

REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS ON:

**DRAFT IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR SHELF-STABLE SPRAY-DRIED
EGG POWDERS OR EGG CRYSTALS FROM SPECIFIED COUNTRIES**

Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Wellington
New Zealand

September 2009

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September 2009

Approved for general release

Matthew Stone
Animal Imports Exports Group Manager
Biosecurity New Zealand

INTRODUCTION

The draft import health standard for shelf-stable spray dried egg powders or egg crystals from specified countries was notified for public consultation on MAFBNZ website on in the MAF publication *Biosecurity*, issue 92, June 2009.

MAF received submissions from the following:

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Vital New Zealand (Geoff Farrant) | 26 May 2009 |
| 2. Michael Foods Inc. (Alistair Wright) | 16 June 2009 |
| 3. Egg Producer Federation of New Zealand / the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (Michael Brooks) | 26 June 2009 |

This document summarises the issues raised in the submissions, and presents the MAF response to each.

SUBMISSIONS

1. Vital New Zealand (Geoff Farrant)

Vital New Zealand enquired why the Import Health Standard (IHS) had not been extended to all countries where the requirements of the draft IHS could be met. It was requested that Mexico should be added to the list of exporting countries based on the fact that the Mexican production plants are located close to the plants of the Southern States of the USA and that they mainly use feeds of USA origin.

Vital New Zealand asked MAFBNZ what information was required to add Mexico onto the list of approved countries in the draft IHS.

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ acknowledges Vital New Zealand request and confirms that Mexico has applied for developing an import health standard for egg products. However further discussion between MAFBNZ and the Mexican Government will be necessary to negotiate import requirements and conditions of certification of products for export to New Zealand. It is therefore not excluded that Mexico could be added in the future to the list of exporting countries specified in this draft IHS but waiting for import conditions to be negotiated and agreed between New Zealand and Mexico would have significantly delayed the issuing of this IHS for trade with the specified countries already approved for trade. Additional work in this area will be subjected to a prioritisation process.

2. Michael Foods Inc. (Alistair Wright)

Michael Foods Inc. requested that MAFBNZ amend the Import health Standard (IHS) to clarify the requirement on pasteurisation for whole egg and egg yolk powders or crystals. It was suggested to add the following statement: “[...] pasteurisation requirement can be completed at any stage of the manufacturing of whole egg and egg yolk powders/crystals, for as long as these products are kept separated from egg products that have not undertaken the same pasteurisation process.”

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ agrees to add a statement notifying when pasteurisation can be conducted during the manufacturing process. This measure will effectively manage the biosecurity risk only if the whole egg and egg yolk powders or crystals are strictly kept separated from egg products of a different zoosanitary status. A note will be added in section 5, Part B on Eligibility of products, indicating that pasteurisation can be completed at any stage of the manufacturing process, provided the integrity of the status for these products is maintained.

3. Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (EPF) and the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (PIANZ) (Michael Brooks)

3.1 EPF/PIANZ acknowledged that the definition of pasteurisation in Section 3 was intended to exclude egg albumen products, but suggested that “excludes egg albumen powder or crystals” could also be included in the definition to improve clarity.

Industry recommended that a definition for pasteurisation of egg albumin products should also be included in this section.

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ noted EPF/PIANZ suggestion and will amend the definition of pasteurisation in Section 3 to spell out that this measure only applies to whole egg and egg yolk powders/crystals for the purpose of this Import health Standard (IHS). However, the addition of a definition of pasteurisation that would only apply to egg albumen powders/crystals could be confusing for the importers since the minimum heat treatment required for egg albumen products for export to New Zealand is very different from “pasteurisation” used for the other commodities in this IHS. MAFBNZ maintains its preference to use distinct terms for the different risk mitigating measures associated with each category of egg powders/crystals.

3.2 On Section 5 Eligibility, EPF/PIANZ wrote: “Industry commends Biosecurity New Zealand for the inclusion of the flow diagram in this section and believes that such flow diagrams help to clarify the decision processes for importation of commodities into New Zealand.”

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ acknowledges Industry’s comment and will consider using similar charts in its IHS wherever it may contribute to clarify the eligibility requirements.

3.3 Industry wrote: “*Section 9.1* states “The following documents are recognised by MAF as equivalent to the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION they and”. This should read “[...] and they”.

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

Document amended accordingly.

3.4 EPF/PIANZ wrote: “Although *Section 9.2* refers to “egg powders, egg crystals” there is no requirement in this section to specify whether the egg products are derived from whole eggs, egg yolk or egg albumin. Given the different eligibility requirements for the different products, Industry suggests that this form should be modified to require a specific statement about whether the products are derived from whole egg, egg yolk or egg albumin. Industry believes that this requirement would make it easier for MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Inspectors at ports of entry to initiate and undertake the most appropriate set of checks for the commodity in question.”

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ acknowledges EPF/PIANZ suggestion and will amend the Model Zoosanitary Certification (Section 9.2 Part D) to choose from the different commodity categories, corresponding to different sets of requirements in the IHS.

3.5 EPF/PIANZ wrote: “*Section 9.2, Part I* requires detailed information on the origin of the eggs. Industry notes that based on the current wording of this question, it is not clear whether MAF Biosecurity New Zealand are simply seeking the names and addresses of those farms which normally supply the processing plant, or whether MAF Biosecurity New Zealand expects that the processing plant to have sufficient traceability in place to determine precisely which farms supplied the eggs included in the batches of egg powders or crystals being exported to New Zealand. Industry would prefer the latter option is sought, as this would ensure that the data supplied to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand is, ultimately, of use to Biosecurity New Zealand. This would also provide information allowing one to ascertain whether a product coming from a particular country has actually been grown and produced in that country.”

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ noted Industry’s concern. Given that the zoosanitary certificate is completed for a unique consignment of egg powders or crystals (whether they are made of whole egg, egg yolk or egg albumen), Part I on *Origin of eggs* implies that information is required for the eggs that were specifically used for this consignment. MAFBNZ is confident that the plants where egg powders/crystals are manufactured operate with adequate traceability system which will allow the official veterinary officer to have a due knowledge of the origin of the eggs before certifying the products for export to New Zealand.

The veterinary certificate will be amended to reiterate the obligation to enquire about the origin of eggs: “[...] certify with respect to the egg powders or egg crystals identified in this Zoosanitary Certificate *and after due enquiry* that: [...]”.

3.6 EPF/PIANZ noted the discrepancy between the requirement for Angara disease in Point 1 of the Veterinary Certificate and MAF Import Risk Analysis: Egg powders from all countries (2008). The draft IHS requires certification that “the eggs used to manufacture egg powders or egg crystals for export to New Zealand originated from flocks where Angara disease has not been recognised” whilst the risk analysis gives the following risk management option: “assurances could be required that eggs used have been derived from flocks in countries or geographic regions where Angara disease has not been recognised”. Industry argued that “if a disease [was] present in a country or zone, then in order for a flock or flock(s) to be considered free without additional testing or verification, some mechanism (e.g. enhanced biosecurity) which reduces the potential for disease introduction in the flock(s) in question [should] be in place and the continued application of this [should] be verifiable”. Industry therefore suggested that “the requirement [should be] reworded as “the eggs used to manufacture egg powders or egg crystals for export to New Zealand originated from flocks in countries or zones where Angara disease has not been recognised”.

For similar reason, Industry requested that the requirement on Angara disease freedom be extended to the facility where the egg powders for export to New Zealand are processed. To

support their request, Industry stressed that “current wording of this section would allow for eggs from flocks in which Angara disease has been identified to be processed in the same facility as egg powders intended for export to New Zealand with limited control of the potential for cross contamination”.

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ acknowledges EPF/PIANZ concern and Point 1 of the Veterinary certificate will be amended so that the eggs used to manufacture the egg powders/crystals originate from flocks in a country/zone/compartiment where Angara disease has not been recognised rather than from flocks where the disease has not been recognised. This requirement will then be aligned with the option given in MAF Import Risk Analysis. Likewise, to guarantee consistency of this requirement for Angara disease, a clause will be added to require the eggs to be processed in a country/zone/compartiment where Angara disease has not been recognised.

3.7 Industry wrote: “Point 2.2 of the Veterinary Certificate states “Freedom for country/zone/compartiment could not be certified for both egg origin and manufacturing of the egg powders. Further heat treatment is required only for egg albumen powders or crystals in addition to the eligibility heat treatment”. Industry suggests that the current wording of this clause does not allow for treatment of egg powders for destruction of avian influenza during manufacturing. Consequently, the only opportunity for egg albumen powders or crystals to be heat treated to destroy avian influenza virus is after importation (under permit) into New Zealand. Industry suggests an additional clause which allows heat treatment for destruction of avian influenza during manufacturing must be added”.

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ noted Industry’s suggestion. A statement referring to the Manufacturer’s Declaration has been added at the end of the paragraph to indicate the possibility of heat treatment: “see Manufacturer’s Declaration, clause 6.2 for conditions of further heat treatment”.

3.8 EPF/PIANZ noted that in the Manufacturer’s Declaration, “the heading for this section should be included on the same page as the remainder of the declaration”.

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

The IHS will be amended accordingly.

3.9 For Point 1 of the Manufacturer’s Declaration, Industry requested clarification on whether cracked eggs should be excluded from being processed, although this was not specifically stated in the definition of *egg powders* included in Section 3 of the IHS. They wrote: “it is not clear whether the risk analysis considered eggs which may be cracked on arrival at the processing plant, but which are otherwise free from dirt or other foreign matter. However, industry believes that the IHS should be clear on whether or not these eggs can be processed for export to New Zealand.”

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ acknowledges Industry's comment and confirms that for the purpose of this import health standard cracked eggs may be used for processing into egg powders. MAFBNZ definition of *cracked eggs* means eggs with a damaged shell (with a fissure line) but with intact membranes. This is opposed to *broken eggs* which present breaks of both shell and membranes, in this exposing their contents. Eggs that are *broken* upon arrival must be excluded from processing into egg powders. The definition of *Egg powders* in section 3, Definition of terms has been amended as below:

“Shelf-stable spray-dried powders that derive from hen (*Gallus gallus*) eggs and were prepared from clean eggs presented for manufacturing with an unbroken shell and intact membranes, and that contain less than 100mg/kg of egg shell remains, egg membrane, or other egg particles.”

3.10 As with the Veterinary Certificate, EPF/PIANZ suggested that Point 6 of the Manufacturer's Declaration should be amended to include the option for heat treatment in a MAF approved Transitional Facility when freedom from Notifiable Avian Influenza could not be certified for both egg origin and manufacturing plant.

Biosecurity New Zealand comment:

MAFBNZ noted Industry's comment. However Point 6.2 of the Manufacturer's Declaration already presents the two options for the egg albumen powders/crystals, depending on whether freedom from notifiable avian influenza could be certified for both egg origin and manufacturing plant or not. If freedom could be certified for both sites, then no further heat treatment is required and there is no need for an import permit. If not, this further heat treatment (greater than 54.4°C for a period of at least 21.38 days or greater than 67°C for a period of at least 0.83 days) must be conducted at a MAF approved Transitional Facility in New Zealand and a permit to import must be attached to the consignment. All the conditions and options are given in Points 6.1 and 6.2 for egg albumen powders/crystals.

APPENDIX ONE: COPIES OF SUBMISSIONS

1. Vital New Zealand (Geoff Farrant)

From: Geoff Farrant [Geoff@vitalnz.co.nz]

Sent: Tuesday, 26 May 2009 3:23 p.m.

To: Aurelie Castinel

Subject: [Requires Classification] RE: Consultation of draft IHS:
Shelf-stable Spray Dried Egg Powders or Egg Crystals from specified countries

Hello Aurelie. I am surprised that we are not trying to extend the HIS to include all suitable countries. This proposed form will only allow the present restricted supply countries to continue with their business. I am requesting that this proposed plan should be included to all countries where the product and the various requirements of the standard are all met. In my case I believe we can put a good case for Mexican suppliers to be added to this list. They are just across the border from the American southern state plants and use mainly American based feeds. They are restricted by being across an arbitrary border. They are also very competitive and are restricted from supply into America on protective reasons rather than any health concerns. What information do you require to add Mexico to the list of approved countries.

Geoff Farrant

2. Michael Foods Inc. (Alistair Wright)

From: Alistair Wright [Alistair@lmwright.co.nz]

Sent: Tuesday, 16 June 2009 11:08 a.m.

To: Pruiam, Dave J.; Aurelie Castinel; alistair@lmwright.co.nz

Subject: Re: FW: Fw: Fw: Fw: Consultation of draft IHS: Shelf-stable Spray Dried Egg Powders or Egg Crystals from specified countries

Thanks Dave,

By copy of this email to Aurelie Castinel of MAF which I have advised her to "use" as our submission regarding The New IHS.

Aurelie, please refer this email as Michael Foods Inc formal submission. They have approved of all other aspects of The proposed standards.

If you require any clarification of what they are asking please revert otherwise hopefully we can look forward to this proceeding to the next (and hopefully final) stage.

Kind Regards Alistair

[...]

Pruim, Dave J. wrote:

Alistair

From Jonathon's note below, I believe we should ask MAF to add to their document

"MAF requires a heat treatment of more than 60 degrees Celsius for at least 3.5 minutes to mitigate the risks of several identified disease agents for whole egg and egg yolk ('yellow') powders or crystals. This pasteurisation requirement can be completed at any stage of the manufacturing of whole egg and egg yolk powders/crystals, for as long as these products are kept separated from egg products that have not undertaken the same pasteurisation process."

Thanks,

Dave

3. Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand (EPF) and the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (PIANZ) (Michael Brooks)



EGG PRODUCERS FEDERATION
of New Zealand (Inc)

1st Floor, [96D Carlton Gore Road](#),
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Phone: +64-9-520 4300
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Email: michael@pianz.org.nz

Aurelie Castinel

Animal Imports
MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 2526
Wellington
6140

26 June, 2009

Dear Aurelie,

Proposed draft Import Health Standard for shelf stable spray dried egg powders or egg crystals from specified countries

The Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand Feed (EPF), contactable at the above address, represents all commercial egg producers in New Zealand. Similarly, the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand (PIANZ) represents almost all of the poultry breeding and processing companies in New Zealand. The PIANZ and EPF Veterinary Technical Committee has reviewed the draft Import Health Standard for shelf stable spray dried egg powders or egg crystals from specified countries (subsequently referred to as the draft IHS) and notes the following points.

Section 3 Definition of terms

Pasteurisation is defined in this section as “(only for egg powders/crystals and egg yolk powders/crystals) Heat treatment at greater than 60°C for a period of at least 3.5 minutes.” Industry acknowledges that this definition is intended to exclude egg albumen products, but suggests that “excludes egg albumen powder or crystals” could also be included in the definition to improve clarity.

Industry suggests that a definition for pasteurisation of egg albumin products should also be included in this section. One way pasteurisation can be achieved is to ferment the albumen at 36°C, dry the product, package it and place it in a hot room (64-66°C) for seven days. The temperature of the room is then raised to 80-85°C for 12 days. This procedure is recommended over liquid pasteurisation of egg albumin products before drying, as the lower

temperature (54-55°C) does not kill bacteria as effectively. Useful relevant information can also be found in Title 9, Chapter III, Subchapter I, Part 590.575 ('Heat Treatment of Dried Whites' in the Code of Federal Regulations, as published by the Federal Government of the United States. (Please contact the author if you wish to locate a copy).

Section 5 Eligibility

Industry commends Biosecurity New Zealand for the inclusion of the flow diagram in this section and believes that such flow diagrams help to clarify the decision processes for importation of commodities into New Zealand.

Section 9 Negotiated Export Certification

Section 9.1 states "The following documents are recognised by MAF as equivalent to the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION they and". This should read "The following documents are recognised by MAF as equivalent to the requirements of PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and they ~~and~~".

Although *Section 9.2* refers to "egg powders, egg crystals" there is no requirement in this section to specify whether the egg products are derived from whole eggs, egg yolk or egg albumin. Given the different eligibility requirements for the different products, Industry suggests that this form should be modified to require a specific statement about whether the products are derived from whole egg, egg yolk or egg albumin. Industry believes that this requirement would make it easier for MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Inspectors at ports of entry to initiate and undertake the most appropriate set of checks for the commodity in question.

Section 9.2, Part I requires detailed information on the origin of the eggs. Industry notes that based on the current wording of this question, it is not clear whether MAF Biosecurity New Zealand are simply seeking the names and addresses of those farms which normally supply the processing plant, or whether MAF Biosecurity New Zealand expects that the processing plant to have sufficient traceability in place to determine precisely which farms supplied the eggs included in the batches of egg powders or crystals being exported to New Zealand. Industry would prefer the latter option is sought, as this would ensure that the data supplied to MAF Biosecurity New Zealand is, ultimately, of use to Biosecurity New Zealand. This would also provide information allowing one to ascertain whether a product coming from a particular country has actually been grown and produced in that country.

Veterinary Certificate

Point 1 of this certificate requires certification that "the eggs used to manufacture egg powders or egg crystals for export to New Zealand originated from flocks where Angara disease has not been recognised". Industry notes that the import risk analysis suggests that in the case of Angara disease "assurances could be required that eggs used have been derived from flocks in countries or geographic regions where Angara disease has not been recognised". Industry notes the distinction between flocks in countries where the disease has not been recognised and flocks where the disease has not been recognised. Industry suggests that should the disease be present in a country or geographic region (or zone), even if the disease has not been recognised in the flock in question, there is an increased likelihood of the disease agent being present in the eggs used in processing, particularly as clinical signs of the

disease, aside from mortality, are limited. Industry believes that if a disease is present in a country or zone, then in order for a flock or flock(s) to be considered free without additional testing or verification, some mechanism (e.g. enhanced biosecurity) which reduces the potential for disease introduction in the flock(s) in question must be in place and the continued application of this must be verifiable. In addition, Industry notes that the absence of disease “recognition” does not necessarily mean that the disease in question is not present in a flock. Industry therefore suggests that the requirement is reworded as “the eggs used to manufacture egg powders or egg crystals for export to New Zealand originated from flocks in countries or zones where Angara disease has not been recognised”.

Industry further suggests that the *Point 1* of the **Veterinary Certificate** should require that the egg powders for export to New Zealand are processed in a facility which is free of Angara disease. Industry notes that the current wording of this section would allow for eggs from flocks in which Angara disease has been identified to be processed in the same facility as egg powders intended for export to New Zealand with limited control of the potential for cross contamination.

Point 2.2 of the **Veterinary Certificate** states “Freedom for country/zone/compartiment could not be certified for both egg origin and manufacturing of the egg powders. Further heat treatment is required only for egg albumen powders or crystals in addition to the eligibility heat treatment”. Industry suggests that the current wording of this clause does not allow for treatment of egg powders for destruction of avian influenza during manufacturing. Consequently, the only opportunity for egg albumen powders or crystals to be heat treated to destroy avian influenza virus is after importation (under permit) into New Zealand. Industry suggests an additional clause which allows heat treatment for destruction of avian influenza during manufacturing must be added.

Manufacturer’s Declaration

The heading for this section should be included on the same page as the remainder of the declaration.

Point 1 of this declaration requires that eggs “were inspected prior to being broken and found to be free of dirt and other foreign matter”. Industry believes that this requirement would exclude cracked eggs from being processed although this is not specifically stated in the definition of *egg powders* included in **Section 3**. It is not clear whether the risk analysis considered eggs which may be cracked on arrival at the processing plant, but which are otherwise free from dirt or other foreign matter. However, industry believes that the IHS should be clear on whether or not these eggs can be processed for export to New Zealand.

Industry suggests that *Point 6.2* should be reworded as follows:

The egg used to manufacture the egg powders or egg crystals for export to New Zealand have been subjected to a heat treatment of greater than 54.4°C for a period of at least 7 days

AND

were obtained from flocks in a country / zone / compartment which is free of notifiable avian influenza as described in the OIE code

AND

were manufactured in a country / zone / compartment which is free of notifiable avian influenza as described in the OIE Code.

An additional *Point 6.3* should be included as follows:

Freedom from notifiable avian influenza for country/zone/compartment could not be certified for both egg origin and manufacturing of egg powders, and the egg powders or egg crystals for export to New Zealand have been subjected to a heat treatment of greater than 54.4°C for a period of at least 7 days but less than the required overall heat treatment stated in 6.1

AND

The consignment is accompanied by a permit to import

AND

The consignment will be directed to a MAF approved transitional facility to be further treated in New Zealand.

We look forward to working with MAF Biosecurity New Zealand on the development of a robust and appropriate IHS. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices should you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Michael Brooks
Executive Director