

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR SHEEP MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Dated: 24 February 2009

The information in this import health standard is in four parts:

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION describes the legal basis for this import health standard and the general responsibilities of the importer.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE outlines whether a permit is required, the conditions of eligibility, and documentation that may need to accompany the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE describes the clearance requirements at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, whether the consignment must go to a transitional facility or containment facility.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed fully and accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for Sheep Meat for Human Consumption.
- 1.2 To obtain biosecurity clearance the consignment must meet the requirements of this import health standard.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 It is the importers responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current relevant import health standard at the time of importation. Current versions of import health standards are available [online](#). A register of import health standards is also publicly available for inspection at the office of the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand.
- 2.3 The costs to [MAF Biosecurity New Zealand](#) in performing functions relating to the importation of Sheep Meat must be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity clearance must be covered by the importer or agent
- 2.4 Commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption in New Zealand must comply with the Food Act 1981. These requirements are independent of the import health standard requirements and are managed by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA). Importers are advised

to contact the NZFSA or consult the NZFSA website at www.nzfsa.govt.nz/imported-food/index.htm

- 2.5 Once the consignment has been given biosecurity clearance into New Zealand, it is the importer's responsibility to ensure (where relevant) that the consignment complies with the Animal Products Act 1999, especially if it is returned New Zealand product, product entering operations also used for the export of animal products, or if it is to be re-exported. Information about these requirements can be obtained from the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) website at www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/omar/01-172.htm or by contacting the local NZFSA Verification Agency office. Certification and other official assurance requirements which may be applicable are accessible at www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/manualsguides/oap/index.htm

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Biosecurity clearance

A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand. (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction).

Inspector BA

Means a person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993). (Explanatory Note: An Inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act and controls imposed under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996).

MAFBNZ

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand

Meat

Skeletal muscles of mammalian, reptilian and bird species with naturally included or adherent tissue or bone. This definition excludes animal by-products.

Official veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the Section 5.2 of the *Terrestrial Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

OIE Code

The World Organisation for Animal Health *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. Any reference in this standard to the **OIE Code** is to the most current as found on the OIE website:

http://www.oie.int/eng/normes/en_mcode.htm

4 EQUIVALENCE

The import health standard has been agreed as suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the consignment will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it may be found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply with the specific requirements in this import health standard, but may meet the outcomes sought. In such cases, a permit to import application may be made, an equivalence granted and import permit issued at the discretion of MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. The following information must be forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authority for an equivalence to be considered:

- which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status;
- the reasons why the veterinary authority of the country of origin believe this proposal should be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their recommendation for its acceptance.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

5.1 A permit to import is not required for consignments that meet the import health standard.

6. ELIGIBILITY

6.1 The meat shall be identifiable as originating from the United States of America.

6.2 The meat shall be commercially packed in the original unopened packaging. Full containers of product shall be sealed.

7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed health certification which meets the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION.

7.2 Documentation shall be in English.

7.3 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed original documentation. It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in rejection of consignments or delays in obtaining biosecurity clearance and/or direction.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

8 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

- 8.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand the documentation accompanying the consignment shall be inspected by an Inspector at the port of arrival. The Inspector may also inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment.
- 8.2 Providing that the consignment meets all requirements noted under PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION, the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a biosecurity clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

9 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION

- 9.1 The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAFBNZ to accompany imports of sheep meat for human consumption from the United States of America:

10 MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

I. COMMODITY: SHEEP MEAT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

II. CERTIFYING AUTHORITY:

i. Agency:

ii. Department:

iii. Country:

III. ORIGIN OF THE CONSIGNMENT

i. Name/s and address/es of processing premises:

ii. Processing premises registration number (if applicable):

IV. CONSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION

i. Number of packages:

ii. Type of packaging:

iii. Type of the goods:

iv. Animal species product derived from:

v. Number of the container(s) and container seal number(s):

vi. Weight in kilograms (kg):

V. CONSIGNMENT INFORMATION

i. Name and address of exporter:

ii. Name and address of New Zealand importer:

VI. DESTINATION OF THE CONSIGNMENT

i. Port of loading/disembarkation:

ii. Vessel/voyage number:

iii. Port of destination in New Zealand:

VII. ZOOSANITARY INFORMATION

10.1 Foot and mouth disease, rinderpest and peste de petits ruminants have not occurred in the United States of America during the twelve months immediately prior to manufacture of the products and vaccination for these diseases does not occur.

10.2 The products were derived from animals that were born and raised in the United States of America, passed ante-mortem and post-mortem veterinary inspection at the time of slaughter and were processed in premises under the supervision of the controlling authority and in accordance with the United States regulations.

10.3 The meat is sound and fit for human consumption.

Name and Signature of Official Veterinarian:

USDA registration number:

Date:

Name and address of office:

N.B. Official stamp of the government veterinary authority of the exporting country must be applied to all pages of zoosanitary certification.