



Animal Products (Export Requirements for Game Estate Products) Notice 2008

Pursuant to sections 60 of the Animal Products Act 1999, I, Carol Barnao, Director Standards issue the following notice for the purposes of for the purpose facilitating access to overseas markets.

Signed at Wellington this 31st day of July 2008

[Signed]

Carol Barnao
Director Standards
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
(Acting under delegated authority)

Published by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority
PO Box 2835, Wellington

Contents

Notice

- 1 Title
- 2 Commencement
- 3 Expiry

Part 1 Preliminary Provisions

- 4 Application
- 5 Interpretation

Part 2 Requirements

- 6 General
- 7 Designation of wild game estates
- 8 Game estate practices
- 9 Harvesting of game estate animals as wild game

Part 3 Processing Premises

- 10 Receipt and processing of wild game
- 11 Labelling

Explanatory Note

Notice

1 Title

This notice is the Animal Products (Export Requirements for Game Estate Products) Notice 2008.

2 Commencement

This notice comes into force on 31 July 2008.

3 Expiry

This notice expires on 1 March 2010.

Part 1 Preliminary Provisions

4 Application

- (1) This notice applies to—
 - (a) game estates operators who intend to supply animals hunted on their game estate for processing as wild game; and
 - (b) certified game estate suppliers who intend to supply animals hunted on game estates for processing as wild game; and
 - (c) risk management programme operators who process wild game for human consumption; and
 - (d) game estate products intended to be labelled as “wild” or “game” or any other terms of a similar meaning.
- (2) The only animals that can be made available for processing as wild game under the conditions of this notice are deer species.
- (3) For the purposes of clarity: this notice does not allow game estate products to be labelled with terms prohibited by the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004, either for general export or for consumption in New Zealand.

5 Interpretation

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

Act means the Animal Products Act 1999

game estate products means products for human consumption derived from animals that have been hunted and killed on a game estate.

NZFSA means the New Zealand Food Safety Authority

wild game means wild deer, and products derived there from, that are hunted for human consumption; or deer, and products derived there from, hunted for human consumption on a game estate which operates in compliance with this notice.

wild game estate means a game estate which operates in compliance with this notice and is designated as a wild game estate in accordance with the requirements of this notice.

- (2) Any term defined in the Act and used but not defined in this notice has the same meaning as in the Act.

Part 2 Requirements

6 General

- (1) The requirements of this notice are additional to the requirements for game estates and game estate animals contained in the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004. If there is a direct conflict between the two notices then this notice takes precedence.
- (2) An operator of a game estate required to be listed under S65D of the Act must not supply hunted animals for processing as wild game unless the animals comply with the requirements of this notice.
- (3) Compliance by game estate operators, who intend to supply game estate animals for processing as wild game, with the requirements of this notice must be verified by an animal product officer in accordance with the verification frequencies set out in the Verification 2005 Statement of Policy (or any amendment or replacement thereof) with a starting frequency of Step 7 and a ceiling frequency of step 7.
- (4) A breach of the requirements of this notice, including failure by the operator to cooperate with an animal product officer undertaking his or her lawful duties may result in—
 - (a) an increase in verification frequency in accordance with the switching rules in the Verification 2005 Statement of Policy; or
 - (b) loss of eligibility to supply killed game estate animals for processing as wild game; or
 - (c) removal of designation as a wild game estate.
- (5) Game estate animals and game estate products which do not comply with the requirements of this notice cannot be processed or labelled as wild game, and cannot be given official assurances as wild game.

7 Designation of wild game estates

- (1) NZFSA Verification Agency must designate, within its compliance database, game estates as wild game estates if the game estate operator requests such a designation and they have been verified as complying with the requirements of subclause (4) of this clause.
- (2) NZFSA Verification Agency must, on request, inform primary processors of wild game of those game estates which have been designated as wild game estates.
- (3) Game estates intending to supply hunted animals for processing as wild game must be game estates that are designated by NZFSA Verification Agency as wild game estates.
- (4) In order to be designated by NZFSA Verification Agency as a wild game estate, the game estate operator must provide, in writing, NZFSA Verification Agency with the following information—
 - (a) confirmation that the game estate is currently listed as a Game Estate under section 65D of the Act; and
 - (b) the legal description of the location of the game estate; and
 - (c) the stocking rates of breeding and trophy animals taking account of the carrying capacity during the worst climatic conditions and without the routine use of supplementary feeding; and
 - (d) confirmation that the game estate is registered with the Animal Health Board and is classified as a Game Estate.
- (5) Game estate operators may elect to cease operating as a wild game estate at any time. A game estate operator who elects to cease operating as a wild game estate must inform NZFSA Verification Agency as soon as practicable, and not more than

2 weeks after the date on which they have elected to cease operating as a wild game estate.

8 Game estate practices

- (1) The animal population on the game estate may be supplemented with farmed animals.
- (2) The number of introduced females must not exceed that which is necessary for breeding purposes.
- (3) Records of the dates, numbers and sources of all introduced animals must be maintained by the operator, and kept for four years.
- (4) The game estate operator must have a system that reliably ensures compliance with clause 8(2).
- (5) Game estate animals must be treated in such a manner that they are free of hunger and pain, are able to seek shelter and able to freely express themselves naturally.
- (6) Game estate animals must not be herded or mustered in the manner of farmed animals.
- (7) Game estate animals must not be—
 - (a) treated with agricultural chemicals or veterinary medicines. Treatment (including the use of tranquiliser guns) to alleviate pain and suffering caused by traumatic injury is acceptable; or
 - (b) routinely provided with supplementary feed such as hay or baleage. Feeding in emergency situations is acceptable providing it is as a result of climatic or environmental events outside the control of the game estate operator which are not typical of normal expected natural or seasonal variations (e.g. drought). Supplementary feeding as a consequence of farm-like practices such as intensive stocking, or other events within the control of the game estate operator is not permitted. Records of the amount, type, date/period of feeding and the reasons for feeding must be maintained by the operator and kept for five years; or
 - (c) mustered or yarded; or
 - (d) subject to any other conventional farming practices.
- (8) Yard facilities must not be present on a game estate that supplies animals for processing as wild game.

9 Harvesting of game estate animals as wild game

- (1) Wild game must be killed —
 - (a) on the game estate; and
 - (b) hunted by ground shooting or shooting from an aerial recovery operation.
- (2) Killed game estate animals introduced to the game estate less than 60 days before being killed must be excluded from supply for processing as wild game.
- (3) Killed game estate animals must remain unskinned and the head must remain attached (antlers may be removed for trophy purposes).
- (4) Killed game estate animals must be tagged by the game estate operator with an individual property identification applied at the time the game estate animal is killed.
- (5) Records of the dates, numbers and destinations of all killed game estate animals must be maintained by the operator, and kept for four years.
- (6) Killed game estate animals for processing as wild game must only be supplied to a risk management programme (RMP) registered for processing wild game.
- (7) Killed game estate animals are not eligible to be supplied to a wild game RMP operation for export processing as wild game if they do not comply with the requirements of this notice.

Part 3 Processing Premises

10 Receipt and processing of wild game

- (1) Killed game estate deer for processing as wild game must be supplied only to processing premises which are capable of processing wild game eligible for export to the European Union.
- (2) Facilities for the reception and storage of unskinned wild game must be physically separate from other facilities. The skinning of the animals and the processing and storage of unpackaged wild game products must be done at a separate time or place from the processing and storage of unpackaged farmed products or meat of non-cervine species.
- (3) RMP operations processing game estate animals which qualify for processing as wild game may mix such product with wild caught game without any change in status of products from either source, provided the resultant product is to be exported to a country which is the subject of an exemption from the labelling restrictions of clause 91 of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004 issued under section 60B and 167 of the Act.
- (4) Products mixed as in subclause (3) which are not being exported to a country which is the subject of an exemption of a type described in subclause (3) must be labelled in compliance with the restrictions in clause 91 of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004.
- (5) Wild caught game or game estate products which qualify for processing as wild game that are mixed with game estate products which do not qualify for processing as wild game are subject to the labelling restrictions in clause 91 of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004.

11 Labelling

- (1) Game estate products produced in compliance with this notice remain prohibited from being labelled as “wild” or “game” or any other terms of a similar meaning.
- (2) Sub-clause (1) does not apply to countries for which an exemption has been issued under section 60B of the Act allowing “wild”, or “game” or any other terms of a similar meaning to be used for products being exported to the countries identified in the exemption.

Explanatory Note

This notice permits the harvesting and processing of game estate animals for human consumption as wild game. Products from game estate animals were previously excluded from being labelled as “wild”, or “game” by virtue of the labelling restrictions under the Animal Products (Specifications for Products intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004.

Animal products processed in compliance with this notice must meet any additional market access requirements for wild game notified for specific countries before they are eligible for export to those countries. In particular: products intended for export to the European Union need to meet the EU requirements for wild game as issued under section 60 of the Act.

There is currently no export certification available for animal products that have been processed as game estate products. This means there is an effective ban on the export of game estate products to markets requiring official assurances for

which there is no exemption allowing game estate products to be processed and labelled as wild game. Likewise any mixing of game estate products with wild caught game is equally restricted in its eligibility for official assurances regardless of whether the game estate products comply with this notice.

Issued under section 60 of the Animal Products Act 1999.

Date of notification in Gazette: []

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