1 August 2002

Dear Egg Producer

Egg Producers Federation Code of Practice (COP)

1. Draft 7 of COP Issued

The New Zealand Food Safety Authority and the Egg Producers Federation jointly announce that draft 7 of the Code of Practice is now available. Refer to www.nzfsa.govt.nz/animalproducts/publications

This Code of Practice has undergone major revision from draft 6 (the version that was issued as part of the Egg Producer’s Federation Road Show in 2001). This revision was necessary to:

• make the COP easier to follow,
• address problems that have been identified from Risk Management Programmes that have come in to NZFSA (previously MAF Food) for registration,
• incorporate NZFSA’s latest thinking resulting from the above problems,
• clarify areas of confusion identified by the working group,
• improve controls to manage possible Salmonella Typhimurium PT 160 contamination, and
• take on board, where possible, feedback from the industry.

It is therefore recommended that you completely replace the old draft with the new one, rather than trying to swap over individual chapters or pages. Any egg producers that already have a registered RMP should update and/or amend their RMP to bring it into line with this COP.

2. Main Changes to COP

The main changes from draft 6 to draft 7 are summarised below:

• MAF Food Assurance Authority is now part of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (a semi-autonomous body within MAF). References to MAF have been changed to NZFSA where appropriate.
• ANZFA (The Australia New Zealand Food Authority) has now been renamed as FSANZ (Food Standards Australia New Zealand) to more clearly describe their role. References to this organisation have been updated where appropriate.
• Some of the information within the COP has been moved so that its placement is more logical.
• Most of the theory and instructions are now in Chapters 1 or 2 as appropriate. This includes additional information on water specifications and options that the egg producer has under these specifications.
• More legislative requirements have been added into the relevant chapters.
• Chapters 3 and 4 have now all been written from the point of view of an egg producer (Henrietta’s Egg Company Ltd) so that they now resemble true example RMPs. Previously these chapters were partially written as if telling the egg producer what to do (theory and instructions) and partially as an example RMP. This was found to be confusing by new readers. Where further theory is necessary within these chapters this has been added as footnotes so the example is left intact. More detailed procedures have been added where appropriate, e.g. pest control – there is now an example pest control programme rather than a series of statements saying that there had to be a programme. Hopefully this shows more clearly the level of detail expected within the RMP.
3. Future Changes

There will be further changes in the next few months that will be put into the COP at the end of the consultation period.

The Animal Welfare Code is under review and a new version is currently out as a discussion document.

The “Animal Products (Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption) Notice 2000” is under review and egg producers should keep in mind that changes are likely to be made in the following main areas:

- Clause 23 will have additional clarification on which infectious diseases need to be managed for animal material and animal product handlers.
- Clause 32 will be altered to amplify on requirements for labelling.
- Clause 34 will be altered to clarify requirements for documentation. This includes a requirement to have a documented inventory control programme with associated records.
- Clause 107 will be deleted or replaced with a reference to the Food Standards Code 2.2.2 (issued by FSANZ).
- New clauses 143 to 147 are planned for transportation of animal material or animal product.
- Some definitions will change.
- The checklist used in Schedule 1 for “Potable Water” will be expanded.

It is the responsibility of each individual egg producer to keep up to date with legislative changes and to incorporate the changes into their Risk Management Programme as required.

The Egg COP will not be updated immediately to reflect these changes but will be updated at the end of the consultation period. The current legislation always overrides what a Code of Practice says. Legislative changes are notified on the NZFSA web site and the Egg Producers Federation will also be made aware of them.

Disclaimer –
This document is intended as a guide only. No responsibility accepted for error or omission. Not intended as a substitute for legal advice.
4. Consultation Period (6 Months)

This COP will be finalised by the Director (Animal Products), NZFSA, and the Executive Director, Egg Producers Federation, after the consultation period of six months has passed and after due consideration has been given to any recommendation and legislative change affecting the document.

Please send recommendations for changes, no later than 1 February 2003, to:

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Yours sincerely

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