

1 August 2002

Dear Egg Producer

## **Egg Producers Federation Code of Practice (COP)**

### **1. Draft 7 of COP Issued**

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority and the Egg Producers Federation jointly announce that draft 7 of the Code of Practice is now available. Refer to [www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications](http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications)

This Code of Practice has undergone major revision from draft 6 (the version that was issued as part of the Egg Producer's Federation Road Show in 2001). This revision was necessary to:

- make the COP easier to follow,
- address problems that have been identified from Risk Management Programmes that have come in to NZFSA (previously MAF Food) for registration,
- incorporate NZFSA's latest thinking resulting from the above problems,
- clarify areas of confusion identified by the working group,
- improve controls to manage possible *Salmonella* Typhimurium PT 160 contamination, and
- take on board, where possible, feedback from the industry.

**It is therefore recommended that you completely replace the old draft with the new one, rather than trying to swap over individual chapters or pages. Any egg producers that already have a registered RMP should update and/or amend their RMP to bring it into line with this COP.**

### **2. Main Changes to COP**

The main changes from draft 6 to draft 7 are summarised below:

- MAF Food Assurance Authority is now part of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (a semi-autonomous body within MAF). References to MAF have been changed to NZFSA where appropriate.
- ANZFA (The Australia New Zealand Food Authority) has now been renamed as FSANZ (Food Standards Australia New Zealand) to more clearly describe their role. References to this organisation have been updated where appropriate.
- Some of the information within the COP has been moved so that its placement is more logical.
- Most of the theory and instructions are now in Chapters 1 or 2 as appropriate. This includes additional information on water specifications and options that the egg producer has under these specifications.
- More legislative requirements have been added into the relevant chapters.
- Chapters 3 and 4 have now all been written from the point of view of an egg producer (Henrietta's Egg Company Ltd) so that they now resemble true example RMPs. Previously these chapters were partially written as if telling the egg producer what to do (theory and instructions) and partially as an example RMP. This was found to be confusing by new readers. Where further theory is necessary within these chapters this has been added as footnotes so the example is left intact. More detailed procedures have been added where appropriate, e.g. pest control – there is now an example pest control programme rather than a series of statements saying that there had to be a programme. Hopefully this shows more clearly the level of detail expected within the RMP.

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- The sections on “Product Outcomes” in Chapters 3 and 4 have been amended to reflect tighter controls for cracked eggs and latest thinking on “Product Outcomes”. This has flowed through into changes to Critical Control Points in later sections.
- The tables summarising the identified hazards and other risk factors have been deleted from sections 2.7, 3.7 and 4.7 as they are covered under inputs, other sources and process steps and do not need to be repeated. The tables are for reference only and are now at the back of the technical annex where they more correctly belong.
- Sections have been added to Chapters 3 and 4 on operator verification and validation of the RMP.
- In Chapter 3 the way that suppliers of birds have been treated has changed to more accurately reflect the specification requirements, and to clarify which requirements apply to the supplier and which to the egg producer. Footnotes have been added explaining how to handle this with different farm/supply configurations.
- Information on *Salmonella* Typhimurium PT 160 has been added to the technical annex.
- Controls recommended in the Egg Producer’s Federation Layer Farm Protocol have been added into the relevant sections within chapter 3.
- In chapter 3, the sections on caged layers, free range and barn birds have been standardised as much as possible.
- Appendices G and H have been added.
- Errors have been corrected.
- Appendices have been updated to bring them into line with changes made in the rest of the document.
- Formatting and wording has been changed to make things easier to follow and to be consistent with latest thinking.
- Version numbers have all changed to dr7 and issue dates to 1/08/02.

### 3. Future Changes

There will be further changes in the next few months that will be put into the COP at the end of the consultation period.

The Animal Welfare Code is under review and a new version is currently out as a discussion document.

The “Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2000” is under review and egg producers should keep in mind that changes are likely to be made in the following main areas:

- Clause 23 will have additional clarification on which infectious diseases need to be managed for animal material and animal product handlers.
- Clause 32 will be altered to amplify on requirements for labelling.
- Clause 34 will be altered to clarify requirements for documentation. This includes a requirement to have a documented inventory control programme with associated records.
- Clause 107 will be deleted or replaced with a reference to the Food Standards Code 2.2.2 (issued by FSANZ).
- New clauses 143 to 147 are planned for transportation of animal material or animal product.
- Some definitions will change.
- The checklist used in Schedule 1 for “Potable Water” will be expanded.

**It is the responsibility of each individual egg producer to keep up to date with legislative changes and to incorporate the changes into their Risk Management Programme as required.**

The Egg COP will not be updated immediately to reflect these changes but will be updated at the end of the consultation period. The current legislation always overrides what a Code of Practice says. Legislative changes are notified on the NZFSA web site and the Egg Producers Federation will also be made aware of them.

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#### 4. Consultation Period (6 Months)

This COP will be finalised by the Director (Animal Products), NZFSA, and the Executive Director, Egg Producers Federation, after the consultation period of six months has passed and after due consideration has been given to any recommendation and legislative change affecting the document.

Please send recommendations for changes, **no later than 1 February 2003**, to:

The Executive Director  
Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand Inc  
Level 1, 96D Carlton Gore Rd  
AUCKLAND 1001

Yours sincerely



Judi Lee  
Assistant Director  
Animal Products Group  
NZ Food Safety Authority  
PO Box 2835  
Wellington



Mike Brooks  
Executive Director  
Egg Producers Federation of New Zealand Inc  
Level 1, 96D Carlton Gore Rd  
AUCKLAND 1001