**Discussion Document on Review of Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption**

**Purpose:**

To undertake a technical review of the current requirements of the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption.

**Background:**

The purpose of the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption is to give effect to and as necessary amplify the standards regarding products intended for animal consumption under the [Animal Products Regulations 2000](http://legislation.govt.nz/).

Whilst the review of this Notice was based on the need for technical updates, some changes have been made to harmonise across Operational Codes and other Notices, including the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption. This has changed some clause numbering, through the inclusion of more Parts and the consolidating of some existing Parts. A reference table has been created listing the old and new numbering to assist operators when updating their RMPs (see Quick Reference Table for Old and New Clause Numbering for AC Spec).

A plain English approach has been taken e.g. making sentences shorter, more meaningful headings, using active voice, removing floating sentences, etc. Outdated references have been removed or amended to simplify the Notice making for better regulation and improving the ability of operators to comply. Guidance boxes have been inserted as appropriate. Tracked changes have been used, except for cross referencing within the Notice.

Some changes have been made in anticipation of the Regulatory Redesign project. This project is a result of the Food Safety Law Reform Act 2018 which compels MPI to review all relevant regulations and notices to ensure legislation is at the appropriate level. This project will take several years.

These documents should be read in conjunction with the current version of the Notice, available on the [MPI website](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11497).

**Reference documents to assist with the review:**

The following documents are available on the MPI consultation webpage to assist with the Notice review:

* Draft Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption with changes tracked
* Proposed Amendments to the AC Spec
* Quick Reference Table for the Old and New Clause Numbering

**Summary of amendments:**

The key amendments included in this Notice are:

* 1. removing the incorporated standards for packaging and compressed air;
	2. streamlining a number of requirements e.g. water;
	3. expanding the scope of the Notice to include e.g. repairs and maintenance, pest control, non-complying product, operator verification, etc.;
	4. updating competencies and qualifications requirements for personnel;
	5. updating requirements for supply of farmed animals;
	6. amending procurement criteria for killed wild mammals (e.g. wild deer and wild possums) from certain areas;
	7. adding supply of farmed fish and farmed poultry requirements;
	8. adding supply and reception requirements for deer velvet;
	9. developing and updating supplier statement forms;
	10. including guidance boxes where appropriate; and
	11. improving alignment with other Animal Products Act legal instruments e.g. Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Human Consumption, etc.

A more detailed summary of proposed amendments is described in the document Proposed Amendments to the AC Spec attached in the MPI consultation webpage.

**Forms**

Supplier statements have been amended as a result of proposed changes to the Animal Products Notice: Specifications for Products Intended for Animal Consumption. Proposed changes have been made in the forms and the changes are highlighted in yellow. A summary of the changes is described in the document Proposed Amendments to the AC Spec attached in the MPI consultation webpage.

**How to have your say**

Submissions can be made using the accompanying submissions template. Where possible comments should be specific to particular clauses in the document and the number of the clause used.

MPI encourages submitters to make their submissions electronically so please email your submissions to animal.products@mpi.govt.nz by 5pm Friday 13 September 2019.

If you wish to convey your submission in writing, these should be posted to the following address:

AC Spec submission
Food Regulation
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140

**What happens next**

All submissions will be considered after the consultation has closed. A summary of submissions and analysis will be sent to all submitters and published on the MPI website.

Note that any submission you make becomes public information. People can ask for copies of submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA says we have to make submissions available unless we have a good reason for withholding it. That is explained in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA.

Tell us if you think there are grounds to withhold specific information in your submission. Reasons might include that it's commercially sensitive or it's personal information. However, any decision MPI makes to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may tell us to release it.