

Title: All Red Meat Species (excl. poultry) NMD Verification Record		ID: VNTS P02 C	Page 1 of 3
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## **Verification Record for Verification by the Accredited Verifier (NZFSA VA) of: NMD Technical Parameters for *All Red Meat Species (ie all species excluding Poultry)***

The following tables summarise key technical parameters of the Red Meat Species NMD Programme for verification by the accredited verifier (NZFSA VA) -refer NMD Technical Procedures – section 6.9

This summary **does not include** all technical parameters of the NMD programme, and **is not exclusive**. The accredited verifier (NZFSA VA) may, using professional judgement, verify any parameter described in the NMD technical procedure manual.

### The verifier shall:

- a) oversee the Operator performance in terms of National and In-house Targets on a performance basis. This should be more frequently than twice per season since certification and the products fitness for purpose may be affected by Operator performance\* (*utilise relevant sections of Table 1 below for this – eg. sections 7-10*).
- b) on **two** occasions in each processing season (*commencing Oct 1 for all species, or July/August for Bobby calves*), verify the collection, packaging and reporting of a complete NMD sample set against the NMD specification.
- c) take appropriate measures in respect of product or NZFSA certificates depending on the anomaly.
- d) advise LAS &/or NZFSA where the Verifier identifies anomalies with either, the laboratory procedures or the LAS verification of laboratories.

*\*Operators consistently exceeding Targets may be subject to intervention and/or review by NZFSA VA or NZFSA CIG. Reviews would attempt to identify reasons for persistent non-performance, and make recommendations in relation to improvements to process control (such as review of procedures or re-validation of a risk based programme).*

### The Verifier should apply the following principles to Verification:

- a) focus on Key Compliance Indicators (Table 1 below) in order to confirm that the Operator is:
  - i) ensuring that Valid samples are being taken and delivered to an appropriate laboratory; and,
  - ii) analysing trends and comparing results with relevant National and In-house Targets: and,
  - iii) acting upon results appropriately when targets are exceeded or trends indicate a need for action.
- b) use a “*sampling*” approach to achieve sufficient verification of the different mandated parameters (Table 2 below), rather than checking every detail specified in the Technical Procedures. The ‘Guideline Summary of the NMD Technical Procedures’ provided may be used to assist with this *sampling* approach.
- c) where the Operators sampling, packaging, storage and transportation methods have been shown to be adequate for one species, the Verifier may use their discretion in regard to checking similar procedures for other species being sampled,
- d) where the Operators sampling, packaging, storage and transportation methods have been shown to be deficient for one species, or the Key Compliance Indicators indicate deficiency, the verifier should focus on more detail to confirm the extent of deficiency and risk to product or certification.

### Objective Evidence and Outcomes recorded below should indicate (as applicable):

- i) the documented system checked (*title, version, date, relevant sections*),
- ii) what records were observed,
- iii) who was interviewed/observed,
- iv) what reality check activity was performed, and
- v) outcomes for the verification (*eg. sufficient/insufficient operator verification or review; adequate/inadequate system or records; no issue/issue; meets/does not meet requirements; operator taking/not taking appropriate action; is there an impact on the operator, product or certification; what action VA intends to take etc.*)

Table 1: Key Compliance Indicators to be Verified	Objective Evidence (Yes or No is not sufficient)
<b>1</b> Is there documented evidence that the Operator has confirmed ( <i>verified</i> ) compliance to the sampling requirements of the NMD Technical Procedures ( <i>to ensure that the results generated are valid</i> )?	
<b>1b</b> Has the operator submitted their most recent demographic details to the NMD Administrator?	
<b>2</b> Does the Operator have a documented sampling programme referencing the <u>current</u> NMD Technical Procedures? <i>eg. compare some key changes listed in the current NMD amendment cover sheet to their document.</i>	
<b>3a</b> Has the Operator ensured that they have sampled all species and classes as required by US and EU OMARs? <i>such as: sampling relevant product destined for USA or EU, operating NMD procedures for relevant species where <u>listed</u> for USA or EU.</i>	
<b>3b</b> Has a Non-US Non-EU Operator ensured compliance with Domestic sampling requirements and frequencies?	
<b>4a</b> Verify that the Samplers are appropriately trained. <i>ie by Certified or Associate trainers with appropriate species and product competencies (refer LAS site via VA web page).</i>	
<b>4b</b> Verify that Restricted Samplers are trained by an appropriate trainer for their restriction AND are only sampling as specified by their restriction. <i>eg. sampling primal and bulk pack for ovine only</i>	
<b>4c</b> Does/has the Operators programme ensure(d) the availability of appropriately trained back-up samplers should their sampler be unavailable?	
<b>5a</b> Has the operator documented <u>how</u> they select the samples each week ( <i>eg. relevant procedure for randomisation/rotational selection of class, day, time, shift etc</i> ) AND is there evidence that they have implemented this procedure to ensure appropriate sample selection?	
<b>5b</b> Where process, species, process days or shifts change, does the Operators sampling programme ensure that relevant samples are taken in each processing week? <i>eg. where change occurs during a week has the operator ensured appropriate sampling has been completed in that week?</i>	
<b>6</b> Does the Operator receive results within 2 weeks of sampling ( <i>and ensured that results are forwarded to the NMD</i> )?	
<b>7</b> Has the operator documented microbiological targets relating to APC, <i>E.coli</i> and <i>Salmonella</i> AND encompassing relevant NMTs? ( <i>refer s6 NMD Technical Procedures</i> )	
<b>8</b> Does the operator perform adequate statistical or trend analysis of their weekly data? <i>- at minimum this should be graphs or charts that quickly indicate trends relative to targets.</i>	
<b>9</b> Is there evidence that the Operators analysis system is capable of identifying NMT or In-house Alerts relative to targets?	
<b>10a</b> Is there evidence that the Operator has responded appropriately to any NMT Alerts or when they exceed In-house Targets? <i>ie appropriate and effective corrective action (including restore control, product disposition and preventative measures).</i>	
<b>10b</b> Has the operator reviewed each Quarterly Ranked List Report and respond appropriately to Alerts upon receipt?	

- this should include documentation of the decisions & response.

<b>Table 2: Mandated Observations and Procedures to be Performed <u>twice</u> per season (as per NMD s6.9)</b> <i>Refer to the 'Guideline Summary of NMD Technical Procedures' for details that may be verified below</i>	<b>Verification Activity &amp; Objective Evidence</b> <i>(Yes or No is not sufficient)</i>
<b>11</b> Observing the rotational and/or random selection of sampling day, shift, run, time and carcass/cut/carton to be sampled. <i>This links with Q5 above</i>	
<b>12</b> Observing the collection of samples, ensuring correct swabs/templates/diluent volumes for species being sampled. Review documentation of sample descriptors and chronological information.	
<b>13</b> Apply a MAF carton seal to a set of NMD samples to permit a check with the receiving laboratory to verify samples are received in the correct condition/temperature and that analyses are commenced in the required time from time of sampling.	<b>Seal Number:</b> .....
<b>14</b> Observing the storage of samples prior to packaging, and subsequent packaging of samples for transport.	
<b>15</b> Requesting and observing the laboratory records and reports for samples transported under the MAF carton seal. <i>This links with Q13 and Qs 7-10 above</i>	
<b>16</b> Observe and verify post-chill sampling <i>(if applicable – this may only be relevant once per season)</i> .	
<b>17</b> Confirm commencement of appropriate <i>Salmonella</i> sampling programme (16 week PSW, 6 week SSW, or continuation of PSW requirements for the season).	
<b>18</b> Confirm reporting of <i>Salmonella</i> sampling programme results and completion of PSW or SSW for the season.	

<b>Summarising the above Evidence and draw conclusions about:</b>
<b>A) From Table 1: The Operators ability to adequately Analyse results relative to Targets set (NMTs, In-house targets, SPS etc) AND act appropriately based upon these results</b>
<b>B) From Tables 1&amp;2: The Operators ability to produce Valid results as a consequence of effective implementation of the NMD Technical Procedures (ie sample selection, sampling, packaging, transportation etc)</b>

Name of Verifier (Sign): .....

Date Verification Completed: ..../..../.....