



Risk Organism Response Template

October 2008

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Amendment Register

Amendment Number	Reason for Amendment	Date and Signature

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1 Purpose and Background

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the minimum requirements for the control of risk organisms of significance to the New Zealand Dairy Industry.

Rapid and successful implementation of a processors plan will assist with eradication of the specific risk organism and an earlier resumption of international trade.

This document has been prepared as a generic template for the dairy processing industry.

As a minimum, the text boxes shall be completed with all relevant information. The Dairy Industry Guideline for Risk Organism Preparedness and Response is available from the NZFSA website and should be used as a reference document.

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/dairy/publications/guidelines/index.htm>

Operators must be aware that response does not preclude the observance of regulatory requirements specified under the Animal Products Act 1999.

1.2 Background

Risk organisms are pests and diseases that have not appeared in New Zealand previously or have been eradicated to enable New Zealand to be considered by Office International Des Epizooties OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) as free.

While foot and mouth disease (FMD) is one of the most feared risk organisms that could infect pastoral animals, there are a number of others that may involve the dairy processing industry in various stages of a response. However, as not all risk organisms that could infect milking animals (cows, sheep, goats or buffalo) are passed through the animal into their milk supply, the level of response may vary with each specific type.

OIE lists diseases of livestock that are caused by a range of "agents" from viruses (foot and mouth disease) to spore forming bacterium (anthrax).

1.3 The Economic Consequences

A biosecurity response to a risk organism would lead to embargoes on the importation of our animal products by many overseas countries. It can be assumed that all exports of animal products could cease from the time an initial diagnosis is made.

Resumption of normal trade will depend upon the effectiveness of eradication measures and the results of surveillance monitoring. National preparedness and response measures provide a level of confidence to overseas competent authorities in New Zealand's ability to manage these situations and, as such, may result in earlier resumption of trade/market access for certain animal products.

Product produced prior to the declaration of a response may be acceptable for export after the outbreak has been controlled. If the measures in this guideline are conscientiously followed, it is probable that NZFSA would be able to give certain specific safety assurances about product produced both before and after the entry of the disease into New Zealand. Official assurances issued by NZFSA which currently contain attestations of New Zealand's disease freedom status may need to be amended, depending on the type of risk organism.

The economic consequences of a poorly controlled response would be disastrous.

1.4 Specific Considerations for Dairy

As milk tankers have been linked to the spread of risk organisms such as FMD in other countries, implementation of strict control practices during milk collection, processing and distribution will be necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

It is vital to have the ability to trace and identify sources and destination of potentially infectious movements (includes people, stock, and milk products) during the 14 days preceding first clinical signs or for as many days as MAFBNZ may stipulate. Dairy industry records will be required for trace back purposes. Provision of these records in a timely manner is critical to be able to contain the spread of the risk organism.

1.5 Roles and Responsibilities

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been developed between NZFSA and MAFBNZ whereby NZFSA assumes the role of lead agency for implementing risk organism preparedness in animal product industry sectors. This is to rationalise the resources and synergies that exist for risk management programmes under the Animal Products Act 1999 and for the management of risk

organism responses required under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Under this transition of responsibility the following accountabilities have been agreed:

- Industry is responsible for developing and implementing Risk Organism Response Plans to meet MAFBNZ/NZFSA outcomes and standards
- NZFSA is responsible for ensuring these outcomes are verified and meet trade requirements
- NZFSA and MAFBNZ are responsible for providing technical assistance, guidance material and plan templates where appropriate, to the processing industry
- NZFSA is responsible for ensuring verification is carried out for the processors Risk Organism Response Plan to confirm the required outcomes are met
- NZFSA is responsible for maintaining an overview of industry preparedness General Requirements.

2 Operator Responsibilities

The Site Co-ordinator or their delegate is responsible for Risk Organism Preparedness and Response (ROPR) procedure maintenance and implementation of response procedures at the premises in the event of a risk organism response.

Operators shall maintain the operation in a state of preparedness to be able to act quickly in the event of a response being declared under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Name and Contact Details of the Site Co-ordinator and Back-up:

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2.1 Documented Programmes

Operators shall ensure that all ROPR requirements are documented within the supporting programmes of the operation and referenced within this document.

2.2 Training

Operators shall ensure that people with ROPR responsibilities have adequate training and meet any prescribed competency standards to ensure effective implementation of ROPR procedures. Training provided shall meet any required training standards of the Biosecurity 153 Standard (Response Programme for Risk Organisms of Animals) and/or the Dairy Industry Guideline for Risk Organism Preparedness and Response or their replacement procedures when implemented.

Describe Training Programme or Records – or Reference the Training Programme

3 Disease Containment

During a risk organism response, dairy processors shall have procedures and systems in place to comply with disease management instructions from the response centre.

3.1 Control of Personnel

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Secure the premises to control personnel and visitor/contractor access and exit.
- Record all personnel and visitor/contractor movements on or off site.
- Provide a Cleaning and Disinfectant (C&D) facility at premises entry and exit points that meet the cleaning and disinfection outcomes for the specific risk organism.

Describe Control of Personnel – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme:

3.2 Control of Vehicles

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Control vehicle arrival and exit at the premises and while in transit (this may be under specific conditions/directions described in the MAFBNZ movement permit).
- Segregation of contaminated vehicles at the premises.
- Provide records of the movement of all vehicles carrying animals or animal products from the premises.

Describe Control of Vehicles – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme:

3.3 Control of Plant / Personnel Equipment

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Prevent plant / personnel equipment being removed from the premises.
- Implement specific plant and personnel equipment decontamination procedures on request.
- Have a clear site plan indicating high-risk areas and controls around them.

Describe Control of Plant/Personnel Equipment – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme:

3.4 Control of Effluent/Waste Streams

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Minimise effluent/waste stream production during processing.
- Implement risk organism specific effluent treatment procedures on request.
- Isolation and containment of untreated effluent and waste materials to prevent environmental release.

Describe Control of Effluent – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme:

3.5 Site Decontamination

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Continue routine cleaning and sanitation of the premises where appropriate.
- Implement specific plant, vehicle, personnel, and equipment decontamination procedures on request.
- Ability to source specific chemical materials if indicated.

Describe Site Decontamination – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme:

3.6 Control of Dairy Products and Dairy Material

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Continue processing where appropriate.
- Segregate and secure specified products at the premises.
- Control product movements to and from the premises.
- Perform additional processing or reprocessing of products as required.
- Report all product movements from the premises.
- Trace and recall product if required.

Describe Site Decontamination – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme:

4 Trade Management

During a risk organism response, dairy operators shall have procedures and systems in place to comply with trade management instructions from the NZFSA Response Centre.

Note: NZFSA Response Centre instructions will be issued to minimise trade implications and meet overseas market access requirements. The specific instructions issued, and the outcomes required, will vary according to the disease agent implicated. These instructions will be issued to the Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) at the Response Centre (RC) and disseminated to processors via the Site Response Officer (SROs).

4.1 Control of Product Transfer

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Continue routine transfer of product where appropriate – if a controlled area is declared by MAFBNZ, this must be by movement permit.

Describe Control of Product Transfer Information/Traceback – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme:

4.2 Control of Export Products & Certification

Operators shall have the ability during a risk organism response to meet the following outcomes:

- Cease export shipments for specified products/markets.
- Report status of specific shipments in transit where official assurances are not required or have not yet been requested. (NZFSA have the ability to trace shipments where official assurances are requested through E-cert)
- Report location of specified export products
- Recall export products from specified markets if directed to do so.

Describe Control of Export Products & Certification – or Reference the Prerequisite Programme: