

Animal Products Act 1999

Animal Material Depots

Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2000

STATEMENT OF POLICY

This statement specifies the policy MAF will follow in relation to the listing and verification of animal material depots, which are provided for in the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2000.

Dated at Wellington this 27th day of June 2002.

(Signed)

Tony Zohrab
Director, Animal Products

Background

The Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2000 [AP (SHC)] sets out a new requirement for listing of all **ANIMAL MATERIAL DEPOTS**.

These specifications divide **ANIMAL MATERIAL DEPOTS** into three types:

1. **Killed Wild Mammal Material Depots** (refer [AP (SHC)] clauses 63 – 65 inclusive)
These depots, previously known as game depots, were required to be licensed under the Meat Act 1981.
2. **Fish (other than bivalve molluscan shellfish) Material Depots** (refer [AP (SHC)] clauses 63, 64 & 67)
These depots existed but were not licensed under the Meat Act regime.
3. **Deer Velvet Material Depots** (refer [AP (SHC)] clauses 63, 64 & 66)
These depots existed but were not licensed under the Meat Act regime.

Listing Requirements

Clause 64(1) of the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2000 requires that all animal material depots must be listed with the Director-General by 31 October 2002.

To be listed, an operator must meet the requirements specified for the type of depot in the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2000.

New businesses setting up as animal material depots also have until the 31 October 2002 to become listed. However if any of these depots wish to supply killed wild mammal material to either a premises:

- licensed under the Meat Act that exports product derived from this material; or
- operating under a registered risk management programme that exports product derived from this material;

then the depot must be listed with the Director-General before they supply those premises.

Refer OMAR 01/94.

Initial Verification

New animal material depots

Prior to being listed as an animal material depot, an initial inspection must be completed by a recognised verifying agency e.g. MAF Verification Agency (MAF VA). The verifying agency will provide the operator with a report relating to this inspection, a copy of which must accompany the application for listing. This inspection must be completed within 3 months of applying for listing as a depot.

The purpose of this verification inspection is to verify compliance with the relevant specifications described above, before the operation commences.

Existing licensed premises

This initial verification requirement does not apply to game depots that have a current licence under the Meat Act regime. Those licensees may make application anytime prior to 31 October 2002 to be listed as an animal material depot without an initial inspection. The reason for this is that licensed game depots are already subject to verification as part of the licence conditions under the Meat Act regime.

Ongoing Verification

The ongoing verification of **ANIMAL MATERIAL DEPOTS** is based on the type of depot.

Specific requirements

Killed Wild Mammal Material Depots

Verification of killed wild mammal material depots, by a recognised verifying agency, shall be in accordance with the requirements for game depots as specified in Technical Directive 99/49, Performance-Based Verification, issued on 26 March 1999, or any subsequent specifications issued by the Director-General. New premises will be placed on a starting frequency of 2 monthly.

Fish (other than bivalve molluscan shellfish) Material Depots and Deer Velvet Material Depots

Each year, a number of randomly selected (20% or the percentage closest thereto) animal material depots from each type (deer velvet/fish) will be verified by a recognised verifying agency e.g. MAF VA for compliance with the relevant specifications. The aim is to verify each premises every 5 years.

Any depot verified one year is removed from selection the following year to avoid the potential for yearly inspections of a premises to occur.

General requirements

If issues are identified during any verification visit, corrective action will be required by the recognised verifying agency, which may include revisiting the depot.

Any information that suggests that there is a problem with an animal material depot may result in a visit by the recognised verifying agency or MAF to that depot.

Verification costs

The cost of initial verification, ongoing verification and any revisits is to be met by the operator of the depot.