

Summary of amendments in the Operational Code since the public consultation in Nov 2018:

21 submissions were received and a further review was conducted. As a result, a number of amendments were made to the document. They are summarised below:

- a) amended a number of terms used within the documents for consistency purposes;
- b) added more description in “Application” part, which will provide more clarity on to whom this Code applies;
- c) addition of guidance boxes within the document to give more clarity to the relevant sections;
- d) amended the reporting requirements for verifiers to be consistent with relevant Animal Products Notices;
- e) inclusion of a section to address verification step for businesses moving from the Export Verification Programme to operate under this Code;
- f) a guidance for implementation of verification steps under this Code has been included under Schedule 1;
- g) amendment of verification frequency relating to verification step 9 from 3 yearly (consulted) to 2 yearly (published);
- h) in Schedule 2, the initial verification step and the ceiling step for farm dairies has been amended; and
- i) Schedule 3 has been removed and additional clarification has been added elsewhere in the Code to explain the criteria for moving between the steps.

Commencement date and guidance on implementation

This Operational Code is effective from 1st March 2020.

Businesses that are on their ceiling step under the Verification 2005 Statement of Policy (Statement) need to complete the next verification visit in accordance with the Statement and may move to the new ceiling step under this Code by achieving an acceptable outcome during that verification visit.

Businesses that are on a step other than their ceiling step, the progression criteria for changing the verification step after a verification visit will be based on the Statement if the verification visit happens before 1st March 2020. If the verification visit happens on or after 1st March 2020, the progression criteria will be based on this Code.

In the instance where a business that may have received an acceptable outcome in the previous verification visit (when Statement was in place) and the following verification visit happens on or after 1st March 2020, on achieving an acceptable outcome, the verifier may move the business to the verification step based on this Code.

Important information:

Please note that this discussion document should be used as a guidance only and to be read in conjunction with the Operational Code: Verification.