

# **DRAFT IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN SHEEP MEAT, SHEEP MEAT PRODUCTS AND CASINGS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION FROM AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES**

**Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993**  
**Dated: 20 December 2006**

## **USER GUIDE**

The information in MAF animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAF import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections which outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and accompany the consignment to New Zealand. When MAF has accepted health certification produced by a government authority in the exporting country as meeting the requirements of the model health certification this is noted.

## **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 New Zealand origin sheep meat, sheep meat products and casings for human consumption from Australia and the United States.
- 1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of New Zealand origin sheep meat, meat products and casings for human consumption from specified countries imported into New Zealand is dependant upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.

- 1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Biosecurity Group Manager.

## **2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current version of the relevant import health standard at the time of importation into New Zealand. Current versions of import health standards are available online at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/import-health-standards/search>
- 2.2 Commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption 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 consult the NZFSA website: [www.nzfsa.govt.nz/imported-food/index.htm](http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/imported-food/index.htm) or contact the NZFSA.
- 2.3 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](http://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](http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications/manualsguides/oap/index.htm)
- 2.4 The costs to MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of foods containing animal products shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.5 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.

## **3 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

### **Animal by-product**

Mechanically removed meat and other animal parts that remain after the skeletal muscle has been removed in dressing or trimming. Animal by-products include offal, fat and blood intended for human consumption and products intended for use as fertiliser, animal foods, medicines and for industrial use.

### **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**

Means a person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993).

## **MAF**

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

### **Meat**

Skeletal muscle of vertebrate animal species (e.g. avian, amphibian, fish, mammalian, and reptilian) with naturally included or adherent tissue or bone. This definition excludes animal by-products.

### **Meat product**

A product containing meat as an ingredient, or meat that has been treated so that the cut surface of the meat no longer has the characteristics of fresh meat.

### **Official Veterinarian**

A veterinarian of an exporting country's Veterinary Authority who is authorised according to official procedures to sign international veterinary certificates.

### **Terrestrial Code**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties) *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

### **Veterinary Authority**

Means the governmental Veterinary Service that has authority for implementing, supervising and auditing the animal health measures and international veterinary certification processes recommended by the *Terrestrial Code*.

## **PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE**

### **4 PERMIT TO IMPORT**

4.1 A permit to import is not required for consignments that meet the requirements of this import health standard.

### **5 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT**

5.1 The consignment must be accompanied by appropriately completed documentation which meets the requirements of the eligibility section of this import health standard.

5.2 Documentation shall be in English, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English).

5.3 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 delays in obtaining biosecurity clearance or rejection of consignments.

## **6 ELIGIBILITY**

- 6.1 The meat/meat product and/or casings must be of ovine origin and must not include any animal by-products other than natural casings. For example, it must not include lymph nodes, organs, or mechanically removed meat.
- 6.2 The meat/meat product and/or casings must be accompanied by a copy of the original New Zealand export certificate. The veterinary authority of the exporting country is to certify, on the copy, that it is a true and accurate copy of the original.

## **PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE**

### **7 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE**

- 7.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand, the consignment or a sample of the consignment may be inspected by an Inspector at the port of arrival.
- 7.2 Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of eligibility, 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**

### **8 NEGOTIATED EXPORT CERTIFICATION**

- 8.1 The following Model Zoosanitary Certificate contains the information required by MAF to accompany imports of New Zealand origin sheep meat, meat products and casings for human consumption from Australia and the United States of America:

## **MODEL ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION**

**COMMODITY:** NEW ZEALAND ORIGIN SHEEP MEAT, SHEEP MEAT PRODUCTS  
OR SHEEP CASINGS

### **CERTIFYING AUTHORITY:**

Agency:

Department:

Country:

### **I. ORIGIN OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

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

(ii). Processing premises registration number:

### **II. CONSIGNMENT DESCRIPTION**

(i). The commodity contained in this consignment is (describe form and packaging):

(ii). Amount (in kgs) of the consignment:

### **III. DESTINATION OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

(i). Name and address of New Zealand importer:

**IV. ZOOSANITARY INFORMATION**

**VETERINARY CERTIFICATE**

I, ..... an Official Veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Authority of ..... (insert Australia or the United States of America) certify after due enquiry, with respect to the meat/meat products and/or sausage casings identified in this zoosanitary certificate, that:

1. The meat/meat products and/or casings originate from an establishment approved by the Veterinary Authority of ..... (insert Australia or the United States of America) that processes meat, meat products or meat by-products for human consumption and operates under Government Veterinary Supervision.
2. The meat/meat products or and/or casings were derived from sheep slaughtered in New Zealand.
3. The meat/meat products and/or casings were processed in separate lines and maintained as separate from any meat, meat products or animal by-products not of New Zealand origin.
4. The meat/meat products and/or casings are fit for human consumption.

Signature of Official Veterinarian: .....

Name and address of veterinarian: .....

Date: .....

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