



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

Pursuant to section 45 and 167(1)(h) of the Animal Products Act 1999, I, Tim Knox, Director New Zealand Standards issue the following notice for the purpose of setting requirements and procedures for ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of Mammals, Ostriches and Emu intended for human consumption to give effect to the standard specified in regulation 15 of the Animal Products Regulations 2000.

Signed at Wellington this 28th day of June 2006

Tim Knox
Director (New Zealand Standards)
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
(Acting under delegated authority)

Certified in order for signature

Solicitor
Legal Services

28/06/2006

Published by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (New Zealand Food Safety Authority)
PO Box 2835, Wellington

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Notice

1 Title

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

2 Commencement

Subject to clauses 3(4) and 17(3) this notice comes into force on 1 July 2006.

Part 1 Preliminary Provisions

3 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 are farmed ostriches and emu, and all mammals, including wild mammals, game estate mammals and farmed mammals that have become feral.
- (4) In the case of ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of farmed rabbits, the date from which clause 25(1)(a) and clause 1 Schedule 3 (risk management programme to make provision for competency of ante-mortem and post-mortem examiners) of the current version of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice will apply is 1 July 2007.

4 Interpretation

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

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999

Approved whole herd health scheme refers to a scheme approved by the Director-General under clause 11 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

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

Manual 16 means the current edition of the “Post-mortem Inspection Procedures” issued by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority

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

NZFSA means the New Zealand Food Safety Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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; and **ante-mortem examiner** has a corresponding meaning

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) is a scheme approved by the Director-General under clause 11; 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; and includes **meat withholding period**.

- (2) In this notice the term “immediate care” has the same meaning as in the current edition of the “Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinarians”, issued by the Veterinary Council of New Zealand.
- (3) 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

5 Application of this Part

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

6 Assessment of suitability for slaughter

- (1) Prior to slaughter, all animals must undergo an ante-mortem examination 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.

7 Assessment of suitability for processing

- (1) The ante-mortem examiner must assess whether any animal that he or she examines under clause 6(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 the 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 in the manner required by the Director-General and provide this information to NZFSA in the format approved 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 18.

8 Injured or treated animals

- (1) Animals which are injured prior to transportation must not be accepted for slaughter by an operator without a certificate signed by a veterinarian, attesting to the following matters:
 - (a) the nature of the injury:
 - (b) any treatment given:
 - (c) any veterinary medicine given:
 - (d) the date of the last treatment or application of any veterinary medicine:
 - (e) any relevant withholding period.
- (2) Where it is not possible on animal welfare grounds to return the animal to its owner or supplier, the animal may be slaughtered by the operator and the resulting animal material sent to rendering.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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 by or under the supervision of a veterinarian.
- (5) Any animals that are injured, or have been treated as provided for in subclause (4), are suspect animal material for the purpose of assessment of suitability for processing under clause 7.

9 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.

10 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.

Health schemes

11 Approval of a whole herd health scheme

- (1) The Director-General may approve a whole herd health scheme if satisfied that the scheme contains the following particulars:
 - (a) the defined group or class of animals, not including bobby calves, the scheme relates to:
 - (b) 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:
 - (c) a requirement that no new animals are introduced into the defined group within 6 weeks prior to slaughter:
 - (d) requirements for a unique animal identification system:
 - (e) procedures to ensure that the animals are under the immediate care of a veterinarian:

- (f) a verifiable system for tracing the complete health status of all animals in the scheme:
 - (g) a verifiable system for tracing all animal treatments administered to the animal covered by the scheme throughout its life:
 - (h) procedures for checking animals for abnormalities prior to despatch to the slaughtering place:
 - (i) requirements for the keeping of appropriate records.
- (2) The Director-General may impose conditions on the approval of a whole herd health scheme to ensure that the animals are suitable for processing.

12 Effect of health scheme

- (1) Despite clause 6(1), animals managed under an approved 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, unless such examination is required by conditions imposed on the scheme, or abnormalities are detected in those animals.
- (2) Operators receiving animals managed under an approved whole herd health scheme must check the animals for abnormalities prior to slaughter.
- (3) An operator must notify the ante-mortem examiner when abnormalities are detected, and clauses 6 to 10 of this notice apply.

Requirements for operators of risk management programmes

13 Facilities

Facilities for holding and handling animals at an operator's premises must be 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.

14 Identification system

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:
- (j) additional information that may assist in the final assessment of suitability for processing.

15 Requirements for risk management programmes

- (1) 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; and

- (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.
- (2) 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.

Ante-mortem examination at independent facilities

16 Ante-mortem examination at independent facilities

- (1) Ante-mortem examination may be performed at places that are independent of the operator's premises.
- (2) Ante-mortem examination of animals at independent facilities must be conducted 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, then clauses 7 to 10 of this notice apply.
- (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 and the independent places from which they were received.

**Part 3
Post-mortem Requirements**

17 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 Manual 16 mean the **post-mortem examiner** and the term **inspection** means **examination**. Prior to undertaking any post-mortem examination, the post-mortem examiner must, where applicable, know the ante-mortem examiner's assessment of the suitability of the animal for processing.
- (3) In this Part the requirement in clause 26(2) for operators who conduct post-mortem examinations of farmed rabbits to have documented procedures comes into force on 1 July 2007.

18 Ante-mortem examination required

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

19 Requirements for post-mortem examination

- (1) A post-mortem examination must be 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 described in Appendix 2 of Manual 16.
- (3) The post-mortem examination must be conducted so as to minimise cross-contamination between carcasses and in accordance with the procedures described in Section 2 and Appendix 3 of Manual 16.
- (4) In addition to subclause (2) 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 Appendix 2 of Manual 16.

20 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 Manual 16.

21 Completion of the post-mortem examinations

The post-mortem examination under clause 19 must be completed before the determination of fitness for intended purpose of the resulting animal product.

22 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
- (2) The post-mortem examiner must re-examine the animal material once the diseased or defective animal material has been removed before the remaining animal material may be considered as fit for intended purpose.
- (3) Diseased or defective animal material must remain under the control of the post-mortem examiner, until the diseased or defective material has been removed from the animal material and disposed of.
- (4) Diseased, defective or suspect animal material that is retained by the post-mortem examiner, excluding material in subclause (3), must be securely stored, identified as not intended for human consumption and must be included in the operator's inventory records.
- (5) The post-mortem examiner must record the disease and defect information as described in Section 6 Manual 16 and provide this information to NZFSA in the format approved by the Director-General for that purpose.

23 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 Appendix 4 Manual 16 for material and product not fit for human consumption.
- (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).

24 Collection and submission of samples

- (1) The post-mortem examiner must submit for laboratory analysis the lesions and other tissues described in Section 4 Manual 16, in particular 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3 and Section 5 Manual 16 in particular sections 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, and 5.5, in the manner specified, to a laboratory specified in Manual 16.
- (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) Any relevant procedures for identification, packaging, security and despatch of samples set out in the Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance Regulated Control Scheme apply to samples under this clause.
- (5) The post-mortem examiner must forward to NZFSA as soon as practicable, all laboratory submission forms and reports relating to the analysis of lesions specified in subclause (3) whether or not the results are confirmed.

25 Specific examination requirements

- (1) The Director-General may require that certain kinds of animal material be subjected to examination procedures that differ from those specified in Section 2 and Appendix 3 of Manual 16, where the Director-General has reason to believe that the animal material may have a condition that unless detected and removed, may pose a public health risk or jeopardise access to overseas markets.
- (2) Where the Director-General makes a requirement described in subclause (1), the post-mortem examiner must comply with that requirement.

Miscellaneous provisions

26 Documentation of procedures by agencies

- (1) Agencies managing persons undertaking post-mortem examinations must have documented procedures for the following activities in relation to each risk management programme:
 - (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:

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- (f) identification of diseases and defects for trimming, retention and re-examination:
 - (g) the collection and submission to NZFSA 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:
 - (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 to operators who conduct post-mortem examinations.

Issued under section 167 of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Date of notification in *Gazette*:

This notice is administered in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.
