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Australia

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

Final IRA for Chicken Meat Released by Biosecurity Australia

2008

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Report Highlights:

Biosecurity Australia has released the final Import Risk Analysis Report for Chicken Meat. Stakeholders have until December 1, 2008 to lodge an appeal in response to the final IRA report.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

Biosecurity Australia has released the final import risk analysis (IRA) report for chicken meat. **Stakeholders have until December 1, 2008 to lodge an appeal in response to the final IRA report.** A full copy of the report & associated information can be found at: <http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/ira/current-animal/chicken-meat>.

The release of the final report follows consideration of 21 stakeholder submissions and comments on the draft IRA report that was issued in June 2006. Following consideration of stakeholder comments, arboviruses were added to the list of hazards and a new chapter on arboviruses was added to the Risk Assessment section of the report (the assessment concludes that risk management measures are not required for arboviruses). Additional information was also included in the report to clarify and update a number of issues.

One of these relates to avian influenza – the quarantine requirements for notifiable avian influenza have been split into highly pathogenic notifiable avian influenza (HPNAI) and low pathogenicity notifiable avian influenza (LPNAI). For LPNAI, the chicken meat must be from flocks raised in a country or zone which is free of the virus or the product must be processed off-shore or on-shore under quarantine control to ensure destruction of the virus. The quarantine requirements for HPNAI are the same as for LPNAI except that, reflecting the higher quarantine risks, processing on-shore is not permitted.

Another change relates to the risk management measures for Newcastle disease virus. The cooking time and temperature requirements have been recalculated and chicken meat must be heated to a minimum core temperature of 70°C for at least 8.2 minutes.

A draft final IRA report was reviewed by the independent Eminent Scientists Group (ESG) to ensure that stakeholder comments had been taken properly into account. The ESG report to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine was released on August 8, 2008 under cover of Biosecurity Australia Advice 2008/24 (also available on above website). Information on auditing and surveillance has been added to the final IRA report following the ESG review and issues relating to human health have been discussed further with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing and Food Standards Australia New Zealand. Biosecurity Australia will keep these agencies informed on the IRA and on any import permit applications for chicken meat.

The final IRA report recommends that nine disease agents require risk management to meet Australia's appropriate level of quarantine protection. These include HPNAI and LPNAI viruses, Newcastle disease virus, very virulent and exotic variants of infectious bursal disease virus and four types of salmonella. Risk management measures include such things as country or zone freedom, or processing on- or off-shore. Biosecurity Australia will consider other measures that provide an equivalent level of protection.

This IRA is being completed under the pre-regulated process according to the Import Risk Analysis Handbook (2003). Stakeholders may lodge an appeal in response to the final report. Stakeholders will have until December 1, 2008 to lodge an appeal in writing with the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel – a body independent of Biosecurity Australia – on one or both of the following grounds:

- there was a significant deviation from the process set out in the Import Risk Analysis Handbook (2003) that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder
- a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

In lodging appeals, stakeholders must give reasons for their appeal.

The panel normally has up to 45 days to consider any appeals and report its findings to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine. If there is no appeal, or once any appeals are resolved, the process is complete and policy recommendations will be submitted to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine for determination. Appeals should be submitted to:

IRAAP Secretariat
Corporate Policy Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Fax: (02) 6272 4506
E-mail: IRAAP@daff.gov.au

The final IRA report for chicken meat is available from the Biosecurity Australia website at <http://www.daff.gov.au/ba/ira/current-animal/chicken-meat>.

Source: Biosecurity Australia Advice 2008/33, 10/30/2008.

Recent Reports from FAS/Canberra

The reports listed below can all be downloaded from the FAS website at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/AttacheRep/default.asp>.

Report Number	Title of Report	Date
AS8049	Dairy Annual 2008	10/20/08
AS8048	Grain and Feed October Update 2008	09/26/08
AS8047	Sugar Semi-Annual	09/26/08
AS8046	Exporter Guide	09/15/08
AS8044	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	09/04/08
AS8043	2008 September Voluntary Grain Report	08/28/08
AS8041	Cotton Quarterly Lock-up	08/27/08
AS8040	Competitiveness of Grocery Pricing in Australia Investigated	08/20/08
AS8039	2008 Livestock Annual	08/22/08
AS8038	FAIRS Country Report	07/31/08
AS8037	The Australian Emissions Trading Scheme NFF Policy	07/22/08
AS8036	Draft Organic Standard Released for Comment	07/22/08
AS8035	Biotechnology Annual	07/15/08
AS8033	Grain and Feed Quarterly Update	07/08/08
AS8032	Wheat Reform Legislation Passes in Parliament	06/25/08
AS8030	Grain and Feed Situation Update	06/13/08
AS8029	Response to the "Safeguards Inquiry Into The Imports of Pigmeat"	06/06/08
AS8028	New Wheat Marketing Legislation Progresses Through Parliament	06/05/08
AS8027	Biofuels Annual	06/04/08
AS8026	Aust Govt Expresses Disappointment Over Farm Bill	05/27/08
AS8024	US Farm Bill: Lost Opportunity – Minister for Trade	05/19/08
AS8023	Dairy Semi-Annual	05/19/08
AS8022	ABARE Report indicates GM crops will provide economic benefits to Australian regions	05/15/08
AS8020	Cotton Annual	05/01/08