



# **04/58 Bovine Tuberculosis: Revised Requirements**

## **TECHNICAL DIRECTIVE**

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## **1 Background**

1.1 This Technical Directive amends and updates current requirements for processing cattle and deer that are Tb reactors, or that have suspicious or confirmed lesions of bovine tuberculosis, and;

1.1.1 aligns export disposition requirements for product passed for human consumption derived from the animals described in 1.1, with current domestic product disposition requirements, and;

1.1.2 revises and amends requirements for the disposition of offal and blood from tuberculous animals intended for animal consumption.

1.2 The criteria for condemnation of carcasses/parts of carcasses, or offal derived from tuberculous animals, has not been altered.

## **2 References**

2.1 IS 4, IS 5, IS 6, IS 7, Manual 16, Animal Products (Specifications for Human Consumption) Notice 2004: Section 112A Blood.

## **3 Definitions**

3.1 For the purposes of this document:

**NZFSA** means the New Zealand Food Safety Authority

**NZFSA Retain Facility** means a lockable facility for retained product storage which is under NZFSA security and control.

**Offal** means abdominal and thoracic organs, kidneys, and product derived from the skinned head including tongue.

**Operator** means the operator of a Risk Management Programme registered under the Animal Products Act 1999.

**OMAR** means Overseas Market Access Requirement.

**Premises** means a premises operating a registered Risk Management Programme under the Animal Products Act 1999.

**Suspect** or **Suspect animals** means animals defined as 'Suspect Animal Material' under the Animal Products (Specifications for Human Consumption) Notice 2004.

**Tb** means bovine tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*).

**Tb Reactor** means cattle and deer that have tested positive to an approved Tb test or tests and which are directed to be slaughtered.

**Tuberculous animal** means Tb reactors and those cattle and deer with lesions suspicious of Tb.

**Tuberculous carcasses** means carcasses of tuberculous animals.

**Tuberculous product** means product derived from tuberculous animals.

**Tb suspect** means cattle and deer that have lesions suspicious of Tb identified at ante or post-mortem examination.

## **4 Requirements**

4.1 Animal product (excluding offal) intended for human or animal consumption derived from tuberculous animals that have passed post-mortem examination after any affected parts have been removed and condemned, is eligible for export to markets that do not restrict this product by OMAR, except that:

4.1.1 Blood derived from tuberculous animals must not be used for human consumption.

4.1.2 Blood derived from tuberculous animals intended for animal consumption must be thermally processed, or rendered.

4.1.3 Animal material collected during the course of normal dressing which has not undergone post-mortem examination, e.g. hides, hooves, and which is intended for further processing, is eligible for export unless restricted by OMAR.

4.2 Where export eligibility of tuberculous product destined for human consumption is restricted by OMAR, product is to be handled and stored as per [IS 6: Processing of Edible Product](#) - 2.6 Restricted Market Product.

4.3 Offal derived from tuberculous animals that have passed post-mortem examination must be thermally processed if intended for human or animal consumption for the domestic or export market. Thermal processing shall achieve the equivalent of not less than 62.5°C for not less than 30 minutes at the thermal centre of the product, and if for human consumption, shall comply with the requirements of [IS 6: Processing of Edible Product](#) - 8 Thermal Processing.

*Explanatory Note:*

*EU, USA, Canada, Russia, and Bulgaria are countries that are currently known to have prohibitions or restrictions on tuberculous product, and China will shortly. There may be additional countries that impose prohibitions or restrictions. Refer to country OMAR to confirm requirements.*

## 5 Revocations and Amendments

5.1 This Technical Directive **cancels** Circulars 87/16/3 (87/4/2) and 87/16/6 (87/14/4, 87/17/1).

### 5.2 Industry Standard 4: Procurement of Animals for Use as Food

5.2.1 Section 4.9.1; **Delete** all including the heading '**Reactors subject to ante-mortem inspection**' and **replace** with:

#### **'4.9.1. Operator to provide details to ante-mortem examiner'**

'The operator must provide the ante-mortem examiner with details of Tb reactor animals arriving at the premises, prior to ante-mortem examination of these animals.'

5.2.2 Section 4.9.2; following the word 'arrival', **add**: 'and treated as suspect animals'.

### 5.3 Industry Standard 5: Slaughter and Dressing

5.3.1 Section 7.1.2; **Add** after (e): '(f) been collected from animals with bovine Tb lesions.'

5.3.2 Section 20.2; **Delete** first two paragraphs (these are not numbered)

5.3.3 Section 20.2.1; **Delete all and replace** with: 'Tb reactors are to be slaughtered after the normal kill and before other suspect animals'.

5.3.4 Section 20.2.2; **Delete all and replace** with: 'Tb suspect carcasses awaiting laboratory confirmation before a disposition can be made shall not be branded but shall be tagged with an AgM74 and held in NZFSA retain facilities. Carcasses may be boned and the product held in cartons. These cartons are to be tagged with an AgM74 and held in NZFSA retain facilities'.

5.3.5 Section 26.3.1; **Delete all and replace** with: 'Tb suspect carcasses awaiting laboratory confirmation before a disposition can be made shall not be branded but shall be tagged with an

AgM74 and held in NZFSA retain facilities. Carcasses may be boned and the product held in cartons. These cartons are to be tagged with an AgM74 and held in NZFSA retain facilities’.

5.3.6 Section 26.3; **Add** 26.3.2: ‘Tb reactors are to be slaughtered after the normal kill and before other suspect animals’.

5.3.7 Section 27; **Add**:

‘27.3: Tb Carcasses

Tb suspect carcasses (including those derived from game estates) are to be handled according to the requirements of 26.3.1.

#### 5.4 **Manual 16: Post-mortem Inspection Procedures**

5.4.1 Section 5.2; **Add** the following after paragraph 4:

##### **‘Inspection**

There are additional lymph nodes to be incised for Tb Reactors and Tb suspects identified at post-mortem inspection. All lymph nodes are to be incised with the largest possible number of incisions’.

5.4.2 Section 5.2; Pages 5.2 and 5.3 (Table describing dispositions based on laboratory results):

- a. 2nd row: **Delete** ‘Export (not for Tb reactors)’ and **replace** with ‘Human consumption’
- b. 3rd, 4th, and 5th rows: **Delete** ‘Local’ and **replace** with ‘ Human consumption’

5.4.3 Appendix 4, Disposition Table: Tuberculosis b, ‘Comments’ column:

**Delete** all instances of: ‘Carcass domestic or export cooked/canned, not affected offal cooking or petfood’ and **replace** with ‘Carcass domestic or export. Not affected offal thermally processed (human and animal consumption.).’

#### 5.5 **Industry Standard 6: Processing of Edible Product**

5.5.1 Section 2.7.6.1. (a); **Delete all and replace** with: ‘Carcasses and products (except blood) derived from tuberculous carcasses may be released for human consumption.’

5.5.2 Section 2.7.6.3; **Delete** the sentence: ‘Labelling shall comply with the requirements of IS 6: Section 2.3.2.2 where products are intended for sale to the domestic market’.

5.5.3 Section 2.7.6.4; **Delete all and replace** with: ‘Some importing countries may restrict some or all forms of product including thermally processed product, derived from tuberculous animals. Refer to OMAR requirements.’

#### 5.6 **Industry Standard 7: Byproducts**

5.6.1 Section 5.3.2; **Add** the following after 5.3.2.3:

#### '5.3.2.4 Tuberculous Offal

Offal derived from reactors to any Tb test (Tb reactors) and those cattle or deer with lesions of bovine Tb that have passed post-mortem examination shall be thermally processed to achieve the equivalent of not less than 62.5 °C for not less than 30 minutes at the thermal centre of the product'.

##### *Explanatory Note:*

*Meat from tuberculous animals that have passed post-mortem examination for human consumption has been available for domestic consumption for several years, but restricted from export. Because there have been no reported adverse health effects or international evidence of disease transmission to humans from consumption of this product, the current domestic human consumption restriction has been removed, allowing this product to be exported.*

*Because any risks associated with consumption of offal and blood from tuberculous animals have not been assessed, restrictions on the use of these products for human consumption remain, and have been extended to include products destined for animal consumption.*

*Operators and exporters are reminded of the requirements of the Animal Products (Official Assurance Specifications) Notice 2000 Part 2 General Requirements, Sections 5 & 6: (Official Assurances Programme Part 2, General Requirements, Sections 3 & 4) relating to market eligibility. Of specific note is the requirement for operators to have a written programme describing how product identification, separation, usage and movement is controlled.*

*Official supervision of the boning of tuberculous carcasses that have been passed for human consumption is necessary only if required by OMAR.*

*Consideration was given to amalgamating all Tb requirements into one document. However, it was decided that it is preferable that requirements relating to specific areas of processing and inspection are described in the relevant specifications, Industry Standards, and guides. The intention is to incorporate the above amendments to Industry Standards and Manual 16 into new specifications, and revised Industry Standards and guides as they are promulgated.*