

Minutes

- Meeting: Tuesday, 20th August 2008, 10.30am
At the offices of Mars Petcare, 19 Lambie Drive, Manukau, Auckland
- Present: Scott Baragwanath (Chairman, PFMA), Richard Brake (Secretary, PFMA), Aleksandra Granjas (PFMA), Andrew Cook (PFMA), Trish Whitaker (NZFSA), Lennox Vellekoop (NZFSA), Steve Gilbert (NZFSA VA), Peter Brown (NZFSA VA), Whitu Roiiri (NZFSA VA).
- Apologies: Glenys Henry (PFMA), Dave Allan (PFMA), Damien Cleland (NZFSA), Chris Mawson (NZFSA VA), Carol Barnao (NZFSA), Judy Barker (NZFSA), Neil Kennington (NZFSA), David Burt (Federated Farmers), Kevin Cresswell (MIA).

Apologies

Apologies were accepted (moved AG, seconded WR, carried unanimously).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held 20th May 2008 were approved, with one minor change, as being a true record (moved LV, seconded SB, carried unanimously).

Matters Arising

There were no other matters arising other than those recorded on the agenda.

NZFSA Staff – Change in Roles

ACVM

Neil Kennington has accepted a position of Programme Manager in the Market Access Group. His former position within the ACVM Group is open and is being advertised.

Verification Agency

The Agency has been affected by several changes in business conditions which has resulted in the need to restructure, including; less VA involvement under the PBV system, amalgamation of businesses, more efficient staff and more small locations requiring a vet. The restructuring process is not yet complete. Currently there are five fewer TTs (with one to go late in the year) and two fewer Regional Managers.

Peter Brown now has a national role, reporting to Chris Mawson. A significant portion of his time will be as national co-ordinator of circuit staff. Industry issues with circuit staff are to be addressed to him. Lynne Clay has taken over as Auckland Regional Manager.

An article explaining the change will be prepared for the next Association newsletter. A draft will be sent to Peter Brown for approval.

NZFSA VA Upcoming programme charge / cost recovery

Uncertainty over the outcome of the restructure has resulted in a delay in the publication of the new seasons VA costings. The new charge-out rates will be applicable from 1st October (instead of the usual 1st July) and will be change again on 1st July 2009.

VA costs are fully funded by the industry and therefore the industry will fully fund the cost of the restructure.

The new petfood sector charge is \$111.38, a \$7.07 (6.8%) increase. The increase is entirely made up of recovery of prior under-budget performance and one-off severance and redeployment costs.

Amendment to the Animal Consumption Specifications

Redrafting of the amendment is in progress in the NZFSA legal team, who have required some alterations (eg ASDs must now be as a schedule to the Specification).

As part of the publication of the Specification a residues monitoring programme will be implemented. Residues testing will commence late in the year with an additional cost to the processors involved of around \$1000 per annum.

Implementation of the Outcome of the Animal Feeds Review

A proposed amendment to the Verification Statement of Policy has been published and is currently out for consultation. Changes proposed in the Association's submission have been largely adopted including, verification prior to listing, performance based verification and differentiation between businesses with different risks. This proposed amendment has been posted to identified affected parties.

Guidance material is in preparation, which will be based on the BMS listing requirements and the Dual Operator Butcher traceability template. This material will be published in about two months.

Petfood Code of Practice

Wild Animals

Has first priority and will be worked on first. The ASDs, training booklet and examination is virtually complete.

Slaughter & Killing

Has third priority. Guidance material on good slaughter and dressing technique will be added. The Secretary was asked to source training material from NZITO. Whitu Roiri was asked to supply what he could from NZFSA resources.

Good Manufacturing Practice

Has second priority and will be based on the Cold and Dry Stores Code of Practice.

Extension of Eligibility

Approval to proceed with the trial at AC Petfoods Ltd and Medallion Petfoods has been granted. The terms of reference (trial parameters) will be subject of further discussion and will be published shortly.

Approvals and ACVM Group Issues

Regulatory Control of Agricultural Compound Manufacture Discussion paper

Ten submissions were received and two meetings with industry groups have been held in response to the discussion paper. The final discussion paper is in preparation within the policy and legal groups and must have cabinet approval before release. The final document is therefore unlikely to be published before year-end.

Glucosamine

Nestle will prepare a submission with a view to altering the glucosamine level limits within the Standard and Guideline – ONCs Containing Nutrients with Known Therapeutic Uses. This will be delivered to Trish Whitaker

Labelling Compliance

The Association will be taking a much more active role in checking on the industry's compliance with labelling requirements and is likely to forward some compliance issues to the ACVM for resolution. These will be forwarded to Trish Whitaker.

Trish Whitaker advised that a draft of ACVM labelling requirements is in preparation and will be sent to ONC contacts, including the Association, shortly. The Association is considering reviewing and updating its Labelling Guideline. It may be appropriate that the Association and ACVM meet to agree interpretations within the Guideline.

Terms of Reference Review

It was agreed that the Petfood Industry Standards Council will continue with its current structure, format and frequency. Lennox Vellekoop will amend the draft Terms of Reference to reflect personnel changes. The Association confirmed that their four members are: Scott Baragwanath, Richard Brake, David Allan and Aleksandra Granjas.

NAIT Project

The NAIT project is proceeding apace, with implications for petfood primary processors. Andrew Cook and Richard Brake attended a workshop at Horotiu on 1st August. The project will be a significant matter for discussion by primary processors at the next AGM.

Denaturing

MDM producers are now operating under the FSIS systems and have avoided any significant issue with the change in interpretation of the denaturing requirements. A significant risk remains if FSIS should require any change to the permit system. The industry expressed profound disappointment that this matter has been caused entirely within New Zealand and has not been the result of any changes in requirements from the US.

NZFSA VA Issues

Whitu Roiri reports that a focus on on-farm verification is underway. A new checklist was developed to assist. A summary of issues will be prepared and will be presented to the next meeting.

A draft petfood sector report was circulated, which noted 191 PBV audits have been completed in the year with 93% acceptable outcomes. Main areas of non-compliance have been cleaning & sanitation and internal verification. The report will be finalised and circulated shortly.

The proposed petfood calibration workshop has been postponed due to the VA circuit review.

NZFSA Update

No significant issues reported

Work on the alignment of dairy and non-dairy requirements under the Animal Products Act continues, including alignment of agencies and responsible persons provisions.

The Food Bill is not yet tabled and now seems unlikely to be tabled before the election.

Revision of the Meat Codes of Practices continues. Chapter 5 though 8 are expected to be released shortly

Budget & Funding

No issues.

Contract between NZFSA and Brake Andrew Pacific Ltd is not yet confirmed.

Issues Register

It was confirmed that all the issues identified in the Issues Register has been covered during the course of the meeting.

General Business

Draft Import Health Standard

It was noted that the draft MAF Biosecurity Petfood Import Health Standard has caused an issue within the industry both within New Zealand and internationally. The Association and individual petfood companies have made submission. Submissions are also expected from overseas petfood companies, The Petfood Industry association of Australia, The US Petfood Institute, AQIS and USDA.

Sheep Measles (C.ovis)

No further comment has been made arising from the initial query.

Meeting Dates for 2009

10.00am, Thursday 19th February 2009 in Palmerston North

11.00am, Tuesday 19th May 2009 in Auckland

11.00am, Tuesday 11th August 2009 in Auckland

11.00am, Tuesday 17th November 2009 in Auckland

Next Meeting

11.00am, Tuesday 18th November at the offices of Nestle Purina Petcare, Mt Wellington, Auckland

Meeting closed at 1.15 pm.

Richard Brake
Secretary