



Code of Practice for Petfood Processing

Part 2.2: Harvesting and Processing of Wild
Rabbits and Hares

Prelims

Amendment 0

June 2004

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Important Disclaimer

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Website

A copy of this document can be found at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts.index.htm>

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Review of Code of Practice

This Code of Practice will be reviewed, as necessary, by the NZFSA. The coordinator welcomes suggestions for alterations, deletions or additions to this document. Suggestions should be sent to the coordinator on the form on Page 7, together with reasons for the change and any relevant information.

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Amendments

It is important that this publication is kept up-to-date by the prompt incorporation of amendments.

To update this publication when you receive an amendment, remove the appropriate outdated pages, destroy them, and replace them with the pages from the new issue. Complete instructions will be given on the covering letter accompanying the amendment. File the covering letter at the back of the publication and sign off and date this page.

If you have any queries, please ask your local Inspector.

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1 Application

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1.1 General

This Code of Practice for Petfood Processing, Part 2.2: Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares has been developed by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (Animal Products Group) in consultation with representatives of the New Zealand Petfood Manufacturers Association and Petfood Industry Standards Council. It applies to the harvesting and processing of field-recovered rabbits and hares for petfood.

Part 2.2: Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares provides guidance on procedures and control measures that will assist petfood operators meet the requirements of the Animal Products Act 1999 and produce animal products that are fit for the intended purpose. In particular, this document provides the minimum requirements that petfood operators have to comply with to ensure that the various risk factors associated with harvesting of wild rabbits and hares for petfood are managed appropriately. These minimum standards will serve as a base for the introduction of additional requirements at a later date.

This document is a new publication that consolidates and harmonises relevant requirements for petfood processing under the Meat Act 1981 and the Animal Products Act 1999.

While the Code of Practice for Petfood Processing is a guide for petfood operators, it is intended that this Code of Practice will serve as the New Zealand specification until the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption) is published. It is expected that a Notice of Direction will be issued in the near future (after consultation with industry) notifying operators of its full legal status.

Operators must also note that the current programme notified in this Code of Practice may be subject to change pending further information gained from the ongoing review into the field recovery of wild animals for human consumption.

2 Definitions

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Accredited person: in relation to any verification or other specialised function or activity, means a person accredited by the Director of Animal Products to perform that function or activity.

Accredited post-mortem examiner: a person accredited to perform this function in accordance with the Animal Products (Accredited Persons Specifications) Notice 2001.

Act: the Animal Products Act 1999.

Acts: means both the Animal Products Act 1999 and the Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act 1999.

Animal: any member of the animal kingdom, and includes:

- a. any mammal, bird, finfish, shellfish, reptile, amphibian, insect or invertebrate;
- b. any other creature or entity that is declared by the Minister by notice in the Gazette to be an animal for the purposes of this Act; but does not include a human being.

Animal or human consumption: used in relation to any animal product, means that the product is intended to be eaten, or taken orally, or administered parenterally, or applied topically.

Animal material: any live or dead animal, or any tissue or other material taken or derived from an animal.

Animal product, or product: any animal material that has been processed (other than simply transported or stored in such a way as not to involve any alteration to its nature) for the purpose, or ultimate purpose, of consumption or other use by humans or animals.

Audit: a systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve objectives.

Buffer zone: means the area of land between the areas confirmed as free of vertebrate toxic agents and the land area that has not been confirmed as being free of vertebrate toxic agents.

Certified Supplier: means a supplier who is certified by the Director-General or by an agency approved for that purpose by the Director-General, as competent to supply killed wild animals to a primary processor. Certify and Certified have the corresponding meaning.

Consumption: (See Human or Animal Consumption).

Contaminant: any substance or thing which:

- a. is undesirable, potentially harmful, or unexpected in a particular product or process; and
- b. is or may be present in, or in contact with, animal material or animal product.

Corrective action: any action to be taken when the results of monitoring at the Critical Control Point (CCP) or under Good Hygienic Practice (GHP) /Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) indicate a loss of control.

Direct supervision: in relation to any function, operation or activity means supervising any function, operation or activity while in sufficiently close physical proximity to ensure that any relevant specifications are met.

Director of Animal Products: the chief executive of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority - Animal Products Group.

Eaten, or edible: includes eaten or edible by animals.

Equipment: includes:

- a. the whole or any part of any utensil, machine, fitting, device, instrument, stamp, apparatus, table, or article, that is used or available for use in or for the preparing, marking, processing, packing, storing, carrying, or handling of any animal material, animal product, ingredient, additive, or processing aid; and
- b. any utensil or machine used or capable of being used in the cleaning of any equipment or facilities.

Facilities: includes amenities, storage areas, and processing areas.

Fit for intended purpose: the phrase, used in relation to any animal product, that has been processed in accordance with the requirements of a registered risk management programme under the Animal Products Act 1999, means that by reason of animal material or product having had the relevant risk factors managed and meeting any relevant animal product standards and associated specifications, the product is suitable for the purpose for which the

product is specifically stated or could reasonably be presumed to be intended having regard to its nature, packaging, and identification.

Generally fit and healthy: means to a layperson who is familiar with the normal behaviour of the type of animal, that the animal display signs or behaviour of being reasonably bright and alert; and does not display signs or behaviour that would suggest the animal is very sick or dying.

Hare: means an animal of the species *Lepus europaeus occidentalis*.

Harvest: means to take a wild animal for purposes of trade.

Hazard: a biological, chemical, or physical agent that:

- a. is in or has the potential to be in animal material or product; or
- b. is or has the potential to be a condition of animal material or product; and leads or could lead to an adverse health effect on humans or animals.

Human or animal consumption: used in relation to any animal product, means that the product is intended to be eaten, or taken orally, or administered parenterally, or applied topically.

Licensed: means licensed or approved under the Meat Act 1981 or any regulations made under that Act, and **licensee** has a corresponding meaning.

Listed: means currently appearing on a list of Certified Suppliers maintained by a Petfood Operator. **List** and **Listing** have the corresponding meaning.

MAF: the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

MAF website refers to <http://www.maf.govt.nz>

Meat Act regime: the provision of the Meat Act 1981 (as amended by Part 4 of the Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act 1999) and includes all regulations and other requirements made or imposed under that Act.

Monitor: the act of conducting a planned sequence of observations or measurements of control parameters to assess whether a CCP or GHP/GMP requirements remain under control.

NZFSA: the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.

NZFSA VA: the New Zealand Food Safety Authority Verification Agency.

NZFSA website refers to <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz>

Operator: in relation to an animal product business, means the owner or other person in control of the business (Act), including the licensee of premises licensed under the Meat Act regime and the person in charge of export approved premises, or his or her manager or agent.

Pest: means any unwanted animal that may affect plants, animal or primary produce and any entity declared to be a pest by Order in Council and does not include any human being or any living organism affecting only human beings or any living organism declared not to be a pest by Order in Council.

Petfood: edible material intended for consumption by animals, which themselves as the consumers, are not intended for the human food chain.

Place or premises: includes any building, conveyance, craft, fishing vessel, or structure; and includes any land, water, or other area where animals or animal material are produced or may be present.

Poisoning: (layman's term) means, for the purposes of this document, the use of a toxic agent to control or eradicate any pest.

Process: includes kill, slaughter, dress, cut, extract, manufacture, pack, preserve, transport, and store.

Procurement: means to obtain wild rabbits and hares for the purpose of petfood.

Rabbit: means an animal of the species *Oryctolagus cuniculus*.

Risk: a function of the likelihood and severity of an adverse health effect on the consumer as a result of exposure to a hazard.

Risk factors: means:

- a. risks from hazards to animal or human health:
- b. risks from false or misleading labelling:
- c. risks to the wholesomeness of animal material or product.

Risk management programme (RMP): has the same meaning as the Act - a programme designed to both identify; control, manage, and eliminate or minimise – hazards and other risk factors in relation to the production and processing of animal material and products in order that the resulting animal product is fit for intended purpose.

Supplier: means a person who presents an animal or animal material to a processor for processing (not being a person solely engaged in facilitating the physical transfer of the animal or animal material, such as a transporter, purchasing agent, or sale-yard operator).

Toxic Agent: means a substance or mixture of substances capable of causing ill-health or death and used for the eradication or control of any pest.

Vertebrate: means an animal with a backbone.

Wholesomeness: in relation to any regulated animal product, means that the product does not contain or have attached to it, enclosed with it or in contact with it anything that is offensive, or whose presence would be unexpected or unusual in product of that description.

Wild: means of a kind that occurs in the wild and is, immediately before its taking or capture, not owned by any person.

Veterinary Medicine: having the same meaning as prescribed under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997; any substance(s), mixture of substances or biological compound used or intended for use in the direct management of animals.

3 General Requirements

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3.1 Introduction

This Code of Practice applies to the harvesting of field-recovered wild rabbits and hares for manufacture into petfood.

3.2 The Hazard of Vertebrate Toxic Agents

Rabbits and hares are pests in New Zealand and as such are subject to culling programmes designed to manage populations. Culling programmes may be conducted through shooting operations, or through the laying of vertebrate toxic agents (registered Agricultural Compounds) also commonly known as “poisons”.

Rabbits and hares that have been exposed to vertebrate toxic agents either die very soon after exposure, remain apparently healthy for a variable period of time and then possibly die – depending on the type of toxin used and the dose consumed. Harvesting rabbits and hares that may have been exposed to toxins and from areas that are still within the non-harvesting time frames (notified for the type of toxin), pose significant risk of exposing the final consumer to vertebrate toxic agent residues through the petfood product.

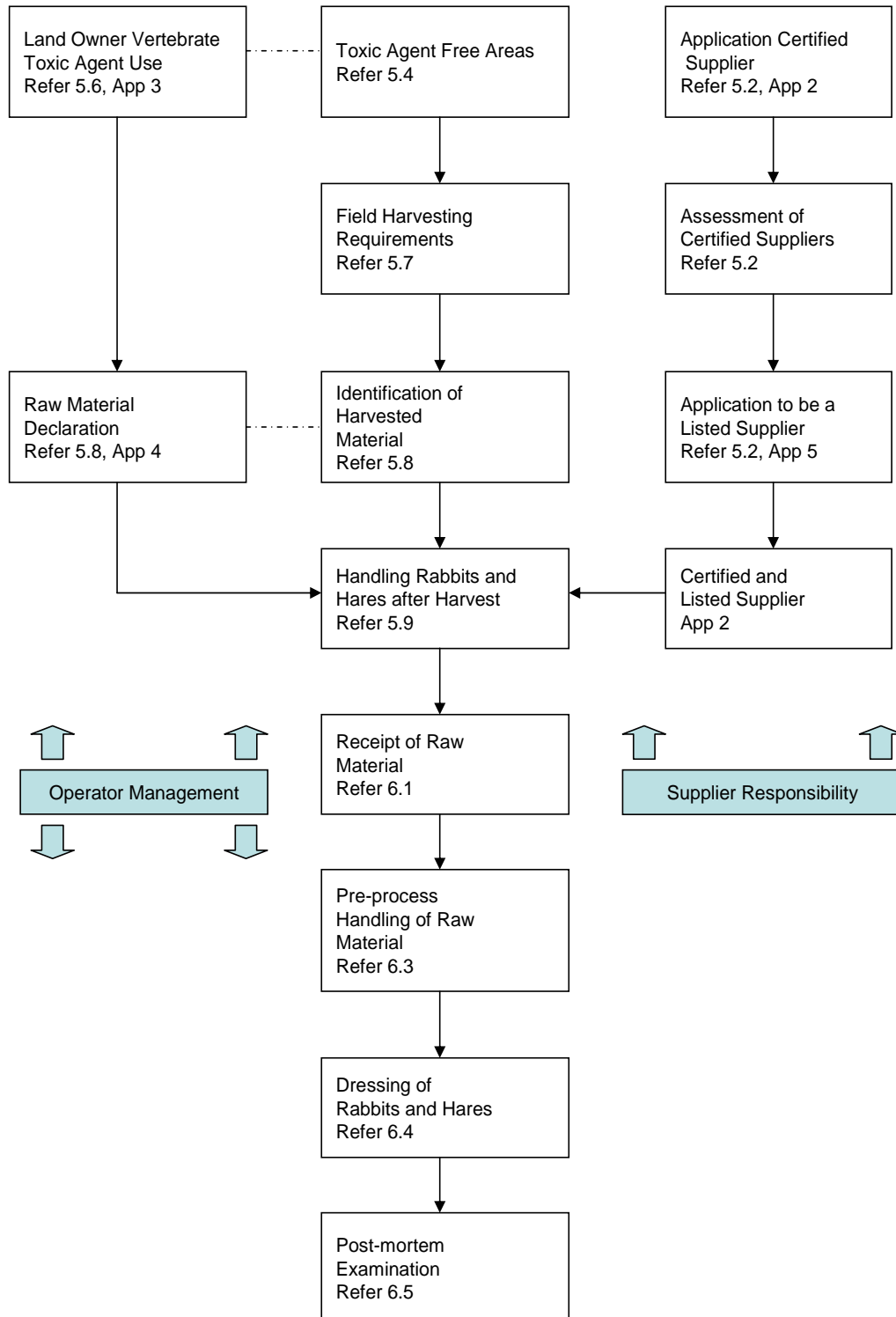
All operators should consider the commercial implications associated with the procurement of wild rabbits and hares from the field prior to instigating a rabbit and hare processing operation. Any operator considering an operation must understand that they are fully responsible for the operation and will need to ensure full commitment to the programme in order that the hazards associated with harvesting are managed appropriately. Failure to adequately resource the programme or manage the hazards appropriately could result in injury of the consumer, serious negative implications for the petfood sector, and put the operations licence or registration in jeopardy.

The programme described in this Code of Practice has been designed to minimise the likelihood of vertebrate toxic agent residues finding their way into petfood. The programme to be successful relies heavily on harvesters conducting activities legally and operators ensuring that any programme in operation complies with the requirements and is implemented effectively by all concerned.

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) and New Zealand Petfood Manufacturers Association (NZPFMA) are committed to ensuring that any field harvesting is conducted in accordance with these industry agreed requirements.

As a result, the harvesting of wild rabbits and hares will be the subject of intense scrutiny during MAF verification activities. Where there is evidence to suggest that the integrity of the programme is compromised, legal action will be taken to remedy the situation. Legal action may include the suspension or cancellation of operator registrations, licenses, prosecution of individuals or further steps to tighten controls applicable to the field recovery of rabbits and hares for petfood.

3.3 Code of Practice Management Responsibilities



4 Operator Responsibilities

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4.1 Operations Approved for Harvesting of Wild Rabbits and Hares

The following operations are approved for the harvesting of rabbits and hares for petfood:

- All operations that have registered risk management programmes under the Animal Products Act 1999 and that include the harvesting of wild rabbits and hares within the scope of activities.
- All operations licensed under the Meat Act 1981 (until revoked) that have been approved for this activity through the endorsement of their existing licence stating - "approved processing of wild rabbit and hare".

4.2 Operator Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that all requirements notified under this Code of Practice are complied with. Where parts of this Code of Practice are carried out by persons not under the direct management control of the operator e.g. a Certified Supplier; then the operator must ensure that the harvesting programme's integrity is assured through active management and verification of activities.

Operators in all cases must ensure that intended suppliers are capable of meeting and fully understand the requirements and expectations of the programme prior to supply being agreed. In all cases it is recommended that individual operators establish commercial contracts with individual suppliers to formalise operator expectations of future supply.

4.3 Competency of Persons Supervising Rabbit and Hare Processing Operations

Operators must ensure that rabbit and hare processing operations are conducted under the supervision of a person competent in the requirements of the programme.

For the purpose of this section a person is deemed competent if they have attained 'Certified Supplier' status (Refer section 5.3) and have a clear understanding of this Code of Practice.

5 Harvesting of Wild Rabbits and Hares in the Field

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The harvesting of rabbits and hares in the field must comply with the requirements of this section of the Code of Practice for the final product to be considered fit for the intended purpose. Compliance with the requirements of this section will ensure that the hazards unique to this source material are addressed appropriately.

5.1 Requirement for Certification and Listing

5.1.1 Certification of suppliers

To ensure that harvesters fully understand the hazards associated with the procurement of rabbits and hares for petfood, all suppliers must be certified as having met minimum theoretical standards. Following certification the NZFSA will list Certified Supplier details on a national register of Certified Suppliers (<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/registers-lists/index.htm>).

The process of certification is outlined in section 5.2 and Appendix 2.

5.1.2 Listing of suppliers

In addition, all Certified Suppliers must be individually listed with the petfood operation(s) in order to supply. The individual operator listing of Certified Suppliers ensures that operators retain direct control and management over suppliers.

The process of listing is outlined in Section 5.3 and Appendix 5.

5.1.3 Certification of operator appointed competent persons

Operators must ensure that rabbit and hare processing operations are conducted under the supervision of a person competent in the requirements of the programme. For the purpose of this section a person is deemed competent if they have attained the status of Certified Supplier as described in section 5.2 and Appendix 2 and have a clear understanding of this Code.

5.2 Certification of Suppliers

Persons intending to become Certified Suppliers of rabbits and hares for petfood and persons supervising the processing of rabbits and hares for petfood must be assessed as competent.

Costs associated with certification are to be met by either the supplier or the petfood operator.

Upon reaching the required competency standard as assessed by the operator the applicant becomes eligible for listing by NZFSA as a Certified Supplier. Information is forwarded to NZFSA for inclusion in the national list of Certified Suppliers. This list is published on the NZFSA web site, <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/register-lists/index.htm>

Becoming a Certified Supplier

In order to become certified an applicant must obtain both the “Code of Practice Part 2.2 Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares.” and the training booklet “Harvesting Wild Animals (Rabbits and Hares) for Petfood.” Current copies can be obtained from petfood operators, to complete the required assessment.

Applicant:

- The applicant must become familiar with all the information contained within the training booklet and the harvesting requirements notified in Section 5 of this Code of Practice.
- The applicant must demonstrate that they have attained the required level of competency by correctly completing the “Supplying Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood Examination”. (Current copies can be obtained from petfood operators.)
- The applicant must fill out the form “Application to Become a Certified Supplier of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood” and attach any required listing fee (refer Appendix 2).

Petfood operator

The petfood operator must be satisfied that the applicant is capable of meeting the requirements of supply, and must confirm that the applicant has current copies of the “Code of Practice Part 2.2 Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood”, the training booklet “Harvesting Wild Animals (Rabbits and Hares) for Petfood” and that the applicant has correctly completed the “Supplying Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood” Examination.

The operator will then forward to the NZFSA, details of the applicant as recorded on the form "Application to Become a Certified Supplier of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood" Appendix 5, any required listing fee and a formal recommendation for certification. If satisfied with the applicant's suitability, the NZFSA will then certify the applicant and add their details to the national list of Certified Suppliers.

Having successfully completed the examination, the supplier will be eligible to list with the individual petfood operator for supply while awaiting certification by the NZFSA. If certification has not been notified within 1 month of submission, certification must be considered to have lapsed.

The national list of Certified Suppliers is available on the NZFSA website.

National list: <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/registers-lists/index.htm>

The Certified Supplier's name will remain on the national list of Certified Suppliers for a period of two years from the date of certification. Unless renewed prior, all suppliers' names will be removed from the list in order to maintain currency.

It is acknowledged that the harvesting of wild rabbits and hares currently utilises suppliers that have not been officially certified by the NZFSA.

All current and new suppliers must however become certified by 1 October 2004, unless notified otherwise.

5.3 Listing of Certified Suppliers at Individual Petfood Operations

All persons intending to supply wild rabbits and hares for petfood, in addition to becoming certified nationally as described in section 5.2, must be listed with the individual petfood operator to whom they intend to supply rabbits and hares.

All petfood operators must maintain a list of Certified Suppliers that supply wild rabbits and hares to that individual petfood operation.

The list of Certified Suppliers must be maintained and:

- Reviewed regularly in order to remove suppliers that have not provided evidence of supply over any 12-month period.
- Reviewed regularly in order to remove suppliers whose certification has expired and has not been renewed.

- Reviewed whenever the suitability of individual suppliers is in doubt due to breaches of the programme requirements. Any serious breach of the requirements must be reported to NZFSA VA for possible regulatory action.

It is expected that individual petfood operators will inform suppliers of the operator's expectations and requirements of this programme during contractual negotiations.

Operators should in addition inform suppliers that their activities may be subject to independent verification by the operator or NZFSA VA and that any raw material supplied may be subject to random residue testing in order to verify the harvesting programme.

5.4 Harvest of Wild Rabbits and Hares from Vertebrate Toxic Agent Free Areas

The harvesting of wild rabbits and hares for petfood must only occur from areas that have known histories of vertebrate toxic agent use.

Rabbits and hares must not be harvested from any area where:

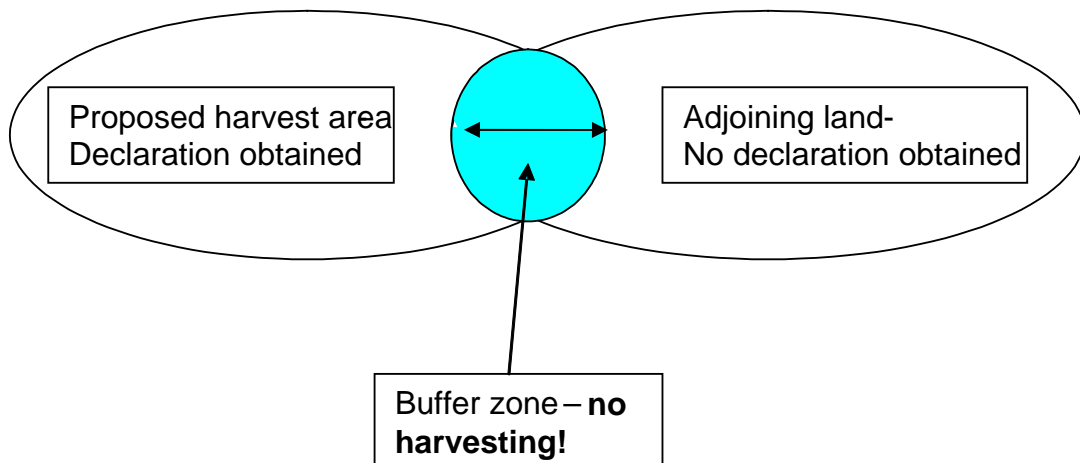
- sodium monofluoroacetate (1080)** has been used, until either a period of 2 months has elapsed after the cessation of the poisoning operation and 100mm of rain has fallen, or a period of 4 months has elapsed after the cessation of the poisoning operation.
- pindone (1st generation anticoagulant)** has been used, until a period of 2 months has elapsed after the cessation of the poisoning operation.
- anticoagulant toxic agents** including; brodifacoum, bromodialone flocoumafen etc, have been used until a period of 3 years (for brodifacoum and flocoumafen) and 9 months (for all others) has elapsed after the cessation of the poisoning operations.
- any other vertebrate toxic agent**, (other than cyanide and cholecalciferol – refer below) for the control of vertebrates has been used, until a period of 4 weeks has elapsed after the cessation of the poisoning operation.
- there is any evidence** that any vertebrate toxic agent still exists in the area and that the feral animal could reasonably have access to it.

Cyanide, and cholecalciferol campaign

There are no time restrictions in place where cyanide and cholecalciferol have been laid, as these are very fast acting vertebrate toxic agents resulting in sudden death. Rabbits and hares may be harvested from areas where these toxic agents have been straight away, provided the animals harvested were alive and generally fit and healthy immediately prior to harvesting and did not die as a result of the poisoning operation.

Vertebrate toxic agent buffer zones

In addition to the above requirements, wild rabbits and hares must not be harvested from within any buffer zone. Buffer zones represent the area of land between land potentially subject to poisoning and that confirmed free of vertebrate toxic agents. The buffer zone provides a margin of safety between the area of land where the use of vertebrate toxic agents is unknown and the confirmed vertebrate toxic agent free area. The size of the buffer zone is determined following consideration of such factors as normal animal migration and movement between areas.



Harvesting must not occur within the following buffer zones

- 200m for rabbits
- 1 Km for hares

(Note the buffer zones notified above are liable to change following the outcome of the national wild animal field recovery review.)

- a. The buffer zones described also apply from neighbouring property boundaries for which the hunter or supplier has no landowner declaration (e.g. if a declaration is only held for the farm to be harvested) - then the harvester must not harvest within the buffer zone distance of the neighbouring property.
- b. The buffer zone may be extended by any person* when circumstances which may increase the likelihood of contact with vertebrate toxic agents occur, e.g. aerial dropping of vertebrate toxic agents, change in migration patterns of animals, geographical features such as long valleys, known grazing ranges.

*e.g. any government or local authority, regional council, poisoning operator, land owner, hunter.

5.5 Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines

The Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Group (ACVM) of the NZFSA are responsible for the registration of vertebrate toxic agents (Agricultural Compounds) and for setting the conditions of use. Once the compounds have been registered they may be sold and used in New Zealand in accordance with the conditions of registration.

The following link provides access to the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Internet site – Database of Registered Agricultural Compounds. This link provides real time access to the database of registered products, their trade names and active ingredients.

Database of registered Agricultural Compounds Internet link:

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/registers-lists/acvm-register/index.htm>

Trade name products and active ingredients (vertebrate toxic agents)

It is not possible to provide a complete up to date list of all 'Trade Name Products' and their 'active ingredients' in this Code of Practice due to registration changes over time. However harvesters and operators must be aware of the 'currently available products' at the time of harvest to ensure that the harvesting process complies with the requirement for being vertebrate toxic agent free. (A list of registered 'Trade Name Products' as at the 1st June 2003 has been provided in Appendix 1, however this can only be used as a quick reference guide due to changes in registrations over time.)

To ensure that harvesters are kept up to date with current 'Trade Name Products' available and their relationship to 'active ingredients', harvesters must regularly review product registrations. A list of currently 'Registered Trade Name Products' for each 'active

ingredient' can rapidly be established by accessing the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Internet site through the above website link. (This list is titled "ACVM Database of Currently Registered Veterinary Medicines and Plant Compounds".)

It is strongly recommended that harvesters review this Internet site prior to commencing any harvest and in addition keep a list of 'Trade Name Product' and their 'active ingredients' for personal reference and use.

For more information on the Internet site please refer to Appendix 1.

5.6 Land Owner Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement / Vertebrate Toxic Agent Summaries (DOC pesticide summaries)

Prior to commencing a harvest, the Certified Supplier must confirm that the area in which the harvest is to occur meets the requirements for being considered vertebrate toxic agent free. This must be confirmed through completing the "Land Owner Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement" for the area of land to be harvested. Statements must be completed where possible on the day of harvest, but in all cases statements must have been completed within 30 days leading up to the harvest.

In the case of harvesting occurring on public land administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC) Vertebrate Toxic Agent Summaries (Pesticide Summaries) take the place of the Landowner Vertebrate toxic agent Declaration. Vertebrate toxic agent summaries (Pesticide Summaries) are available from the regional DOC office. These summaries communicate when and where vertebrate toxic agents have been used on DOC land and are published three times a year.

5.7 Field Harvesting Requirements

Rabbits and hares must only be harvested from areas that meet the requirements of section 5.4 and in accordance with the following requirements.

5.7.1 Rabbits and hares must be alive and generally fit and healthy at the time of harvest

All rabbits and hares must be alive and generally fit and healthy at the time of harvest. If there is any doubt as to the animal's condition, then the animal must not be harvested for petfood.

The time of harvest is considered to be the point in time when the harvester makes the judgement on the animal's suitability for petfood. For a shooter this means the time the animal is about to be shot and for a trapper this means the time just prior to the humane killing of the animal after removal from the trap.

5.7.2 Harvesting may only occur through:

- Shooting with a non-frangible bullet (does not break up);
- Humane live trapping;
- Humane live netting.

All animals that are trapped or netted must be further handled and humanely killed in accordance with any requirements notified by the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

Animal welfare internet website:

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/animal-welfare/index.htm>

5.8 Identification of Harvested Material

All suppliers of hare and rabbit material must identify each animal (or group of animals from the same area where the harvest was conducted) with suitable identification that clearly links the animal(s) to the 'Raw Material Declaration' – refer Appendix 4. All animal material must be identified as soon as possible after the harvest. Where the nature of the harvest is such that confusion of raw material and harvest areas could occur - identification must be completed immediately.

The 'Raw Material Declaration' must accompany the raw material from each harvest and must display the following information:

- Name of the harvester / supplier;
- Certified Supplier identifier;
- Geographical area where the animal material was harvested from that can be clearly identified to the accompanying landowner /manager vertebrate toxic agent use statement/Pesticide summaries;
- Date and approximate time range the animals were killed during harvest;
- Date and time the raw material was subject to refrigeration;

- Number of animals represented by the tag;
- Date and time of arrival at the petfood operation;
- A declaration that states:

“I declare that the rabbits and hares represented were harvested and presented by me, were alive and apparently healthy at the time of harvest and were collected from areas that met the requirements for being considered pesticide-free.”

- Certified Supplier's signature.

5.9 Handling of Wild Rabbit and Hare Material after Harvest

After harvesting, rabbit and hare raw material must be handled appropriately to ensure that the material remains fit for the intended purpose. Compliance with this section of the Code of Practice will ensure that the rabbit and hare material does not become microbiologically contaminated or deteriorate prior to delivery to the petfood operation.

Operators must confirm that suppliers understand and are capable of meeting the requirements of this section prior to individual listing.

Following harvesting all rabbit and hare material may only be processed and stored in accordance with the following conditions:

5.9.1 Facilities

All facilities to be utilised for the temporary storage of harvested rabbits and hares must be:

- Constructed to minimise the entrance, harbourage, or accumulation of pests and contaminants;
- Constructed of materials that are durable, non toxic, free from defects that may affect the suitability for petfood processing and that can be readily cleaned and sanitised;
- Provided with refrigeration capable of achieving the required refrigeration performance for the intended maximum throughput;
- Provided with a calibrated temperature gauge to monitor the operating temperature of the facility appropriate to the materials end point preservation temperature;
- Provided with a suitable means for cleaning and sanitation of any equipment, personnel and the refrigeration facility;

- Cleaned using approved maintenance compounds (refer Manual 15 Chemical Approvals).

For the avoidance of doubt a refrigerator may be considered a facility under this section of the Code of Practice.

5.9.2 Operation of the facility

The facility used for storing harvested rabbit and hare material must be operated in such a manner to ensure:

- Any equipment used is clean and sanitised after each batch of rabbits and hares when visibly contaminated;
- The refrigeration facility is cleaned and sanitised on a regular basis to ensure that the facility does not become a source of contamination to the petfood product;
- Where other materials are stored in the same facility that the risk of potential cross contamination is minimised;
- That only approved maintenance compounds (including cleaning chemicals) are used and that these compounds are labelled, stored, and maintained so as not to be a source of contamination;
- That the animal material facilities, equipment and essential services are maintained;
- An inventory of all in going and outgoing material, including the destination of the material (petfood operation) is maintained.

5.9.3 Refrigeration

All rabbits and hares harvested in the field must be placed under refrigeration to prevent their further deterioration.

Raw material must be refrigerated within:

- 4 hours of being killed if the ambient environmental temperature is warmer than 10°C or;
- 12 hours of being killed if the ambient environmental temperature is cooler than 10°C.

In all cases, the refrigeration must ensure that the internal temperature of all raw material is reduced to cooler than 7°C with 24 hours of killing; and if to be frozen, the process must be continuous and achieve an end point temperature of cooler than -12°C.

Rabbits and hares should be spread out where possible in the refrigeration facility to improve cooling efficiency.

5.9.4 Delivery

Harvested rabbits and hares preserved only by chilling (a temperature greater than 0°C, but less than 7°C) must be delivered to the petfood operation within 72 hours of killing.

Harvested rabbits and hares preserved by freezing (a temperature colder than -12°C) must be delivered to the petfood operation in the frozen state.

5.9.5 Gutting

Harvested rabbits and hares must be gutted, preserved and delivered to the petfood operation.

Harvested rabbits and hares may only be gutted in accordance with the following requirements:

- Gutting may occur in the field.
- The gutting operation must be conducted so that contamination of the raw material by spillage of intestinal contents or environmental contaminants is minimised.
- Gutting must be limited to the stomach and intestines only. All other offal must remain attached in the carcass to facilitate post-mortem examination.
- Opening cuts used to facilitate the removal of the stomach and intestines must be kept to a minimum to reduce potential contamination of the opened carcass.

Any other processing operation, including skinning, prior to delivery to the petfood operation is unacceptable due to legal restrictions on processing and the increased potential for contamination of the raw material prior to delivery.

6 Further Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares

Amendment 0

June 2004

The further processing of rabbit and hare material at the petfood operation must comply with the minimum requirements notified in this section.

While these requirements represent the minimum standards to be applied, further requirements may be added at a later date following further industry consultation.

6.1 Receipt of Wild Rabbit and Hare Material at the Petfood Operation

Operators receiving rabbit and hare material from the field must ensure that the harvesting, supply and acceptance of raw material is in compliance with this Code of Practice.

Where the operator is unable to accept the raw material due to non-compliance with the harvesting requirements, all documentation is to be retained for verification purposes and the reason for rejection and any corrective action taken recorded.

In all cases the operator must confirm the following requirements have been met prior to accepting any raw material for further processing:

1. Confirmation of Certified Supplier

The operator must confirm that the supplier is a Certified Supplier by cross checking the supplier's details with the national list of Certified Suppliers available on the NZFSA website. Refer section 5.2.

2. Confirmation of supplier listing

The operator must confirm that the supplier is listed with that individual petfood operation. Refer section 5.3.

3. Confirmation of raw material documentation

The operator must confirm that the "Landowner / Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement" and "Raw Material Declaration" accompanies the delivery and is complete and accurate. Where any information is unavailable, does not meet with requirements, or its accuracy is in doubt; the animal material must not be accepted as being suitable for further processing into petfood.

In particular the operator must ensure that:

- The raw material can clearly be identified and linked to the accompanying “Landowner / Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement” and “Raw Material Declaration”.
- The “Landowner / Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement” and “Raw Material Declaration” have been completed accurately.
- The link between the “Landowner / Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement” and “Raw Material Declaration” can be established in all instances.
- Information conveyed by the “Landowner / Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement” and “Raw Material Declaration” is in compliance with the harvesting requirements.

6.2 Traceability of Raw Material

Following acceptance of the raw material for petfood the operator must ensure that the identity of the rabbit and hare material can be maintained to the supplied documentation until the completion of post-mortem examination (unless disposed of prior to the completion of post-mortem examination).

6.3 Pre-process Handling

Following acceptance the raw material must be stored under conditions appropriate to the state of preservation.

Chilled raw material awaiting further processing must remain under active refrigeration (cooler than 7°C) and must be subject to post-mortem examination within 24 hours of receipt.

Frozen raw material must remain under refrigeration appropriate to that state or immediately subject to the tempering process.

The tempering process must:

- Be conducted in areas suitable for the activity and in a manner that cannot lead to direct or indirect contamination of other petfood products.
- Be conducted using a time and temperature regimen that facilitates the thawing of the material while limiting the potential for abuse.

- Be conducted such that thaw drip from one carcass does not contaminate that of another carcass.

6.4 Dressing of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood

After pre-process handling all raw material for further processing into petfood must be dressed and processed such that the time period outside active refrigeration is kept to a minimum (approximately 1-hour) and reduced to the intended preservation temperature as quickly as possible or otherwise stabilised.

Extra care must be taken where the rabbit and hare material has been previously thawed due to the increased risk of cross-contamination from thaw drip.

The following good hygiene principles must be observed during the further dressing and processing of rabbits and hares for petfood. If observed these standards will ensure that the contamination of petfood material by contaminants derived from the guts, pelt, disease and contaminated surfaces will have been minimised.

These processing standards represent the minimum standard to be applied to ensure an appropriate level of product safety and chilled shelf life (although it must be noted that further requirements may be added at a later date).

a. Dressing off the floor

All animals must be dressed off the floor.

b. Minimise contact with structures

All rabbit and hare material must be dressed in a manner that contact between potentially contaminated surfaces is minimised. This includes the contact of exposed product with surfaces that have may have been contaminated by contact with pelts and other direct and indirect contaminants.

c. The principles of a clean and dirty must be applied

After fully skinning the animal (including removal of the feet) the carcass must be placed on a clean surface and in an area at a suitable distance from the skinning operation.

After handling the pelt and other potentially contaminated materials or structures and prior to further handling exposed material, personal hygiene routines must be observed to minimise potential cross-contamination.

d. Multiple operations

Where multiple operations are conducted on the one animal, the operation must be conducted such that the tasks least likely to result in product and equipment contamination are completed first.

e. Contact with equipment prior to post-mortem examination

All equipment (including knives) that come into contact with exposed animal material that has not passed examination, must be rinsed clean after each carcass, and rinsed clean and sterilised or sanitised whenever contaminated by contact with diseased tissue or faecal matter and ingesta.

f. Presentation for post-mortem examination

At the completion of the dressing process the representative offal and dressed carcass must be presented for post-mortem examination on a clean surface. Multiple animals may be presented on the one surface, however sufficient space must be provided between animals to limit potential cross contamination.

At the completion of the post-mortem examination process carcass material determined as suitable for petfood may be handled as minimal risk material and further processed into petfood. All other material including examined offal must be disposed of as medium risk material (excluding pelts).

g. Offal disposal

All offal is to be disposed of due to the increased risk of vertebrate toxic agent residue accumulation in offal tissues.

6.5 Post-mortem Examination of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood

All rabbit and hare material must be post-mortem examined to ensure the material is suitable for further processing into petfood.

6.5.1 Post-mortem examiner

Post-mortem examination is to be conducted by persons familiar with the normal tissues of rabbits and hares. It is recommended that operators use those persons that have been accredited in the post-mortem examination of farmed mammals. Persons competent in rabbit and hare post-mortem examination must be identified in the petfood operator's staff training records.

The requirement for a post-mortem examiner to be an Accredited Examiner under the Animal Products Act 1999 may be introduced at a later date following further industry consultation.

6.5.2 Post-mortem facilities and general requirements

The general requirements notified under the Petfood Code of Practice 2.1: Slaughter and Killing of Farmed Mammals, section 9.3.4 (b) - must be observed when conducting post-mortem examination of rabbits and hares.

6.5.3 Post-mortem examination procedures

The post-mortem examination procedures have been designed to identify and eliminate abnormal tissues that may be associated with diseases of concern for petfood safety. The post mortem examination procedures involve the viewing of all surfaces of the rabbit and hare carcass and associated offal. These procedures may be conducted during the dressing procedure or as a completely separate operation.

The requirements notified for post-mortem examination represent an interim standard only and may be amended at a later date.

1. Carcass examination:

The external and internal surface of each carcass must be viewed for abnormalities.

The following judgements are to be applied to the carcass - any tissues requiring condemnation are to be disposed of as medium risk material:

- **Deterioration**

All animals in a state suggestive of deterioration that could impact on the suitability of the material for petfood must be condemned.

- **Contamination**

All obvious gross contamination must be trimmed. Extensive contamination must result in the total condemnation of the carcass.

- **Odour / smell**

Carcasses with pronounced or objectionable odour suggestive of the animal not being fresh are to be condemned.

- **Wounds**

All wounds are to be trimmed.

- **Carcass bullet entry wounds**

The site of contamination must be trimmed and the area palpated for bullet pieces.

Carcasses contaminated with projectile pieces are to be condemned.

Rendered animal material is commonly used in the manufacture of animal feed.

Medium risk material contaminated with lead should be burnt or buried and not rendered - in order to prevent the possibility of lead cycling and amplification in the animal feed / human food chain.

- **Bone fractures**

Bone fractures are acceptable for petfood and may be trimmed.

- **Any other abnormality indicative of disease e.g. infection or pus etc.**

The carcass is to be condemned in total.

2. Offal examination:

The lungs, liver, heart and kidneys must to be viewed for abnormalities.

The following judgements and dispositions are to be applied to the carcass where abnormalities are found in the accompanying offal. All tissues must be disposed of as medium risk material.

- All carcasses are to be condemned where they are presented without the required offal for examination. One kidney missing is acceptable for examination purposes.
- All carcasses are to be condemned where the offal shows evidence of any abnormality unexpected by the examiner who is familiar with the normal tissues of the animal.

6.6 Elimination of Foreign Objects

It is recognised that the inclusion of lead (shot, bullets or fragments thereof) in the final petfood product is of a significant risk when the source raw material is wild.

Pets, in addition, are particularly susceptible to lead poisoning.

In order to reduce the risk of lead being present in the final product:

- Rabbits and hares killed by shot (shotgun) must not be used for petfood. Refer section 5.7.2.
- All bullet entry wounds are to be trimmed and palpated for bullet pieces as part of the post-mortem examination procedure. Refer section 6.5.
- All rabbit and hare material harvested through shooting must pass through a metal detector capable of detecting bullet fragments that could pose a risk to pets.

7 Residue Monitoring

Amendment 0

June 2004

Residue monitoring

The harvesting of rabbits and hares for petfood that are free of vertebrate toxic agent residues is of critical importance to the petfood sector and to the health of the final consumer. In order to provide for a level of assurance to the product purchaser and to the final consumer, it is necessary to implement a residue-testing programme that can confirm the effectiveness of harvesting controls.

The details of an industry agreed residue-testing programme are to be notified at a later date following further industry consultation.

Operators must understand that the cost of testing will be passed onto those operators harvesting rabbits and hares for petfood in line with government policy on cost recovery. Operators should also be aware that if the results of testing indicate that the current system of harvest is not effective at managing the vertebrate toxic agent risk, then the NZFSA reserves the right to suspend the collection of rabbits and hares for petfood.

8 Appendix 1: Registered Trade Name Products and Active Ingredients

The following is a list of registered 'Active Ingredients' and the "Trade Name Products" commonly found in use. Certified Suppliers may use this list as a guide for determining the applicable time period between the completion of a poisoning operation and an area gaining vertebrate toxic agent free status (refer section 5.4).

The following list must not be considered a complete list of all registered products available in New Zealand as this is always liable to change.

Active ingredients and Trade Name Products (1st June 2003 – note may be subject to change after this date):

Active Ingredient: 3-CHLORO-P-TOLUIDINE HYDROCHLORIDE

DRC 1339

Active Ingredient: BRODIFACOUM (Anticoagulant)

PESTOFF RODENT BAIT 20R

TALON

TALON 20 P

TALON POSSUM BAIT

TALON 7-20

PESTOFF BRODIFACOUM POSSUM BAIT

PESTOFF RODENT BLOCKS

TALON RAT & MOUSE PELLETS

PESTOFF WAXED POSSUM BAIT

PESTOFF RODENT BAIT

Active Ingredient: BROMADIOLONE (Anticoagulant)

BROMATROL

RID RAT SUPER WAX BAITS

SQUEAK SUPER

BROMARD

CONTRAC ALL WEATHER BLOX

Active Ingredient: **CHOLECALCIFEROL (Calcicalciferol)**

CAMPAIGN POSSUM BAIT

FERACOL

Active Ingredient: **COUMATETRALYL (Anticoagulant)**

RACUMIN

NO RATS & MICE

TRACKS NO RATS & MICE

RACUMIN MOUSE AND RAT BLOCKS

RACUMIN PASTE

Active Ingredient: **DIFETHIALONE (Anticoagulant)**

BARAKI RODENTICIDE PELLETS

BARAKI RODENTICIDE WAX BLOCK

Active Ingredient: **DIPHACINONE (Anticoagulant)**

PEST-GONE RODENT BAIT

DITRAC ALL-WEATHER RODENT BLOCK

PESTOFF FERRET PASTE

Active Ingredient: **FLOCOUMAFEN (Anticoagulant)**

STORM

STORM SECURE

STRATAGEM

Active Ingredient: HYDROGEN CYANIDE

CYANOSIL

Active Ingredient: PHOSPHORUS

PHOSPHORISED RABBIT PASTE

PHOSPHORISED POSSUM PASTE DOUBLE STRENGTH

Active Ingredient: PINDONE

PINDONE RABBIT PELLETS

PINDONE POSSUM PELLETS

PINDONE LIQUID CONCENTRATE

PINDONE RS5 RABBIT PELLETS

Active Ingredient: POTASSIUM CYANIDE (Cyanide)

FERATOX

FERAPASTE

Active Ingredient: SODIUM CYANIDE (Cyanide)

CYANIDE PASTE FOR POSSUM DESTRUCTION

TRAPPERS CYANIDE PASTE

Active Ingredient: SODIUM FLUOROACETATE (1080)

0.08% 1080 Rodent Pellets

.06% 1080 PELLETS

1080 SOLUTION

.2% 1080 PELLETS

10% 1080 GEL

STOCK SOLUTION 1080

0.08% 1080 Pellets

0.15% 1080 PELLETS

1080 POSSUM PELLETS 0.15%

5% 1080 GEL

04% 1080 PELLETS

0.10% 1080 FERAL CAT BAIT

1080 STOCK SOLUTION

PESTOFF PROFESSIONAL 1080 POSSUM & RABBIT PASTE

PESTOFF PROFESSIONAL 1080 POSSUM PASTE 0.08%

PESTOFF PROFESSIONAL 1080 POSSUM PASTE 0.15%

NO POSSUMS 1080 GEL BAIT

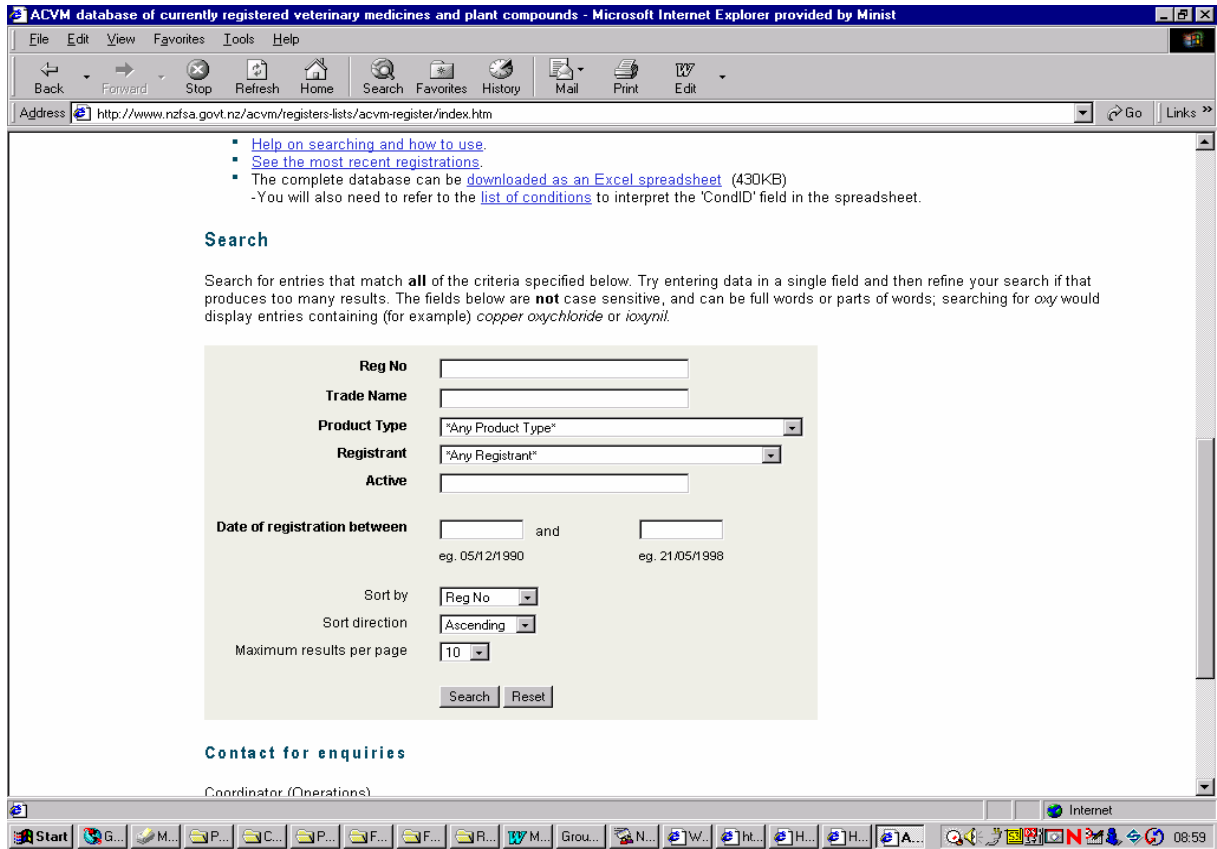
PESTOFF EXTERMINATOR PASTE

The following link provides access to the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Internet site – Database of Registered Compounds.

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/registers-lists/acvm-register/index.htm>

This site can be used to clarify a product's 'active ingredient' (e.g. Brodifacoum) when only a 'Trade Name' (e.g. Talon) is given by the landowner. In addition this site must be used for reviewing the current list of 'Trade Name Products' containing 'Active Ingredients' refer section 5.5.

Having successfully gained access to the internet site scroll down the page to reach the following location and simply enter the exact trade name or active ingredient in the appropriate search box and press enter. An example of the search screen follows:



The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying the ACVM database search page. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/register-lists/acvm-register/index.htm>. The page content includes:

- Navigation links: [Help on searching and how to use.](#), [See the most recent registrations.](#)
- Download link: [The complete database can be downloaded as an Excel spreadsheet \(430KB\)](#). A note below states: "- You will also need to refer to the [list of conditions](#) to interpret the 'CondiID' field in the spreadsheet."
- Search** section:
 - Text: "Search for entries that match **all** of the criteria specified below. Try entering data in a single field and then refine your search if that produces too many results. The fields below are **not** case sensitive, and can be full words or parts of words; searching for *oxy* would display entries containing (for example) *copper oxychloride* or *ioxynil*."
 - Search form fields:
 - Reg No:
 - Trade Name:
 - Product Type:
 - Registrant:
 - Active:
 - Date of registration between: and
eg. 05/12/1990 eg. 21/05/1998
 - Sort by:
 - Sort direction:
 - Maximum results per page:
 - Buttons:
- Contact for enquiries** section:
 - Text: "Coordinator (Operations)"

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open application windows (G..., M..., P..., C..., F..., W..., N..., W..., ht..., H..., A...), and the system tray with the time 08:59.

9 Appendix 2: Application to become a Certified Supplier of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood

This form is to be forwarded to:

Programme Manager (Operations)
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
PO Box 2835
Wellington;
Or Fax 04 463 2643

for inclusion on the national list of Certified Suppliers.

Note: the original of the form to be forwarded, even when fax is used for initial notification.

For a copy of this form please contact:

The New Zealand Petfood Manufacturers Association Inc.
PO Box 32-479
Devonport
Auckland 1309

Phone 09 445 4262

Fax: 09 445 4249

10 Appendix 3: Landowner / Manager Toxic Agent Use Statement

Landowner/Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood



Manager	Landowner/Manager/Legal Representative Name Physical Address Phone Number Fax Number Email: <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">See Note 1</div>
Toxic Agent Use Statement	Describe in detail the area where the harvesting is to occur, or the area to which this declaration applies: 1 Is there any land within 1km for hares and 200m for rabbits of the boundaries of the land area described above that is under the same Landowner/Manager/Legal representative. If YES, this land must also be considered in the following declaration. <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 For the total area of land represented by this declaration (but not including areas where toxic agents have been used for the control of vertebrate pests within farm or horticultural buildings or residences): 2.1 Have any toxic agents containing brodifacoum or flocoumafen (eg Storm, Pestoff, Talon, etc) been laid over the previous three years. If NO, go to question 2.2. If YES, describe accurately the toxic agent and area where the toxic agent was applied: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2.2 Over the last twelve months have any other toxic agents been laid in the area of land represented by this declaration. If NO, go to question 2.3. If YES, describe accurately the toxic agents, the time and the area where the toxic agent was last applied: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2.3 Do you intend to lay toxic agents in the area represented by this declaration (but not including areas where toxic agents will be used for the control of vertebrate pests within farm or horticultural buildings or residences) over the next thirty days? If NO, complete rest of this form. If YES, describe accurately the toxic agent and the area where the toxic agent will be applied: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">See Note 2</div>
Declaration	I agree to notify any changes to this toxic agent use programme to (print name of Certified Supplier) for whom this statement is provided. This statement is effective from (date) and is effective for thirty days subsequent to this date and remains valid unless there is a notified change in the vertebrate toxic agent use statement. I declare that the statements made in this document are true and correct Signature of Landowner/Manager/Legal Representative Date: <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">See Note 3</div>
Petfood Operator	I have reviewed these records and the requirements have been met. Signature of Operator Date: <div style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">See Note 4</div>

Landowner/Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood



Warnings

The Landowner/Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement must be completed for all areas where wild rabbits and hares are to be harvested for use as petfood. This statement must accompany the consignment of rabbits and hares to the petfood operator.

Information sought on this Declaration is required to administer the Animal Products Act 1999. It is an offence under this Act to falsify, alter or misrepresent any statement with the intent to deceive or for the purposes of obtaining material benefit or avoiding material detriment. This Act provides penalties for the non-supply of correct information of up to \$100,000 for individuals or \$200,000 for corporations.

Privacy Statement

Information sought on this Declaration is required to administer the Animal Products Act 1999. The Privacy Act 1993 provides rights of access to, and correction of, personal information held in a readily retrievable form. The information is held by the petfood operator for a minimum of four years.

Note 1 The Landowner/Manager/Legal Representative

All details of the Landowner/Manager/Legal Representative must be provided in order to facilitate traceback of all consignments.

Note 2 Toxic Agent Use Statement

The area where wild rabbits and hares are to be harvested must be described in detail in order to facilitate traceback of all consignments.

The laying of all toxic agents and the intention to lay toxic agents must be described in detail (except those used to control vertebrate pests within farm buildings or residences)

Note 3 Declaration

The Landowner/Manager/Legal Representative must declare that the Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use statement is complete and accurate and agree to notify the Certified Supplier of Wild Rabbits and Hares immediately of any change in the toxic agent use programme.

This Landowner/Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement remains valid for thirty days from the effective date. If harvesting occurs beyond thirty days another Landowner/Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement must be provided.

The declaration must be signed and dated clearly by the Landowner/Manager/Legal Representative.

Note 4 The Petfood Operator

The petfood operator must be satisfied that the requirements outlined in the "Code of Practice Part 2.2 Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood" and in the Booklet "Harvesting Wild Animals for Petfood" have been met.

This Statement must be signed and dated clearly by the petfood operator.

The petfood operator must retain a copy of this Statement for a period of at least four years in case of regulatory audit

11 Appendix 4: Raw Material Declaration Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood

Raw Material Declaration: Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood



Supplier	Certified Supplier Name	Certified Supplier Identifier
	Petfood Operation	Date & Time of Delivery

See Note 1

Consignment	Number of Rabbits & Hares covered by this Declaration
	Unique Identifier that enables positive Identification to this Declaration

See Note 2

Field History	Geographical area animals were harvested from
	Landowner / Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement Number
	Date and approximate time animals were killed
	Date and approximate time the raw material was subject to refrigeration

See Note 3

Declaration	The rabbits and hares represented have been harvested from areas free from vertebrate toxic agents in accordance with requirements.	<table border="1"><tr><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr></table>	No	Yes
	No	Yes		
	The rabbits and hares were alive and apparently healthy at the time of harvest.	<table border="1"><tr><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr></table>	No	Yes
	No	Yes		
	Have these rabbits and hares been frozen prior to delivery?	<table border="1"><tr><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr></table>	No	Yes
No	Yes			
The rabbits and hares represented have been handled after harvest according to requirements.	<table border="1"><tr><td>No</td><td>Yes</td></tr></table>	No	Yes	
No	Yes			
I declare that the rabbits and hares represented were harvested and presented by me, were alive and apparently healthy at the time of harvest and were collected from areas that met the requirements for being considered free of vertebrate toxic agents.				
Signature of Supplier				
Date:				

See Note 4

Petfood Operator	I have reviewed these records and the requirements have been met.
	Signature of Operator
Date:	

See Note 5

Raw Material Declaration: Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood



Warnings

The Raw Material Declaration must be completed for all wild rabbits and hares intended for use as raw material for petfood. The declaration must accompany the consignment of rabbits and hares to the petfood operator. The supplier must retain a copy of the declaration for a period of at least four years following the delivery of the animals in case of regulatory audit.

Information sought on this Declaration is required to administer the Animal Products Act 1999. It is an offence under this Act to falsify, alter or misrepresent any statement with the intent to deceive or for the purposes of obtaining material benefit or avoiding material detriment. This Act provides penalties for the non-supply of correct information of up to \$100,000 for individuals or \$200,000 for corporations.

Privacy Statement

Information sought on this Declaration is required to administer the Animal Products Act 1999. The Privacy Act 1993 provides rights of access to, and correction of, personal information held in a readily retrievable form. The information is held by the petfood operator for a minimum of four years.

Note 1 The Supplier

All details of the Supplier must be provided.

The suppliers name must be on the national list of certified suppliers and be listed with the petfood operator.

Note 2 The Consignment

The rabbits and hares in this consignment must be uniquely identified in accordance with section 5.8 of the "Code of Practice Part 2.2 Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood" in order to facilitate traceback of all consignments.

Note 3 Field History of the Harvested Rabbits and Hares

The geographical area the animals were harvested from must be positively identified and match the area in the Landowner/Manager Vertebrate Toxic Agent Use Statement in order to facilitate traceback of all consignments.

The date and time and the rabbits and hares were killed and the time and date the raw material was subject to refrigeration must be accurately recorded.

Note 4 Declaration

The supplier must declare that the rabbits and hares supplied were harvested and handled in accordance with the requirements outlined in the "Code of Practice Part 2.2 Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood" and in the Booklet "Harvesting Wild Animals for Petfood".

The declaration must be signed and dated clearly.

The raw material supplied must be accompanying by the signed declaration

Note 5 The Petfood Operator

The petfood operator must be satisfied that the requirements outlined in the "Code of Practice Part 2.2 Harvesting and Processing of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood" and in the Booklet "Harvesting Wild Animals for Petfood" have been met.

The form must be signed and dated clearly.

The petfood operator must retain a copy of this declaration for a period of at least four years in case of regulatory audit

12 Appendix 5: Application to become a Listed Supplier of Wild Rabbits and Hares for Petfood

This form is kept by the petfood operator for verification purposes.

For a copy of this form please contact:

The New Zealand Petfood Manufacturers Association Inc.

PO Box 32-479

Devonport

Auckland 1309

Phone 09 445 4262

Fax: 09 445 4249