



Proposed amendments to the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for the Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Examination of Poultry Products Intended for Human or Animal Consumption

General issues and comments

1. This Notice has been updated to reflect the correct names/dates of publication of some references.
2. Schedule 2 'Acceptable Level of Abnormalities' has been deleted. Content will be included in the Operational Code: Processing of Poultry Part 2 Good Operating Practice.
3. Part 3 'Competencies' has been updated, including the relevant NZQA Unit Standards.
4. Schedule 1 'Disposition of poultry carcasses and material' has been updated so that it covers food safety-related disease and defects (not quality-related defects).
5. The draft amendment clause numbering now occurs through the document, in contrast with clause numbering restarting for each Part. This change reflects alignment across Animal Products Notices.
6. Plain English has been applied, where appropriate, including making headings more meaningful, shorter sentences, active voice (e.g. 'the operator must.....' etc.).
7. Changes are shown using strikethroughs where applicable.

Abbreviations used in this document

HC Spec	Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption
AC Spec	Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption

Part 1

Clause in Draft Amended Notice	Clause in 2005 Notice	Proposed Amendment	Reason
Amendment		New section as this is an Amendment Notice.	
Background		General summary of the changes to the Notice.	



Clause in Draft Amended Notice	Clause in 2005 Notice	Proposed Amendment	Reason
1.1(1)	3(1)	Addition of wording that includes wild and game estate poultry under this Notice , and a reordering of (a)-(e)	To provide clarity about poultry types (farmed, wild, game estate) that the Notice applies to, and to make the sequence flow of clauses (a) to (e) easier
1.1(2)	3(2)	Updates related Notice dates	To align with applicable legislation
1.2(1)	4(1)	Amended, new or deleted definitions are proposed. See below.	Additions, deletions and changes to current definitions are proposed to clarify, avoid confusion, to remove any doubt, or align with other applicable legislation.
1.2(2)	4(2)	Updated regulations and dates	To align with applicable legislation

Definitions

The following definitions have been removed	Reason
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	Replaced with the definition: <i>disease or defect means any abnormality affecting safety and/or suitability of poultry</i>
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	Removed to reflect deletion of Schedule 2 of this Notice, where it applied
NZFSA means the New Zealand Food Safety Authority which is a semi-autonomous agency under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	NZFSA no longer exists. Replaced with the definition: MPI means the Ministry for Primary Industries
PIANZ means the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand	Removed, as the reference to PIANZ was in Schedule 2, that has been removed



The following definitions have been amended	Reason
<p>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</p>	<p>The new definition clarifies the application of requirements for an ante-mortem examiner under the RMP, and under this Notice. Replaced with <i>ante-mortem examiner means a person responsible for carrying out the ante-mortem examination of poultry under a risk management programme, in accordance with this Notice.</i></p>
<p>Disposed of safely means in a manner that prevents use for human or animal consumption</p>	<p>The new definition has addition elements that clarify, in addition, preventing the spread of disease and contamination of environments. Replaced with: <i>disposed-of safely means disposed in a manner that prevents:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>use for human or animal consumption; or</i> b) <i>spread of disease; or</i> c) <i>contamination of air, groundwater, soil or other material</i>
<p>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</p>	<p>The new definition clarifies the application of requirements for a post-mortem examiner under the RMP, and under this Notice. Replaced with: <i>post-mortem examiner means a person responsible for carrying out the post-mortem examination of poultry under a risk management programme, in accordance with this Notice</i></p>
<p>poultry includes chicken, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, quail, geese, pigeons, partridges and guinea fowl</p>	<p>This new definition clarifies that ratites are excluded from the definition of poultry, in this Notice: <i>poultry includes chickens, turkeys, ducks, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, geese, partridges, pigeons and other game birds, but excludes ratites, such as emus and ostriches</i></p>
<p>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</p>	<p>This new definition updates the details of the HC spec and adds in the relevant requirements from the AC spec. <i>poultry AM and PM examination requirements means the requirements of this Notice and the relevant clauses from:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <i>the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption 2020 (as may be amended from time to time, or any Notice that replaces that Notice); and</i> b) <i>the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption 2020 (as may be amended from time to time, or any Notice that replaces that Notice)</i>



The following new definitions are proposed	Reason
AM means ante-mortem and refers to live poultry prior to slaughter	This definition clarifies the use of the acronym AM
defect means a condition found in a product that fails to meet essential quality, composition and/or labelling provisions (of the relevant product standards)	This definition clarifies the term ‘defect’ and is taken from Codex CAC/RCP 52-2003
disease or defect means any abnormality affecting safety and/or suitability of poultry	This definition replaces and expands on the deleted definition of ‘abnormality’. The change reflects both safety and suitability of poultry
MPI means the Ministry for Primary Industries	This definition clarifies the use of the acronym MPI
PM means post-mortem, and refers to poultry or poultry material after slaughter	This definition clarifies the use of the acronym PM
process control means a system of controls applied during a production process that ensures that food produced is safe, suitable for its intended use, and is compliant with regulatory requirements	This definition reflects the management of poultry safety and via controls put in place across the production process
RMP means a risk management programme	This definition clarifies the use of the acronym RMP
supplier statement means a statement in the form and manner approved by the Director-General which is signed by a supplier to confirm that certain requirements of those specifications have been met, and includes electronic supplier statements for farmed animals	This definition clarifies ‘supplier statement’ used in Clauses 2.1(9) and 5.1(1)(e)
whole flock health scheme is a written programme that poultry farmers must operate under that enables verification of the health status of their farmed poultry and includes information about flock disease control or eradication, how feed and environmental contaminants are managed, and the agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines administered to the flock	This definition clarifies the purpose of the whole flock health scheme, and is taken from the MPI requirements, included here: https://www.mpi.govt.nz/growing-and-harvesting/livestock-and-animal-care/poultry-and-eggs/poultry-farming/whole-flock-health-scheme/



Parts 2-6, Schedule 1 of Draft Amendment Notice:

Clause in Draft Amendment Notice	Clause in 2005 Notice	Proposed Amendment	Reason
2.1(1)	5(1)	Added wording: Specifies the operator’s responsibility in relation to the roles and responsibilities of specified persons	Adds clarification to the responsibilities of the operator
2.1(3) and 2.1(5)	5(3), 5(5)	‘With competencies required by Clause 9’ has been removed	Operator requirements in relation to competency of these persons, has been moved to clause 2.1(6)
2.1(6)	-	New Clause	Specifies operator responsibility for competency of persons specified in Clause 2.1(3) and 2.1(5)
2.1(7) and 2.1(8)	5(6) and 5(7)	Renumbering of these clauses	To align with the Insertion of clause 2.1(6)
2.1(9)	-	New Clause: Specifies the operator’s responsibility to ensure a more detailed post-mortem examination for flocks that may have a higher risk of disease or defects	Clarifies the operator requirement in Clause 2.1(1), to ensure that AM and PM examination requirements are met, and to facilitate the process based on differences in the flocks coming into primary processing
2.2(2)	6(b)	‘PM examiner’ clarification in this clause.	Schedule 1 applies to PM examination
2.3(1)(b)	7(b)	Added ‘that are subject to corrective action’	Clarifies that appropriate corrective action must be taken when deficiencies that are subject to corrective action are identified
2.3(1)(d)	7(d)	Added clauses 2.3(1)(d)(i) and (ii)	The added clauses specify direct supervisor responsibility in relation to their presence at the processing premises <i>(i) being present in the AM or PM processing room when examination is being conducted; or</i> <i>(ii) being located on the premises and available for supervision, including checks on the process and corrective actions, as required by this Notice.</i>



Clause in Draft Amendment Notice	Clause in 2005 Notice	Proposed Amendment	Reason
2.4(1)(b)	8(b)	Replaced 'at frequencies which ensure' with 'procedures are effectively implemented'	This rewording emphasises effective implementation of procedures, which includes verification activities at appropriate frequencies.
2.4(1)(a)(ii)	8(c)(ii)	Replaced 'Schedule 1 of this Notice' with 'in accordance with this Notice'	Rewording to specify that dispositions must be carried out in accordance with all applicable parts of the Notice, not just with Schedule 1
2.4(1)(d)	8(d)	Replaced 'be available or contactable within a reasonable time' with 'be available or contactable when necessary'	Rewording more appropriate to the needs of the processing premises
3.1(1)	9(1)	Replaced 'The operator must have evidence of the competency of each of the following persons' with 'The operator must ensure that each of the following persons are assessed as competent and qualified'.	Rewording to specify operator responsibility in ensuring the competency of specified persons.
3.1(3)(d)	-	Added alternative competency: The NZQA unit standards for competency have been specified for examiners who have (i) AM responsibilities (ii) PM responsibilities (iii) both AM and PM responsibilities	Alternative means of achieving competency with NZQA unit standards are included here
3.1(3)(c)	9.3(a)(i) and (ii)	The two NZQA meat inspection unit standards for AM and PM, have been consolidated into a single 'New Zealand Certificate in Meat Processing' qualification	NZQA update of consolidated qualifications
3.1(4)(a, part)(b) and (c)	9.4	Replaced ' <i>Each nominated person must meet the competency requirements for direct supervision as described in clause 9(3)</i> ' with ' <i>have evidence of competency to the NZQA unit standards in clause 3.1(3)(c) or 3.1(3)(d)(iii)</i> ' and 3.1(4)(b) and (c)	Update of NZQA unit standards
3.1(4)(d)	9.4(a)	Replacement of NZQA unit standard with the specified competency ' <i>d demonstrate understanding of their role as a nominated person within the relevant regulatory requirements under the Animal Products Act 1999.</i>	Competency update
3.1(4)(a)(ii)	9.4(b)	Update of NZQA unit standard	NZQA update of their unit standards



Clause in Draft Amendment Notice	Clause in 2005 Notice	Proposed Amendment	Reason
3.1(4)(a)(i)	9.4(c)	Update of NZQA unit standard	NZQA update of their unit standards
3.1	10	Replaced the requirement for refresher training at least every three years with <i>'each person receives refresher training at intervals appropriate to their responsibility level, and/or whenever a new species of poultry or a major change to process is added'</i> .	Added clarity on other circumstances that require refresher training.
4.1(1)	11(1)	'abnormalities' replaced with 'disease and defects'	To align with removal of Schedule 2
4.1(1)(a)	11(2)(a)	Replaced <i>'(2) The procedures described in clause 11(1) must — (a) include operator-defined maximum acceptable levels of poultry that are'</i> with <i>'AM examination process documentation must include procedures for recording numbers of poultry that are:'</i>	To align with removal of Schedule 2, but retains the need to document procedures to record poultry types specified in 4.1(1)(a)(i) and (ii)
4.1(1)(b)(i)	11(2)(b)	Replaced: reporting to the direct supervisor when 'levels are exceeded', with 'reporting to the direct supervisor when the conditions in 4.1(1)(1)(a)(i) and (ii) occur	Aligning with removal of Schedule 2
4.1(1)(b)(ii)	11(2)(c)	Replaced <i>'provide for the disposition of poultry with abnormalities detected'</i> with <i>'confirm and carry out the required disposition of poultry specified in 4.1(1) (a)'</i> .	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
4.2(1)	12(1)	Added <i>'This may include requiring the nominated person to ensure that procedures are implemented, on behalf of the operator'</i> .	Clarifying the responsibility of the nominated person in implementation of AM examination requirements.
-	13	Clause deleted	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
5.1(1)	14(1)	Replaced 'abnormalities' with 'defects or diseases in poultry'	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
-	14(1)(d)	Clause deleted	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
5.1(1)(d)	14(1)(e)	Replaced <i>'the sampling of poultry carcasses or parts after post-mortem examination to verify that ALAs have been met'</i> with <i>'the sampling of poultry carcasses or parts after final PM examination to verify that PM examination requirements have been met'</i>	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2 and ALAs



Clause in Draft Amendment Notice	Clause in 2005 Notice	Proposed Amendment	Reason
5.1(1)(e)	-	New clause ' <i>If the flock has been identified as having a high risk of disease or defects, based on the supplier statement or ante-mortem examination, these carcasses should be subject to a detailed post-mortem examination, in accordance with Clause 2.1(9)</i> '.	To align with Clause 2.1(9)
5.1(2)	14(2)	Replaced ' <i>The procedures described in clause 14(1) must</i> ' with ' <i>The documented procedures described in clause 5.1 (1) must specify</i> '	This clause covers documented procedures that should be specified. The procedures are implemented as per Clause 5.2. The previous wording implied that the procedures must ensure/provide
-	14(2)(f)(ii) and (iii)	Clauses deleted	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
5.2(1)	15(1)	Added ' <i>This may include requiring the nominated person to ensure that procedures are followed, on behalf of the operator</i> '.	Clarifying the responsibility of the nominated person in implementation of PM examination requirements.
5.2(2)(a) and (b)	15(2)	Replaced 'abnormalities' with 'diseases or defects'	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
-	15(3)	Clause deleted	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
-	15(4)	Clause deleted	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
6.1	16	Reworded	Rewording for easier readability
6.3	-	Addition of clauses on Process Control	Replacing Schedule 2 with the requirements for Process Control
-	18	Transitional provisions are not required	Update of transitional provisions
Schedule 1 Disposition of poultry carcasses and material	Schedule 1 Abnormalities of poultry and their disposition	Removed 'abnormalities'	Aligning with the removal of Schedule 2
		Two introductory paragraphs reworded.	Rewording for easier readability



Clause in Draft Amendment Notice	Clause in 2005 Notice	Proposed Amendment	Reason
Disposition Table	Disposition Table	The disposition table titles, and some content has been revised. Please refer to individual rows in the disposition tables below, for the revisions.	Revision of disposition table done to align with food safety and wholesomeness-related defects and disease, with a move away from quality-related conditions.

Disposition table in Proposed Draft Notice:

Disease/Defect	Details	Action required	Dispositions required		
			Human Consumption	Animal Consumption	Render or safe disposal
Abnormal carcass colouring – Bluish reddish-brown (localised)	Haemorrhages Bruising	Trim affected area	Unaffected part	Affected part	Affected part
Abnormal carcass colouring – Bluish reddish-brown (extensive)	Haemorrhages Bruising		No	Yes	Yes
Abnormal carcass colouring – Greenish-yellow (localised)	Faecal and/or bile staining	Trim affected area	Unaffected part	Unaffected part	Affected part
Abnormal carcass colouring – Greenish-yellow (extensive)	Faecal and/or bile staining		No	Yes	Yes
Abnormal carcass colouring – Yellow-orange (extensive)	Liver condition		No	Yes	Yes
Abnormal carcass colouring – Red birds	Improper bleeding (potential Welfare issue)		No	Yes	Yes
Abnormal carcass colouring – Red birds	Toxaemia Septicaemia		No	Yes - only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Yes



Disease/Defect	Details	Action required	Dispositions required		
			Human Consumption	Animal Consumption	Render or safe disposal
Abscess – Localised	No systemic involvement	Trim affected area	Unaffected part	Unaffected part	Affected part
Abscess – Extensive	Systemic involvement/ Multiple		No	No	Yes
Arthritis	Pus in joint		Unaffected part	Infected limb – only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Infected limb
Ascites	Fluid in abdominal cavity		No	Yes	Yes
Breast blisters	Watery fluid filled/Fibrotic	Trim affected area	Unaffected part	Unaffected part	Affected part
Discoloured liver/Abnormal liver only	Cirrhosis of liver (carcass colour normal)		Unaffected part	Unaffected part	Organs
Emaciation	Wasted thigh and breast meat		No	Yes	Yes
Fibrinous deposits	Jelly-like film on heart and/or liver		Unaffected part	Unaffected part	Organs
Lesions – Extensive	Septicaemia		No	No	Yes
Parasites	Roundworms		No	No/Yes - only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Yes
Peritonitis	Pus in abdominal cavity		No	Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Yes
Tumours/nodules – Localised		Trim affected part	Unaffected part	Unaffected part	Affected part
Tumours/nodules – Multiple			No	No	Yes
Wounds – Localised injury		Trim affected part	Unaffected part	Unaffected part	Affected part



Disease/Defect	Details	Action required	Dispositions required		
			Human Consumption	Animal Consumption	Render or safe disposal
Wounds – Systemic involvement			No	Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Yes

Disposition Table (2005 Notice)

Primary Observation	Secondary Observation	Tertiary Observation	Possible Disease / Condition	Action	Possible Dispositions		
					Human Consumption	Animal Consumption	Render or safe disposal
Abnormal colouring	Bluish-reddish brown		Acute illness Ante-mortem bruising		No	Yes	Yes
	Greenish yellow	Slight	Faecal-staining Bile-staining	Trim-affected area	Remainder	Remainder	Trimmings
		Extensive	Faecal-staining Bile-staining		No	Yes	Yes



	Red birds		Improper bleeding Toxaemia Septicaemia		No	Yes	Yes
	Yellow-orange		Liver condition		No	Yes	Yes
Abscess	Soft pus	No systemic involvement	Infection	Trim affected area	Remainder	Remainder	Trimmings
	Soft pus	No systemic involvement	Infection		No	No	Yes
	Multiple abscess	Soft pus	Infection		No	No	Yes
Arthritis	Infection of joint	Pus in joint	Infection		Remainder	Infected limb — only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Infected limb
Ascites	Fluid in abdominal cavity		Tumours Egg peritonitis Organ malfunction		No	Yes	Yes
Breast blisters	Watery fluid filled	No systemic involvement	Trauma	Trim affected area	Remainder	Remainder	Trimmings
	Fibrotic	No systemic involvement	Trauma	Trim affected area	Remainder	Remainder	Trimmings
Bruising	Slight >2cm diameter	No systemic involvement	Trauma	Trim affected area	Remainder	Trimmings	Trimmings



	Extensive (whole carcass)	No systemic involvement	Trauma		No	Yes	Yes
Cirrhosis of liver			Past infection Toxigenic feed		Remainder	Remainder	Organs
Contamination	Minor	Whole birds	Minor intestinal spillages	Clean and sanitise whole birds	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Major	Internal surfaces	Improper evisceration	Clean and sanitise whole birds	Yes	Yes	Yes
Emaciation	Poorly fleshed	Wasted thigh and breast meat	Malnutrition Leucosis		No	Yes	Yes
Fibrinous deposits	Jelly like film on heart and/or liver		<i>E. coli</i> Chronic Respiratory Disease Toxaemia Septicaemia		Remainder	Remainder	Organs
	Extensive lesions		Toxaemia Septicaemia		No	Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Yes



Haemorrhages	Extensive		Toxaemia Septicaemia		No	Yes	Yes
Parasites			Roundworms		No	No	Yes
Peritonitis	Pus in abdominal cavity		Infection		No	Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Yes
Septicaemia	Systemic involvement		Infection		No	No	Yes
Skin tear	No systemic involvement		Processing fault		Yes	Yes	Yes
Tumours/nodules	Localised		Marek's disease Leucosis Various	Trim affected part	Remainder	Remainder	Trimmings
	Multiple		Marek's disease Leucosis Various		No	No	Yes
Wounds	Slight abrasions	No systemic involvement	Trauma		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Localised injury	No systemic involvement	Trauma	Trim affected part	Remainder	Remainder	Trimmings



	Systemic involvement		Bacteraemia		No	Only if subject to appropriate thermal processing	Yes
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