



AQIS MEAT NOTICE (AMN)		Additional Requirements for Wild Game Processing for Export	
NUMBER: 2009 / 18			
NSFS Ref 24		Contact Officers:	
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Distribution Categories		Last notice on this issue	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central & Regional Office	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OIC Inspection Staff Export Establishments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Managers, Export Game Meat Establishments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Food Authorities
		2005/02	
IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (to be completed by the On Plant Supervisor on the AQIS file copy)			
Date Received: _____ Date Discussed With Management: _____			
Initial Implementation Date: _____ Date Completed: _____			
Management Representative Initials: _____ AQIS OPS Initials: _____			

1. PURPOSE

To inform management of export registered wild game processing establishments of requirements that are additional to and in some cases different to those outlined in AMN 2005/02. These are to be implemented and incorporated into the establishment’s draft Approved Arrangement (AA) before the AA is formally approved.

2. SCOPE

This notice applies to all export registered establishments processing wild game for human consumption. This notice reinforces requirements for temperature control, temperature data logging and record keeping and replaces notice 2009/04, which introduced some requirements that require wild game harvesters and field depot¹ operators to change some existing practices. The requirements introduced in AMN 2009/04 are reiterated here.

¹ Field depot: means a depot approved by the controlling authority (or any other authority as required under state or territory legislation) in which wild game animal carcasses are held under refrigeration, pending transport to a wild game meat processing premises (Australian Standards)

AQIS Meat Notice 2009 / 04 – Additional requirements for wild game processing for export

3. BACKGROUND

AMN 2005/02 outlined action to be taken to comply with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Game Meat for Human Consumption (AS 4464) and with additional overseas country requirements. In particular, it outlined the necessity for establishment management to develop documentation to satisfy the Approved Arrangement (AA) requirement of the Australian Standard.

Over the last 12 months, the Australian wild game field harvesting, field depot chilling, and wild game meat processing sectors of the industry have been subjected to audits by importing countries, AQIS and State Food Authorities. These audits have identified the need to make some changes to current procedures. In addition, AQIS and industry have considered action necessary to expand exports into further markets.

Following significant consultation with industry it has been agreed to introduce further measures aimed at maintaining and enhancing market access. These measures relate to changes in harvester wild game carcass tagging procedures, field depot temperature monitoring and recording, carcass transport from field depot to processing establishments, and processing establishment carcass receipt and handling procedures including implementation of a maximum time between harvest and processing for human consumption. These requirements are to be addressed in the processing establishments' Approved Arrangements. Records need to be kept in accordance with State, Territory and export requirements.

These changes are consistent with the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Wild Game Meat for Human Consumption (AS 4464:2007) and will help prepare the industry for the introduction of the Export Control (Wild Game Meat and Wild Game Meat Products) Orders which will reference this standard, later this year.

4. ACTION

4.1 Harvester carcass tags

Note: this requirement has changed since AMN 2005/02

From 28/9/09, only carcasses with numbered harvester tags complying with at least the following information are to be processed for human consumption:

- a) Identifies the field harvester by accreditation number and name
- b) Identifies the place of harvest (eg: by name of property, or property owner, or quota management authority property identification number)
- c) Contains date of killing
- d) Contains time of killing
- e) Contains a declaration signed by the harvester which declares:
 - i] No abnormal behaviour was observed before killing
 - ii] No abnormal characteristics were observed during the examination of the body and any removed viscera
 - iii] There is no suspicion of environmental contamination
 - iv] If killed during daylight the carcass was transported to a field depot or wild game meat processing establishment within 2 hours of harvest. If killed between sunset and sunrise it was transported to a field depot or wild game meat processing establishment no later than 2 hours after sunrise with a maximum of 12 hours between killing and placing into a field depot.

AQIS Meat Notice 2009 / 04 – Additional requirements for wild game processing for export

NB: ESTABLISHMENTS WITH PRE-PRINTED APPROVED TAGS THAT DO NOT FULLY COMPLY WITH 4.1e (iv) SHOULD CONTACT ALBERT COBB ON 0417 046 476

4.2 Field depot chilling records to be available before carcasses are processed

4.2.1 From 28/9/09 only carcasses for which the processor has obtained and examined copies of records of the following manually taken temperatures are to be processed for human consumption:

- a) records that confirm sampled carcasses from each field depot were chilled to a deep muscle temperature of 7 degrees Celsius or lower within 24 hours of placement into the field depot (at least 2 carcasses must have been sampled for each day/night during which carcasses were harvested)
- b) a daily record of each field depot air temperature
- c) daily deep muscle temperatures of sampled carcasses from each field depot after the primary chilling to 7 degrees Celsius (at least 2 carcasses must have been sampled for each day)
- d) carcass deep muscle temperatures at load-out from each field depot (at least 2 carcasses must be sampled from each of the front, middle and back of the field depot)

4.2.2 Air and deep muscle data logging equipment that automatically records temperatures, is progressively being phased-in at field depots as a verification of the manually taken temperatures addressed in 4.2.1.

It is expected that results of air temperature logging will be available for all carcasses to be processed after 12/10/09.

By 12/10/09 it is expected that at least one deep muscle logging record will be available at each wild game meat processing establishment for each active field depot. Full implementation of these requirements must ensure that a data logging record for air temperature and deep muscle temperature is available for each field depot load-out for carcasses processed after **31/01/10**.

4.2.3 For those field depots which have more than one chilling facility at the site, 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 are to apply to each chilling facility.

4.2.4 Field depot operators must organise to get, and to keep for audit, copies of the manual and data logging records for air and carcass deep muscle temperatures. Records must be kept in accordance with the relevant State, Territory or export requirements.

4.3 Air temperature logger in transport vehicle

From 14/9/09, only game carcasses transported from field depots to wild game processing establishments in licensed meat transport vehicles that have a functional air temperature logger are to be processed for human consumption:

- a) the record of the air temperatures of the transport from the field depots to the processing establishment must be provided with each load. This record must be examined and appropriate corrective action taken where necessary.

4.4 Review of pre-dressing inspection at wild game processing establishments

Facilities and techniques for the pre-dressing inspection of carcasses, at carcass receipt, are to be reviewed. Pre-dressing inspection is used to determine whether or not carcasses are suitable

AQIS Meat Notice 2009 / 04 – Additional requirements for wild game processing for export

for dressing for the production of wild game meat for human consumption. Approved Arrangements are to be amended to include the assessment of carcasses (both hot and cold) on receipt. Recent experiences show that improved lighting and inspection technique is leading to enhanced identification of field depots and harvesters operating below the required standard.

4.5 Receipt of Hot Carcasses at Processing Plants

Where hot carcasses are received directly at processing establishments, refrigeration controls ensuring a deep muscle temperature of 7 degrees Celsius is achieved within 24 hours should be described in the AA. The amendments to the AA requires reassessment of HACCP and any additional Critical Control Points in the establishments HACCP plan needed to address the receipt of hot carcasses.

4.6 Reporting of significant rejections of carcasses at pre-dressing inspection

Where significant rejections of carcasses are made by company representatives at the pre-dressing inspection for defects such as off-condition, mould, dressing defects and failure to comply with tagging and field chilling temperature requirements, establishments must:

- a) document the findings in-line with commitments outlined in the Incident Reporting section of the Approved Arrangement
- b) institute documented feedback to the field depot operator/ harvester and implement corrective action which must also be adequately recorded
- c) as soon as practicable notify the AQIS On-Plant Veterinary Officer of the findings and of subsequent corrective action
- d) notify the findings and corrective action taken to the State Food Authority which has responsibility for accrediting the harvester/ field depot/ transport vehicle believed responsible for the non-compliance (refer to State contacts below).

4.7 Monitoring of time since harvest

From 21/9/09, carcasses are NOT to be processed for human consumption if they have exceeded an interim maximum period of 14 days between harvest and processing. Processing establishment management must institute chiller management measures that ensure that received carcasses are processed in a systematic way, so that carcasses approaching the end of this maximum period are processed expeditiously.

4.8 Health marking of carcasses from which game meat is exported to the European Union (EU)

Only carcasses that have been stamped with the game pentagonal stamp after passing post-mortem inspection are to be moved from the dressing floor to the boning room for boning or cutting for export to member states of the EU or to countries requiring adherence with EU requirements.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Wild Game harvesters:

- 5.1.1 Apply completed harvester tags containing the signed declaration outlined in this notice.
- 5.1.2 Hygienically dress carcasses.
- 5.1.3 Comply with timeframes outlined in 4.1e (iv).

5.2 Wild Game Field Depot Operators:

AQIS Meat Notice 2009 / 04 – Additional requirements for wild game processing for export

- 5.2.1 Take and record air and carcass temperatures in accordance with this notice and supply a copy of those temperatures with each load-out of carcasses.
- 5.2.2 Arrange to get, and keep, copies of the manual and data logger records for air and carcass deep muscle temperatures.
- 5.2.3 Implement automated data logging of air and deep muscle temperatures. This must be in place so that carcasses arriving at processing establishments from 31 January 2010 are accompanied by the air and deep muscle temperature data logging records.
- 5.2.4 Don't accept grossly contaminated carcasses or carcasses not fully compliant with tagging requirements.

5.3 Wild Game Processing Management:

- 5.3.1 Amend their Approved Arrangement to address the new and altered requirements outlined in this notice. These amendments will be further assessed at the end of January 2010.
- 5.3.2 Implement those new or altered procedures relating to:
 - a) monitoring for presence and completeness of carcass tagging
 - b) receipt and examination of field depot temperature records (both manual and data logged). This must be fully implemented for carcasses processed after 31 January 2010.
 - c) air temperature logging of transport vehicles and receipt and examination of transport air temperature records
 - d) reviewing of pre-dressing inspection facilities and technique
 - e) rejection of carcasses at pre-dressing inspection including feedback to appropriate field depot operator/ harvester, implementation of appropriate corrective action and incident reporting responsibilities
 - f) compliance with the 14 day interim maximum between harvest and processing
 - g) EU carcass health marking
 - h) Record keeping enabling verification at audit and meeting relevant legal requirements.

5.4 AQIS On-Plant Veterinarian:

- 5.4.1 Verify the Approved Arrangement adequately addresses the requirements of this notice.
- 5.4.2 Monitor implementation and on-going compliance with this notice, particularly ensuring adequate records are kept by the establishment, and that appropriate notifications are made by the establishment to the relevant food authority.
- 5.4.3 Examine a sample of carcasses where significant pre-dressing inspection rejections are made by the establishment and keep records relating to that examination.
- 5.4.4 Verify game meat is only supplied to EU or markets that require adherence with EU requirements from passed carcasses health marked in accordance with this notice.

5.5 AQIS Area Technical Manager:

- 5.5.1 Verify and approve amendments to the establishment's Approved Arrangement.
- 5.5.2 Verify establishment and AQIS on-going compliance with this notice.

AQIS Meat Notice 2009 / 04 – Additional requirements for wild game processing for export

6. STATE FOOD AUTHORITY CONTACTS

Food Authority	Contact Person	Postal Address	Telephone/Fax	e-mail address
Safe Food Queensland	Phil Pond	PO Box 440, Spring Hill Qld 4004		ppond@safefood.qld.gov.au
NSW Food Authority	David Hook Manager – Audit and Compliance	PO Box 6682 Silverwater NSW 1811	T- 02 9741 4818 F- 02 9741 4898	david.hook@foodauthority.nsw.gov.au
SA Meat Hygiene Unit, PIRSA	Ray Coffey		T- 08 8207 7947	Ray.Coffey@sa.gov.au
WA Health	Stan Goodchild		T- 08 9242 9621	stan.goodchild@health.wa.gov.au
NT DRDPIFR	David Frost		T- 08 8999 2255	david.frost@nt.gov.au
Meat Hygiene Standards Section, Tasmanian DPIW&E	Neville Price	PO Box 46 Kings Meadows, Tasmania 7249	T- (03) 6336 5333	neville.Price@dpipwe.tas.gov.au

7. REFERENCES

AQIS Meat Notice 2005/02

Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Game Meat for Human Consumption – AS 4464

Carol Sheridan

National Manager
Meat Exports