Animal Products (Specifications for the Ante-mortem And Post-mortem Examination of Poultry Intended for Human or Animal Consumption) Notice 2005

Pursuant to sections 45 and 167(1)(h) of the Animal Products Act 1999 and regulation 15 of the Animal Products Regulations 2000, I, Bill Jolly, Deputy Director (Animal Products) issue the following notice for the purpose of setting out the requirements with respect to the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of poultry intended for human or animal consumption.

Signed at Wellington this 27th day of May 2005

(Signed)

Bill Jolly
Deputy Director (Animal Products)
New Zealand Food Safety Authority
(Acting under delegated authority)

Certified in order for signature
(Signed)

Solicitor
Legal Services

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Notice

1 Title
This notice is the Animal Products (Specifications for the Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Examination of Poultry Intended for Human or Animal Consumption) Notice 2005.

2 Commencement
This notice comes into force on 1 August 2005.

Part 1
Preliminary Provisions

3 Application
(1) This notice contains specifications that apply to —
(a) primary producers and suppliers of farmed poultry, including end of lay birds, that are intended for processing into products for human or animal consumption; and
(b) persons carrying out ante-mortem or post-mortem examination of poultry intended for human or animal consumption; and
(c) risk management programme operators who are carrying out primary processing of poultry intended for human or animal consumption; and
(d) persons nominated by the risk management programme operator to ensure that the poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements are met and to ensure appropriate corrective action is taken when deficiencies are identified; and
(e) persons appointed as direct supervisors by the risk management programme operator to ensure that the poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements are met and to ensure appropriate corrective action is taken when deficiencies are identified,

and such persons must comply with the provisions of this notice.

(2) This notice contains specifications that are additional to, but must be read in conjunction with the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004 as may be amended from time to time or any notice that replaces that notice.

4 Interpretation
(1) In this notice, unless the context requires otherwise, —
abnormality means any behaviour, symptom, disease, defect or condition that would not be expected to occur in a healthy, normal bird in relation to fitness for intended purpose
Act means the Animal Products Act 1999 unless otherwise stated
ALA means the acceptable level of abnormalities in a sample of poultry carcasses or parts after the final post-mortem examination has been completed, as determined in accordance with Schedule 2 of this notice
ante-mortem examiner means a person who carries out any procedure or test on live poultry for the purpose of judgement of safety and suitability and disposition
direct supervisor means a person responsible under clauses 5(3) and 7 for the direct supervision of the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination systems at the poultry primary processing premises

disposed of safely means in a manner that prevents use for human or animal consumption

nominated person means a named person who is nominated under clause 5(5) to verify on behalf of the operator that the poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements have been met and that appropriate corrective action was taken when deficiencies were identified

NZFSA means the New Zealand Food Safety Authority which is a semi-autonomous agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

NZQA means the New Zealand Qualifications Authority

operator, or risk management programme operator means a person who operates an animal product business that is subject to a registered risk management programme

operator verification means the application of documented methods, procedures, tests, and other checks by the operator to determine the ongoing compliance and applicability of the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination systems

PIANZ means the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand

post-mortem examiner means a person who carries out any procedure or test on relevant parts of slaughtered or killed poultry for the purpose of judgement of safety and suitability and disposition

poultry includes chicken, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, quail, geese, pigeons, partridges and guinea fowl

poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements means the requirements of this notice and the relevant clauses from the Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2004 as may be amended from time to time or any notice that replaces that notice.

(2) All terms or expressions that are defined in the Animal Products Act 1999, Animal Products (Ancillary and Transitional Provisions) Act 1999, or regulations made under those Acts and used, but not defined in this notice has the same meaning as in those Acts or regulations.

Part 2
Responsibilities

5 Operator responsibility

(1) The operator must ensure that poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements are met.

(2) The operator must ensure that there are sufficient persons on site with competencies required by clause 9 to carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of poultry during processing.

(3) The operator must ensure that there is at least one direct supervisor, with competencies required by clause 9, in sufficiently close physical proximity to ensure that poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements are met at the processing premises and that appropriate corrective action is taken when deficiencies are identified.
(4) If the operator is not able to meet the requirements of clause 5(3) for any reason, the operator must apply to the Director-General for, and obtain from the Director-General, a written dispensation prior to processing without a direct supervisor.

(5) The operator must nominate a person or persons, with competencies required by clause 9, to verify on the operator’s behalf that —
   (a) poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements have been met; and
   (b) appropriate corrective action was taken when deficiencies were identified.

(6) The operator must document the name and contact details of each direct supervisor and nominated person, and where more than one person shares a role, clarify each person’s area of responsibility.

(7) The operator must give all persons with responsibilities for meeting poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements, the freedom, access and authority to carry out those responsibilities.

6 Ante-mortem and post-mortem examiner responsibility
The ante-mortem and post-mortem examiner must carry out —
   (a) the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of poultry in accordance with the systems documented by the operator; and
   (b) the disposition of animal material or animal product in accordance with Schedule 1 of this notice, or must bring abnormalities to the attention of the direct supervisor so that the direct supervisor can determine the correct disposition of the animal material or animal product.

7 Direct supervisor responsibility
The direct supervisor must —
   (a) ensure that the poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements are met at the processing premises; and
   (b) ensure that appropriate corrective action is taken when deficiencies are identified including —
       (i) restoration of control; and
       (ii) disposition of animal material or animal product in accordance with Schedule 1 of this notice; and
       (iii) prevention of recurrence of the problem; and
   (c) ensure that records and reports relevant to the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of poultry are completed and kept in accordance with poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements; and
   (d) be located at sufficiently close physical proximity to the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination points at the processing plant to ensure that the responsibilities detailed in clause 7(a), (b) and (c) are met.

8 Nominated person responsibility
The nominated person must —
   (a) ensure that the documented ante-mortem and post-mortem examination systems meet the poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements; and
   (b) carry out operator verification activities, including system audits and review of completed records, at frequencies which ensure that the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination systems are implemented in accordance with poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements; and
   (c) review the appropriateness of the corrective action taken when deficiencies are identified, including —
       (i) restoration of control; and
       (ii) disposition of animal material or animal product in accordance with Schedule 1 of this notice; and
(iii) prevention of recurrence of the problem; and
(d) be available or contactable within a reasonable time when necessary to give advice to the operator or direct supervisor on any matter relevant to poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements; and
(e) ensure that the completed records and reports relevant to the ante-mortem and post-mortem examination systems are kept in accordance with poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements.

Part 3
Competencies

9 Initial competency
(1) The operator must have evidence of the competency of each of the following persons prior to them undertaking ante-mortem or post-mortem examination activities, as required by the poultry ante-mortem and post-mortem examination requirements:
(a) ante-mortem or post-mortem examiners at the processing premises;
(b) direct supervisors at the processing premises;
(c) nominated persons at the processing premises.
(2) Each person carrying out ante-mortem or post-mortem examination must have received sufficient training to carry out their tasks effectively.
(3) Each direct supervisor of ante-mortem or post-mortem examination systems must —
(a) have evidence of competency to one or both of the following NZQA unit standards as relevant to his or her area of responsibility:
   (i) “Meat Inspection, Poultry Industry Specific: Carry out ante-mortem examination of poultry to be processed for human or animal consumption”;
   (ii) “Meat Inspection, Poultry Industry Specific: Carry out post-mortem examination of poultry to be processed for human or animal consumption”: or
(b) be a registered veterinarian under the Veterinarians Act 1994; or
(c) hold an alternative qualification acceptable to the Director-General.
(4) Each nominated person must meet the competency requirements for direct supervision as described in clause 9(3) and have evidence of competency to all of the following NZQA unit standards known as “Meat Inspection, Poultry Industry Specific”:
(a) Demonstrate knowledge of the Animal Products Act 1999 as it relates to poultry processing:
(b) Demonstrate knowledge of the poultry industry:
(c) Explain and apply the fundamental concepts of monitoring, corrective action and verification as applicable to ante-mortem and post-mortem examination of poultry.

10 Maintenance of competency
The operator must ensure that competencies required in clause 9 are maintained and that each person receives refresher training at least every three years.
Part 4
Ante-mortem Examination Requirements

11 Establishment and Documentation of Ante-mortem Examination Procedures
(1) The operator must establish and maintain documented ante-mortem examination procedures for the detection and management of abnormalities of poultry at the processing premises prior to primary processing.

(2) The procedures described in clause 11(1) must —
(a) include operator-defined maximum acceptable levels of poultry that are:
   (i) dead on arrival, or dead before the commencement of processing; or
   (ii) moribund, unhealthy or not suitable for processing for other reasons; and

(b) include a requirement for the persons carrying out ante-mortem examination at the processing premises to report to the direct supervisor when either level defined under clause 11(1)(a) is exceeded; and

(c) provide for the disposition of poultry with abnormalities detected prior to processing so that —
   (i) poultry that are already dead are not processed and are either rendered or disposed of safely; and
   (ii) moribund, unhealthy or unsuitable poultry are not processed and are humanely killed as soon as possible and either rendered or disposed of safely.

12 Implementation of Ante-mortem Examination Procedures
(1) The operator must ensure that the documented ante-mortem examination procedures are implemented as written.

(2) The direct supervisor must ensure that records are completed for the ante-mortem examination of poultry to show —
(a) the numbers of poultry that were —
   (i) dead on arrival or dead before processing; and
   (ii) moribund, unhealthy or unsuitable for processing for other reasons; and

(b) the method of disposition applied to poultry as a result of clause 12(2)(a); and

(c) any other corrective action taken.

Part 5
Post-mortem Examination Requirements

13 Establishment of Acceptable Level of Abnormalities (ALA)
The operator must take samples, collect data and provide results in accordance with Schedule 2 of this notice, when directed in writing by the Director-General to do so for the purpose of determining or reviewing a national ALA.

14 Establishment and Documentation of Post-mortem Examination Procedures
(1) The operator must establish and maintain documented post-mortem examination procedures for the identification, and management of abnormalities including —
(a) where relevant, the assessment of any killed wild or game estate poultry prior to primary processing to ensure that the animal material is suitable for processing; and

(b) the post-mortem examination of poultry material at relevant points during primary processing; and

(c) the post-mortem examination of poultry product, and

(d) the sampling of poultry carcasses or parts at relevant points during primary processing to verify that ALAs are likely to be met; and
(e) the sampling of poultry carcasses or parts after post-mortem examination to verify that ALAs have been met.

(2) The procedures described in clause 14(1) must —
(a) ensure that diseased or contaminated carcasses and their parts are handled in a manner which ensures that the contamination of other animal material or product is minimised; and
(b) provide for the appropriate disposition of the affected carcasses or parts in accordance with Schedule 1 of this notice; and
(c) ensure that carcasses or parts that are not fit for human consumption but are fit for animal consumption are clearly identified as such and separated from product that has been passed as fit for human consumption; and
(d) ensure that carcasses or parts that are not fit for human or animal consumption are clearly identified and are sent for rendering or disposed of safely; and
(e) provide, where necessary, for retention of carcasses and their parts pending results of testing or other examination before disposition; and
(f) describe the circumstances under which the persons carrying out post-mortem examination must report to the appropriate direct supervisor, including —
(i) where relevant, when the assessment of any killed wild or game estate poultry prior to primary processing determines that the animal material is not suitable for processing and the cause warrants corrective action to be taken with the supplier; and
(ii) when the routine examination of poultry material or poultry product indicates that the relevant ALA from Schedule 2 of this notice is likely to be exceeded; and
(iii) when the relevant ALA from Schedule 2 of this notice is exceeded in a sample of poultry carcasses or parts after post-mortem examination.

15 Implementation of Post-mortem Examination Procedures
(1) The operator must ensure that the documented post-mortem examination procedures are implemented as written.

(2) The direct supervisor must ensure that records are completed for the post-mortem examination of poultry to show —
(a) an approximate number of abnormalities detected on line; and
(b) the number and type of abnormalities detected in samples of poultry carcasses or parts taken after post-mortem examination has been completed; and
(c) the method of disposition applied to poultry as a result of subclause (2)(a) or (b) above; and
(d) any other corrective action taken.

(3) The direct supervisor must check that all results from the samples required by clauses 14(1)(d) and (e) are calculated and recorded in accordance with Schedule 2 of this notice.

(4) The operator and the direct supervisor must ensure that when the results from the samples described in clauses 14(1)(d) and (e) do not meet the ALA, then appropriate corrective actions are taken.
16 External Verification

The operator must ensure that the freedom and access provided to the accredited risk management programme verifier under clause 15 of the Animal Products (Risk Management Programme Specifications) Notice 2003, as may be amended from time to time, or any clause that replaces that clause, is extended to apply to the ante-mortem examination activities carried out under the whole flock health schemes of the poultry suppliers.

17 Supply of information

Primary producers and suppliers of poultry, operators, and nominated persons must provide information relevant to poultry health or ante-mortem or post-mortem examination to the Director-General upon request.

18 Transitional provisions

(1) A risk management programme that was registered prior to this notice coming into force continues to be valid provided it is amended by the operator to include the documentation required by this notice by 1 August 2005.

(2) Implementation of the requirements of this notice must be made within the following time frames:
   (a) competency of direct supervisors and nominated persons required under clause 9(3) and (4) must be established by 1 December 2005:
   (b) if a national ALA is established or updated in accordance with Schedule 2 of this notice, the operator must make a minor amendment to the risk management programme to align with this ALA within 3 months of such establishment or update.
Schedule 1

cl 6, 7, 8, 14(2)

Abnormalities of Poultry and their Disposition

Disposition of animal products following post-mortem inspection must ensure that product is fit for intended purpose. The Disposition Table contains the dispositions that must be used. In formulating the dispositions, the NZFSA has considered that risks to public health (food safety) and animal health must be minimised. Wholesomeness was also a consideration.

The extent to which the disposition applies to the product must be made clear by the examiner. Sometimes one disposition may apply to all tissues of one bird while at other times different dispositions may apply to different tissues of one bird. Where only parts of a poultry, carcass, head or viscera are affected by a disease, due consideration must be given to the possibility of the tissue being an indicator tissue for disease in other parts of the carcass. If these parts have been separated or mixed with parts from other carcasses, it may be necessary to apply the disposition to all associated carcasses.

Disposition Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Observation</th>
<th>Secondary Observation</th>
<th>Tertiary Observation</th>
<th>Possible Disease / Condition</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Human Consumption</th>
<th>Animal Consumption</th>
<th>Render or safe disposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal colouring</td>
<td>Bluish reddish-brown</td>
<td></td>
<td>Acute illness</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ante-mortem bruising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greenish-yellow</td>
<td>Slight</td>
<td></td>
<td>Faecal staining</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bile staining</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extensive</td>
<td></td>
<td>Faecal staining</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bile staining</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Possible Dispositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Observation</th>
<th>Secondary Observation</th>
<th>Tertiary Observation</th>
<th>Possible Disease / Condition</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Human Consumption</th>
<th>Animal Consumption</th>
<th>Render or safe disposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red birds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Improper bleeding Toxaemia Septicaemia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-orange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Liver condition</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscess</td>
<td>Soft pus</td>
<td>No systemic involvement</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Trim affected area</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscess</td>
<td>Soft pus</td>
<td>No systemic involvement</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abscess</td>
<td>Multiple abscess</td>
<td>Soft pus</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arthritis</td>
<td>Infection of joint</td>
<td>Pus in joint</td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Infected limb – only if subject to appropriate thermal processing</td>
<td>Infected limb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascites</td>
<td>Fluid in abdominal cavity</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tumours Egg peritonitis Organ malfunction</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast blisters</td>
<td>Watery fluid filled</td>
<td>No systemic involvement</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>Trim affected area</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breast blisters</td>
<td>Fibrotic</td>
<td>No systemic involvement</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>Trim affected area</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Observation</td>
<td>Secondary Observation</td>
<td>Tertiary Observation</td>
<td>Possible Disease / Condition</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Human Consumption</td>
<td>Animal Consumption</td>
<td>Render or safe disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bruising</td>
<td>Slight &gt;2cm diameter</td>
<td>No systemic</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>Trim affected area</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extensive</td>
<td>No systemic</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(whole carcass)</td>
<td>involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cirrhosis of liver</td>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>Whole birds</td>
<td>Minor intestinal spillages</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internal surfaces</td>
<td>Improper evisceration</td>
<td>Clean and sanitise whole birds</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>Poorly fleshed</td>
<td>Wasted thigh and breast meat</td>
<td>Malnutrition Leucosis</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emaciation</td>
<td>Jelly like film on heart and/or liver</td>
<td>E. coli Chronic Respiratory Disease Toxaemia Septiceamia</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Organs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Observation</td>
<td>Secondary Observation</td>
<td>Tertiary Observation</td>
<td>Possible Disease / Condition</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Human Consumption</td>
<td>Animal Consumption</td>
<td>Render or safe disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extensive lesions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Toxaemia Septicaemia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haemorrhages</td>
<td>Extensive</td>
<td></td>
<td>Toxaemia Septicaemia</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Parasites</td>
<td>Roundworms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peritonitis</td>
<td>Pus in abdominal cavity</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Septicaemia</td>
<td>Systemic involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Infection</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin tear</td>
<td>No systemic involvement</td>
<td></td>
<td>Processing fault</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumours/nodules</td>
<td>Localised</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marek’s disease Leucosis Various</td>
<td>Trim affected part</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multiple</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marek’s disease Leucosis Various</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounds</td>
<td>Slight abrasions</td>
<td>No systemic involvement</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Observation</td>
<td>Secondary Observation</td>
<td>Tertiary Observation</td>
<td>Possible Disease / Condition</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Human Consumption</td>
<td>Animal Consumption</td>
<td>Render or safe disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------</td>
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<td>-------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Localised injury</td>
<td>No systemic involvement</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>Trim affected part</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Remainder</td>
<td>Trimmings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Systemic involvement</td>
<td>Bacteraemia</td>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Schedule 2

cl 4, 13, 14(2), 15(3), 18(2)

Acceptable Level of Abnormalities (ALA)

1 Determination of Acceptable Level of Abnormalities

The acceptable level of abnormalities will be determined when required by the Director-General by the following method:

Reference Standard: The abnormalities recorded will be based on each row of the table from Schedule 1 of this notice.

Training: A trial will be completed by samplers who have been trained to assess the carcasses and parts for defects (both pathology and processing). The training of the samplers at the premises is to be delivered by the industry veterinarians to a standardised level using procedures agreed to by the Director-General.

Industry Coverage: The five major premises (those that process more than 1 million birds per year) and one smaller processing premises nominated by PIANZ will be included in the trial. Other smaller operators will be approached to participate. The first trial will be conducted on carcasses of chickens less than 10 weeks old only. Details of the trial will be included in the results, and agreed by PIANZ and NZFSA. Once this trial is over, the system will be adapted accordingly and a trial will be initiated for other species, and where necessary for products made from parts that were removed from the carcass earlier in the process, e.g. livers and hearts.

Trial Period: Six weeks

Sampling Frequency: Sampling frequency will be twice per processing day, once on larger birds (> Size 18) and once on smaller birds. This is to incorporate into the ALA any processing faults that may be attributed to birds of varying sizes from the machinery. The sampler will be required to identify bird size for each line sampled to enable the accurate interpretation of the raw data.

Sample Size: 125 birds (whole birds in bags, unclipped), will be taken for each sample and the finished product will be inspected. The birds will be removed for a detailed examination. This point is appropriate as the birds have been through all the quality control stages, and it is the last step prior to going to the end user. It can be assumed at this point the defect would have not have been picked up prior to the bag being clipped.

Data Collation

All raw data will be sent to PIANZ. Each individual abnormality (processing or pathology) will be recorded and reported to PIANZ. The trial will be completed using the stated conditions. The trial may be repeated to sort out specific problems associated with the prescribed method.

Calculation of ALA

ALA is the number of missed carcasses with at least one defect over the total number of carcasses sampled adjusted to the closest preferred ALA within the ISO 2859-1 tables. PIANZ will calculate the following ALAs:
(a) An ALA for processing abnormalities at each premises:
(b) An ALA for pathological abnormalities at each premises:
(c) A national ALA (calculated as the 80th percentile of the individual premises ALAs) for processing abnormalities:
(d) A national ALA (calculated as the 80th percentile of the individual premises ALAs) for pathological abnormalities.

**Reporting:** PIANZ will report to the NZFSA and participating poultry processors on the range of individual premises ALAs, and the proposed national ALAs for both processing and pathological abnormalities. This will enable companies to judge their performance after the trial period is over. The NZFSA will consult with the rest of the industry on the proposed national ALAs before deciding whether to accept them.

**Confidentiality**

Raw data will be released to the NZFSA on a collective basis, without the identification of individual premises. Premises ALAs will be released to the NZFSA without the identification of individual premises.

**2 Acceptable Level of Abnormalities**

The current national Acceptable Level of Abnormalities in carcasses or parts after post-mortem examination are as shown in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALA</th>
<th>Chicken less than 10 weeks old</th>
<th>Chicken 10 weeks old or more</th>
<th>End of Lay Birds</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
<th>Duck</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathology</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Date of notification in Gazette:

This notice is administered in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in the New Zealand Food Safety Authority.