

s22(1)(a)(ii)

From: MID Operations Coordination - AgricultureACT
Sent: Monday, 1 March 2021 11:37 AM
To: MID Operations Coordination - AgricultureACT
Subject: Ongoing point-of-entry failures to the USA [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon

Could OPVs please forward the following onto plant management / QA managers and discuss the following with establishment management as part of their next weekly meeting. Note, ATMs will also be following up with plant managers next week to discuss.

Re: Ongoing point-of-entry failures to the USA

In October 2020, the department wrote to all establishments to highlight an increase in point-of-entry failures to the USA.

Despite this advice, there continues to be point-of-entry failures to the USA, with an ongoing trend in the detection of faeces and ingesta on meat products. The number of point-of-entry failures since the beginning of 2020 (10) has been highlighted by US FSIS as a concern. The Department reminds establishments of the importance of Australia's reputation as an agricultural producer of clean and safe product.

It is critical that our regulatory system continue to assure our trading partners that Australian agricultural products meet import requirements. In response to specific US concerns, I have requested OPVs undertake additional verification activities for small stock carcase and boning room ZTs.

I remind you that it is the responsibility of establishment management to ensure that products that are being produced for export are clean and consistently comply with Australian Standards and importing country requirements. Failure to comply with these requirements is likely to result in increased importing country scrutiny and intensified port assurance activities - as well as having the potential to result in a requirement for increased assurance activities such as increased numbers of carcasses subject to company verification checks.

Ultimately a failure to reduce ZTs could result in the US imposing sanctions, losses in confidence in Australia's export system and/or potential losses in market access for the US and other significant markets.

For further information please contact your Area Technical Manager or Field Operations Manager.

Regards

Jason

Jason Lucas

A/g Assistant Secretary – Meat Exports Branch | Exports Division
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Meat Consultative Committee (MCC) Meeting Minutes

Date: 25 June 2021
Time: 09:15am - 11:30am AEST
Venue: Training Room, Level 2, 42-44 Qantas Drive, Eagle Farm

Attendees: s22(1)(a)(ii) (Chair), s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) Jason Lucas, s22(1)(a)(ii)
s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) and
s22(1)(a)(ii) (Secretariat)

Apologies: Nicola Hinder, s22(1)(a)(ii) s22(1)(a)(ii) and s22(1)(a)(ii)

ITEM	SUBJECT	LEAD
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s22(1)(a)(ii)

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2.2	<p><u>Meat Export Branch update</u></p> <p>Jason Lucas provided an update on the work in the Meat Exports Branch.</p> <h1>s22(1)(a)(ii)</h1> <p><u>Zero Tolerances (ZT's)</u> – between April 2020 and March 2021 there was a significant rise in POE rejections from the US for ZT. An initial email was sent to all establishments to review their critical control points. A further email was sent to establishments in March advising that the department will be undertaking heightened verification have seen a significant drop – now back to long term average.</p>	J. Lucas s22(1)(a)(ii)
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Further discussion was held regarding the FOMS and ATMS visiting establishments to review root cause and corrective measures put in place to prevent re-occurrence of issues.

- Establishments provided corrective action plans which include an investigation of root causes. The FOMs/ATMs review the plans and then conduct a physical audit to ensure measures will rectify the root cause. There is engagement with the US and advice is provided on the outcome of the audit.

s47G(1)(a)

Action: Jason Lucas will follow up with the FOM.

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The meeting closed at 10:45am AEST