Technical Brief 09-09

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1. Bobby calves with no tags - *Rodney Walker, Judy Barker, Bill Jolly & Mike Clear*

Notification: The meat and traditional offal from bobby calves that are slaughtered and processed with no positive identifying tags (after receipt of this technical brief) are deemed to be ineligible for export. This is due to the inability to provide overseas assurances with respect to meeting market requirements for residue testing. They are, however, eligible for release to the domestic market. Other tissues such as hides and skins, bones, vells, or raw materials for the extraction and production of technical or pharmaceutical products can be exported subject to normal controls and meeting any specific OMAR requirements.

Bobby calves intended for slaughter are tagged with an identifier tag for the purposes of trace back to the farm of origin. Bobby calves with no tags are **not** to be sampled under the SOS programme.

The NZFSA Technical Procedures (SOS Programme) 2009 will be updated to include this information.

Background: For all bobby calf residue samples taken under the SOS programme, an auditable trail of documentation shall exist which unequivocally establishes the supplier of the animal, the farm from which it originated, the identity of the calf (including tag details) linkages to the sample and any subsequent analysis.

At all times the supplier of each calf sampled must be able to be established from the details recorded on the test samples and accompanying documentation.

The SOS programme was originally established to satisfy overseas markets that New Zealand controls were sufficient to exclude product containing residues. Any animal products [edible] that are not subjected to this regulated control scheme therefore cannot be given official assurances.

This Technical Brief has been re-issued to clarify that raw material for the extraction and production of technical or pharmaceutical products can be saved from untagged calves and may be eligible for official assurances.

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2. Submission of Wild Mammals and Game Estate Mammals to Primary Processors for Human Consumption Sourced from Land where Poisons for Vertebrate Pest Control Have Been Laid in Bait Stations - *David Metcalfe, Lisa Olsen & Mike Clear*

Notification: The New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) intends to consider amendments to the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004 (specifications) to ensure they more appropriately align and manage the risk of poison residues in meat processed from wild and game estate mammals with those of farmed mammals.

Until any amendments are in effect, NZFSA will accept the following process for the submission of wild or game estate mammals by certified suppliers or certified game estate suppliers to primary processors from land **where poisons for vertebrate pest control have been laid in bait stations**. Note that this does not remove the requirement in the specifications to provide poison use statements from neighbouring properties.

This Technical Brief updates and replaces Technical Brief 09/04 (1).

All other relevant requirements of the specifications must be complied with.

Acceptable Process

1. A Landowner/Manager Poison Use Statement that describes the poison use status for each area of land from which wild or game estate mammals are taken, and also any neighbouring properties where buffer zones apply, must be submitted by the certified supplier or certified game estate supplier to the primary processor.
2. Where wild or game estate mammals are recovered from areas of land where poisons for vertebrate pest control have been laid in bait stations the landowner, manager or legal representative must declare these poisons on the Landowner/Manager Poison Use Statement.
3. The certified supplier or certified game estate supplier needs to be satisfied that the landowner, manager or legal representative is aware of the requirements for bait stations and that they are appropriately situated to exclude the species hunted by the certified suppler or certified game estate supplier.
4. The processor may accept wild or game estate mammals from certified suppliers or certified game estate suppliers providing that a Landowner/Manager Poison Use Statement which shows that the mammals were recovered from areas in which poisons for vertebrate pest control have been laid in bait stations which were appropriately situated to exclude the species hunted accompanies the mammals when submitted.
5. A bait station means a rigid, reusable device or container specifically designed to physically contain baits in such a way as to allow unrestricted access by target pests while preventing or minimising spillage of bait and access of off-target species. Also to protect baits from the elements and extend their usable life. The bait station must be situated to allow access to

the poison by the intended vertebrate pests (e.g. rats, mice, possums, stoats and weasels) and to prevent access to these poisons by wild or game estate mammals.

6. No buffer zone is required for poisons used for vertebrate pest control if they have been laid in bait stations which are appropriately situated to exclude the species hunted.
7. In all cases a certified supplier or certified game estate supplier must confirm with the landowner or manager whether poisons have been laid and if so, if all have been laid correctly and in bait stations. Making an assumption that bait stations have been used and appropriately situated for the hunted species is not acceptable.
8. All animals procured for human consumption from land where bait stations have been used may be randomly selected for the NZFSA Contaminant Monitoring and Surveillance Programme and sampled and tested for poison residues.
9. An example of how to complete the Landowner/Manager Poison Use Statement is provided.

Note: the Landowner/Manage Poison Use Statement refers to approved bait stations. The term approved bait stations on the Landowner/Manage Poison Use Statement means a bait station as set out in this document (see point 5).

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3. E.coli O157:H7 false positives research project has ceased multiple screen kit testing - *Piers Harrison, Roger Cook, David Tisdall & Janine Collier*

Notification: In regard to Technical Brief 09-06, the project being undertaken by AsureQuality and AgResearch to investigate issues of false positives with the E.coli O157:H7 screen test kits has now finished the sampling stage of the project. E. coli O157:H7 screen testing has reverted back to using only one screen test for each sample.

It is possible another E. coli O157 screen test trial will be carried out later in the year. Industry and VA will be informed should a trial proceed.

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4. Russia - sampling and testing for processed (heat treated) petfood - *Slavisa Jovic, Nicola Dermer & Phil Ward*

Notification: The following microbiological tests and parameters meet the requirements specified in the Russia OMAR (amendment 2), section 5.5, for processed (heat treated) petfood.

Test	Method	Criteria
Aerobic plate count	LAS 2.1.1	n=5, c=0, m=500,000, M=500,000
E. coli (petrifilm)	LAS 2.2.2	n=5, c=0, m=0, M=0 (not detected value <0.5 cfu/g)

Salmonella	LAS 2.4.1	n=5, c=0, m=0, M=0 (absence)
Sulfite Reducing Anaerobes (ISO)	MIMM 7.10	n=5, c=0, m=0, M=0 (not detected value <10 cfu/g)

Operators wishing to export heat treated petfood to Russia are expected to request these tests from their laboratory, for each consignment, to support certification to Russia.

Background: The Russia OMAR, section 5.5 specifies that processed petfood must be tested for Salmonella, botuline toxin, enteropathogens, anaerobic microbes, and total count. Clarification of what specific microbiological tests should be done to meet these requirements has been requested by industry and VA as the groups enteropathogens and anaerobic microbes include a number of different microorganisms and do not refer to specific tests. Also, there are currently no New Zealand laboratories capable of testing for botuline toxin. NZFSA has confirmed that E. coli can be used as a suitable indicator for enteropathogens, and sulfite reducing anaerobes as a suitable indicator for anaerobic microbes and Clostridum botulinum. As botuline toxin is heat labile, verification that the approved heat treatment process has been applied (as per section 5.4 of the OMAR) satisfies the requirement for absence of botuline toxin. Aerobic plate count addresses the total count criteria.

The OMAR will be updated in due course.

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