

Technical Brief 09-08

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1. Procedures for cattle identified with cysticercosis - *Janine Collier, Jeanne Tiong, Kingsley Seal*

Notification: This Technical Brief explains the post-mortem examination and market access requirements for those animals in which a suspect cysticercus cyst is detected or where animals have been identified as being infected with cysticercosis.

There are two options available for handling lines of cattle that have one or more animals in which suspect *Cysticercus bovis* cysts are detected.

It is anticipated that in the majority of cases in which an incidental lesion is detected the operator will elect to follow the requirements of TD 03/165.

TD 03/165 details the procedures to be implemented when a suspect cysticercus cyst is detected during routine post-mortem examination and the infected animal is to be excluded from export.

Meat and offals from the infected animal (i.e. cysticercus is confirmed by the laboratory) is not eligible for export unless the requirements of OMAR 09/028 are met. Compared to OMAR 09/028, TD 03/165 places no requirements on the remaining carcasses in the line which have no detected lesions. All animals in the line except the animal in which the lesion was detected would be eligible for export.

(Note that the sampling requirements still apply when a cysticercus cyst is detected under routine examination.)

OMAR 09/28 details the bovine *Taenia saginata* post mortem examination and disposition procedures for specified countries. It provides an option where the infected animals are to be included in product to be exported.

In the rare situation where suspect cysts are detected in more than one animal in a line during routine examination, RMP operators need to consider that a large volume of product could lose export eligibility. It is recommended that all animals in the line which have not passed post mortem examination at that time are examined and processed according to OMAR 09/028 requirements. This is to ensure all products in the line in which suspect cysts are detected and later confirmed to be positive for *Cysticercus bovis* would be eligible to the specified markets. Product that has passed examination should be identified and retained pending further advice on examination and market eligibilities from NZFSA Market Access (janine.collier@nzfsa.govt.nz).

Notice of Direction issued under sections 81(1) and 81(2) of the Animal Products Act 1999 details the post mortem examination procedures and product dispositions for cattle considered to have cysticercosis infection. This applies to those animals that are;

1. Identified with a blue NZFSA Surveillance ear tag, or;
2. Declared on an ASD as under MAF (NZFSA) movement control for residues or any purpose other than Tb.

Note that OMAR 09/028 is also an option under these circumstances.

Background: A situation has been identified recently where a high prevalence of confirmed cysticercus cysts were detected in several lines of cattle. An investigation revealed that all cattle with identified lesions grazed on properties in a localised area and there was evidence of pasture contamination with *Taenia saginata* eggs. The Notice of Direction was issued along with Movement Control Notices and tagging of cattle occurred to control this particular local situation.

There are potentially a large number of animals identified with lesions arising from this localised situation. It may be advantageous to be able to export products derived from these animals so the market access requirements for cattle identified with cysticercus cysts were re-evaluated. The OMAR was issued to provide market access options for product that came from animals identified with cysticercosis.

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