

28 February 2003

Dear Stakeholder,

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR PET FOOD PROCESSING

PART 1.0: INTRODUCTION

PART 2.1: SLAUGHTER AND KILLING OF FARMED MAMMALS

This Code of Practice 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 the Petfood Industry Standards Council, to assist petfood operators in meeting the requirements of the Animal Products Act 1999. In particular, Part 2.1 provides for the minimum requirements that petfood operators have to comply with to ensure that the various risk factors associated with procuring live farmed mammals are managed appropriately.

The Code of Practice is being released as a guide in the short term to provide the petfood industry with time to adjust to the new requirements. However, it is intended in the future that this Code of Practice will become the New Zealand specification until the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption) is published.

The scope of Part 2.1 of the Code of Practice applies to the supply, procurement, and slaughter or killing of farmed mammals for the purpose of processing into petfood. It also contains a section on post-mortem examination that has temporarily been included in the document to facilitate the training of ante and post-mortem examiners. This has been done to ensure the linkage between ante and post-mortem examination is clearly understood during the phasing in of these requirements. However, at a later date the post-mortem section will be relocated to a more appropriate location.

Part 2.1 of the Code of Practice also introduces the "Farmed Mammal Supplier Statement – Petfood Slaughter and Killing" and the "Toxic Substances Use Statement – Petfood Slaughter and Killing". These supplier statements have been approved for use by the Director of Animal Products and must be fully implemented within 60 days from the date of this letter as required by the Licence Amendment Conditions Notice and Notice of Direction. It also introduces the overarching ante and post-mortem examination requirements as notified by the Licence Amendment Conditions Notice and Notice of Direction.

Review of the Code of Practice:

The coordinator welcomes suggestions for alterations, deletions or additions to this document. Suggestions should be sent to the coordinator, together with reasons for the change and any relevant information.

Submitters should include the following information with their submission:

- the name and title of the submitter;
- organisation's name, when applicable;
- submitter's address and contact details (phone, fax and e-mail, if available); and
- the section or table number commented on.

The coordinator of this Code of Practice is:

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Yours sincerely,

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