

MEMORANDUM

To	Risk Management Programme Operators, and Operators Under the Food Act Who Undertake Secondary Processing of Poultry PIANZ Other interested parties
CC	Carol Barnao (Director, Standards) Chris Mawson, Su Langdon, Catherine Sheerin (NZFSA VA) Dudley Morrison (CIG)
Date	08 April 2009
From	Judy Barker, Assistant Director (Production and Processing)
Subject	Issue of Code of Practice – Processing of Poultry Chapter 9: Secondary Processing Consequential changes to Chapter 5: Slaughter and Dressing
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NZFSA in consultation with the poultry industry has been developing the Code of Practice - Processing of Poultry. The COP is being developed in stages, the initial stage resulting in the release of the Overview in Part 1 of the COP, and Chapter 5 Slaughter and Dressing, in December 2007.

Chapter 9: Secondary Processing

Following formal stakeholder consultation and consideration of the comments received, NZFSA has now completed the drafting of Chapter 9: Secondary Processing. This Chapter is now being issued. The scope of Chapter 9 begins at the receipt of poultry from the spin chiller or a primary processor, and addresses secondary processing of products that are traded in their raw state, including value added products that remain raw.

This layout of this Chapter is as follows:

- Purpose and Scope;
- Regulatory requirements;
- Procedures (for compliance);
- Guidance (boxed text);

Export and market access requirements are not included. Any specific New Zealand Standards under the Animal Products Act 1999 have been referenced. An operator is expected to follow the procedures (for compliance) unless an alternative method is validated in the RMP or other documented system. The text given in the boxes is guidance material only which the operator may or may not choose to follow.

As a consequence of discussions during the drafting of Chapter 9, minor changes have been made to Chapter 5. The amended version of Chapter 5 is now also being issued.

Risk Management Programme (RMP) Operator's Responsibilities:

An RMP operator is expected to follow the COP unless an alternative is registered as part of their RMP. Operators must therefore review their RMP and either:

- make any necessary changes to ensure that it aligns with the COP – this would be considered a minor amendment; or
- submit their alternative for evaluation (with validation evidence if appropriate) then apply for registration of a significant amendment to the RMP.

Status of Chapter 9 for Operators and Other Persons under the Food Act

For operators under the Food Act, this document is considered guidance only. It is recommended that operators align their operations with the contents of the Chapter, and that any audit of a premises operating under the Food Act is conducted by people who are familiar with the contents of the Chapter.

Status of PIPS5:

The COP overrides PIPS5 where relevant, but PIPS5 will still be the base requirement for some export markets for those things that are not yet covered in the new COP. In practice this means:

- Processors of non-broilers must continue to use PIPS5 as the basis of their export requirements or as guidance for their domestic requirements.
- Processors of broilers must comply with the new COP (unless an alternative is approved as part of their registered RMP as described earlier) but will default back to PIPS5 and the referenced meat manuals where the new COP does not yet cover the issue.

Implementation Date:

Chapter 9 of the COP comes into effect on the date of signing. Operators are expected to actively progress towards compliance with the COP from this date. They must have completed changes to the RMP and have any alternatives to the COP registered by using a significant amendment by 1 October, 2009.

Verifiers will be instructed to check compliance with the COP or registered alternative from the above dates.

Yours faithfully

Judy Barker
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New Zealand Standards Group