

Technical Brief 09-07

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1. E. coli O157:H7 Meat Monitoring Programme - Procedures for Management and Disposition of Tested Product - *Nicola Bowden, Judy Barker & John Lee*

Notification: The attached set of procedures has been developed and agreed with industry to describe the process to be followed when product is transferred off-site prior to receipt of screen testing results, and when product has tested screen positive for E. coli O157:H7 under the testing programme specified in the USA OMAR.

The procedures apply to all potential markets, not just the USA. It covers both export and domestic markets.

Other previously published clarifications, including those dealing with use of TCDs for transferring product prior to receipt of screen testing results, have also been consolidated into the document.

The Meat industry has for some time requested that NZFSA facilitate the movement of their product before all E. coli O157:H7 test results have been received. However, such product is not eligible for the USA (or other markets, as applicable). Thus VA cannot certify the product or approve EDs without using Transfer Control Declarations (TCDs) to indicate conditions on which certification will depend.

TCDs must be used according to the Official Assurance Programme (OAP), Section 4.7. The instructions for TCDs in this case are complex due to the need to ensure product is not moved without appropriate comments on the EDs to prevent incorrect certification and avoid serious Market Access issues arising.

Note: In the event of product returning a positive test through any testing other than the USA OMAR programme, this should be treated as a process failure and notified following the usual process failure procedure.

Background: There has been a lack of clarity around certain aspects of the E. coli O157:H7 programme. These include the scope of application of TCDs when transferring product prior to receipt of results, in particular which markets this applies to; and product disposition relating to markets other than the US, especially the dispensation arrangements for adult bovine product.

[Industry Agreed Procedures for Management and Disposition of Product that has Tested Screen Positive for E. coli O157:H7](#)  PDF

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