



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

## Imported Food Notice 07/10

**Issued:** 22 September 2010

### SUBJECT: Assessment of BSE certification and inspection of beef and beef products

#### **Purpose**

To advise that from 1 October 2010 the AQIS Imported Food Program will commence physical inspections for consignments of beef, beef meat products and relevant products containing ingredients of bovine origin.

#### **Scope**

This notice applies to the following:

- All importers of beef, beef meat products and relevant products containing ingredients of bovine origin
- All brokers who are lodging FIDs in the ICS for consignments of imported food

#### **Information you need to know**

All consignments must be sourced from countries that are eligible to export to Australia and AQIS will continue to assess Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) certification in accordance with Imported Food Notice 04/07.

To strengthen these existing clearance processes, an AQIS officer may attend the importer's premise to view the contents of the consignment, to verify the country of origin and to ensure the products are directly linked to the BSE certification issued by the exporting country.

Samples may also be taken for analytical testing to determine compliance with other Australian standards as relevant.

**NOTE:** - The changes outlined below relate to consignments referred to the Imported Food Inspection Scheme only and quarantine requirements for BSE certification remain unchanged.

#### **1. ALL COUNTRIES EXCLUDING NEW ZEALAND**

Information about the BSE certification, AQIS inspection and sampling requirements for consignments from all countries excluding New Zealand.

#### **2. NEW ZEALAND ONLY – ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AN FSP**

Information about the manufacturer declaration and AQIS inspection requirements for consignments from establishments in New Zealand with a Food Safety Programme (FSP) approved by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA).

#### **3. NEW ZEALAND ONLY – ESTABLISHMENTS WITHOUT AN FSP**

Information about the BSE certification and AQIS inspection requirements for consignments from establishments in New Zealand without a FSP.

## **1. ALL COUNTRIES EXCLUDING NEW ZEALAND**

### **BSE CERTIFICATION**

Importers must continue to obtain BSE certification for all consignments of imported beef and beef products sourced from countries other than New Zealand.

A Food Control Certificate issued by AQIS will advise the importer if BSE certification must be presented to the Imported Food Program for assessment AND if the consignment will require inspection by an AQIS officer. The Food Control Certificate will also specify if samples are required to be taken for other analytical testing and the likely tests (pesticide screen, microbiological tests etc) that will be applied to those samples.

### **INSPECTION**

An AQIS officer will view the consignment and do a labelling and visual inspection for suitability and wholesomeness. The AQIS officer will also compare the consignment to the details on the BSE certification and the information lodged in the Full Import Declaration (FID) by the broker.

### **SAMPLING**

Samples may be taken for analytical testing in accordance with the following Imported Food Notices:

Tests applied to risk category foods

Tests applied to surveillance category foods

<http://www.daffa.gov.au/aqis/import/food/notices>

## **2. NEW ZEALAND ONLY – ESTABLISHMENTS WITH AN FSP**

Food Standards Australia New Zealand has determined that Australia and New Zealand have an equivalent BSE status and both countries are in country category A for the purposes of BSE certification requirements. In recognition of this, AQIS and the NZFSA have agreed on an annual certification arrangement for product sourced from establishments in New Zealand with a Food Safety Programme (FSP). Establishments with an FSP exclusively use beef or beef products derived from cattle born, raised and slaughtered in New Zealand or Australia.

A list of the establishments in New Zealand with an approved FSP is available on the NZFSA website: <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/registers-lists/country/australia.htm> and importers are encouraged to check this list regularly for any modifications.

A Food Control Certificate issued by AQIS will advise the importer if the consignment will require inspection by an AQIS officer.

### **MANUFACTURER DECLARATION**

The broker or importer must provide the Imported Food Program with a manufacturer declaration for each consignment that confirms the product has been sourced from an establishment with an approved FSP. The manufacturer declaration must specify the establishment name, address and unique FSP identifier allocated by the NZFSA.

### **INSPECTION**

An AQIS officer will view the consignment and confirm the establishment name, address and unique FSP identifier on the product labels match the details on the manufacturer declaration. The AQIS officer will also compare the consignment to the information lodged in the FID by the broker.

### 3. NEW ZEALAND ONLY – ESTABLISHMENTS WITHOUT AN FSP

Consignments sourced from establishments in New Zealand that do not have an approved FSP are also eligible for export to Australia.

#### BSE CERTIFICATION

Importers must continue to obtain BSE certification for all consignments of imported beef and beef products sourced from establishments in New Zealand that do not have an approved FSP.

A Food Control Certificate issued by AQIS will advise the importer if BSE certification must be presented to the Imported Food Program for assessment AND if the consignment will require inspection by an AQIS officer.

Brokers can include details of BSE certification issued by the NZFSA in the 'AQIS Documents Details'\* field when lodging a FID in the Integrated Cargo System (ICS).

FOOD COMMODITY	ICS DOCUMENT CODE	COMPETENT AUTHORITY
For beef meat	AU100	NZFSA
For beef meat products	AU100	NZFSA
For beef meat based flavours	AU102	NZFSA
For edible animal casings	AU103	NZFSA

\* - Contact Customs or your software supplier for advice on locating the 'AQIS Documents Details' field in the ICS.

#### INSPECTION

An AQIS officer will view the consignment and confirm it matches the details on the BSE certification. The AQIS officer will also compare the consignment to the information lodged in the FID by the broker.

Who can I contact for further information?	Phone	E-mail
New South Wales	(02) 8334 7475	nswimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Queensland and Northern Territory	(07) 3246 8757	qldimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Victoria and Tasmania	(03) 8318 6700	vicimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Western Australia and South Australia	(08) 9334 1532	waimpfood@aqis.gov.au
Canberra	(02) 6272 5488	foodimp@aqis.gov.au