mortem inspection that are listed in schedule 2 of the Animal Products (Export Requirement: Inspection Agencies for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Inspection) Notice 2009

**ante-mortem inspector** means an official assessor who is—

- (a) appointed under section 79 of the Act to perform ante-mortem inspection of animal material for export to countries requiring an official inspection; and
- (b) employed by an inspection agency

**Director General** means the Chief Executive of NZFSA

**inspection agency** means a agency approved by NZFSA to be responsible for official ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of animal products and animal material for export to countries requiring an official inspection

**NZFSA** means the New Zealand Food Safety Authority

**official inspection** means inspection for compliance with a set of procedures and judgements specified by NZFSA to determine whether product or by-product is fit for its intended purpose

**post-mortem inspector** means an official assessor who is—

- (a) appointed under section 79 of the Act to perform post-mortem inspection of animal material for export to countries requiring an official inspection; and
  - (b) employed by an inspection agency
- (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.

## 5 General competencies

- (1) A person applying to be an ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector must hold one of the following qualifications:
- (a) National Certificate in Meat Inspection Services (registered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA));
  - (b) Certificate of Meat inspection (issued by the Director, Meat Division, MAF);
  - (c) Certificate of Competency for Meat Inspection (issued by MAF Quality Management);
  - (d) Qualification in Meat Inspection (issued by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS));
  - (e) registration as a veterinarian under the Veterinarians Act 2005;
  - (f) an alternative qualification accepted by the Director-General as being a generally equivalent qualification to those listed in paragraphs (a) to (e).
- (2) An ante-mortem inspector holding the National Certificate in Meat Inspection Services must also hold the Optional Advanced Meat Inspection Service Strand of that Certificate for the same species as the post-mortem qualification.
- (3) A post-mortem inspector is not required to hold a qualification for ante-mortem inspection.
- (4) The qualifications held must include the species for which the ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection is undertaken.
- (5) A trainee must complete his or her full training in a timely manner.
- (6) An ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector must have knowledge of the relevant market access requirements and specifications and to the extent relevant to an official assessors activities the training programme must enable an official assessor to demonstrate an understanding of the Act, including;
- (a) the object of the Act; and
  - (b) the role, responsibilities, and duties of the inspection agency; and
  - (c) the role of NZFSA; and
  - (d) the relevant regulations, export requirements, notices and specifications made under the Act.
- (7) Any person who qualified more than three years before making an application must be able to demonstrate a meaningful involvement in performing ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection over the intervening years or undergo re-qualification. The extent and nature of re-qualification training must be documented by the inspection agency.

## 6 General requirements

- (1) If an ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector is prevented from performing his or her functions and activities or exercising his or her duties and rights, he or she must —

- (a) inform the management of the agency with which he or she is employed and seek a workable solution; and
  - (b) advise the Director, Compliance and Investigation, NZFSA as soon as practicable recommending any actions to be taken as appropriate.
- (2) If an ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector considers that the inspection agency with which he or she is employed is adversely affecting the proper exercise of the statutory functions of the ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector, that person must inform the Director, Compliance and Investigation, NZFSA.

## **7 Requirements when non-compliance is detected**

- (1) Subclause (2) applies if in the course of performing his or her functions and activities, an ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector detects any uncorrected deficiency or non-compliance with any relevant requirements under the Act, which he or she considers may—
- (a) result in exposure of humans or animals to an unacceptable level of hazard; or
  - (b) have the potential to jeopardise overseas market access; or
  - (c) threaten the integrity of the official assurance system.
- (2) If this subclause applies, the ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector must report the uncorrected deficiency or non-compliance as soon as practicable, to either the appropriate manager in the inspection agency, or the NZFSA, and recommend any actions to be taken.
- (3) If the appropriate manager or NZFSA onsite representative is unavailable, the ante-mortem and post mortem inspector must require remedial action in accordance with the powers of official assessors under the Act.

## **8 Maintaining appointment**

To maintain an appointment as an ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector a person must—

- (a) have been assessed as competent in accordance with the national official assessor performance assessment system of the inspection agency with which he or she is employed; and
- (b) have complied with the conditions specified in the appointment; and
- (c) not have brought the office of official assessors into disrepute.

## **9 Restriction on other employment of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspectors**

- (1) An ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector, while conducting any ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection must not derive income or other consideration from the industry (meaning in this context any animal product business operator).
- (2) Despite subclause (1), an ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector, when not required to provide official ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection services,—
- (a) may be seconded to an animal product business operator, but payment must be made directly to the inspection agency at which he or she is employed; or
  - (b) may seek secondary employment and consequently derive income or revenue from any animal product business operator.
- (3) Further to subclause (2)(b), secondary employment by a meat company is acceptable, provided that it is not at the same establishment where the ante-mortem or post-mortem inspector, carries out official ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection of animal products or animal material intended for export.

## **10 Trainees**

- (1) Trainee ante-mortem and post-mortem inspectors must be assessed by a work place assessor holding NZQA Unit Standard 4098.
- (2) Moderated assessments of work place assessors must be undertaken by persons who have NZQA Unit Standard 11551 Moderate Assessment.
- (3) Trainees must not undertake ante-mortem or post-mortem inspection unsupervised until documentary evidence of competency is available to the inspection agency.
- (4) A trainee, who is competent in all aspects of the species but only in one position at chain speed, may be appointed as an official assessor to undertake ante-mortem and post mortem work at that station unsupervised.

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Issued under section 167(1)(p) of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Date of notification in Gazette: [            ]

This notice is administered in the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.

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