

CURRENT AND FUTURE TRENDS IN DAIRY PRODUCT PROCESSING

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

BACKGROUND

Australia currently allows imports of dairy products for human consumption from a number of countries subject to risk management to address particular diseases, commodity processes and country issues. These conditions were established in May 1999 following completion of a generic import risk analysis (IRA) (Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda 1999/76 and 1999/86).

In light of the trend towards global processing and marketing of dairy-based products, including growing commercial interest in importing dairy products manufactured in FMD-infected countries using dairy ingredients sourced from FMD-free countries, together with advances in processing and further scientific information since the IRA was completed, Biosecurity Australia considers that a review of the existing policy is required.

The policy review will consider dairy products intended for human consumption derived from bovine (cattle), ovine (sheep), caprine (goats) or buffalo milk or milk products from all countries.

Biosecurity Australia is seeking expressions of interest from individuals or organisations with relevant expertise to assist in this review. The successful applicant will be required to report on processes or product modifications during processing used by industry that can inactivate pathogens in milk from infected animals and other sources of contamination.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The objective of the project is to report on current and future trends in the processing of dairy products with particular reference to critical processing steps during which pathogen inactivation occurs. This will help inform Biosecurity Australia of issues relevant to an assessment of whether the quarantine risk presented by imported dairy products has changed since completion of the IRA.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The successful individual or organisation for the project will provide a report suitable for publication on the following:

1. Identify processes, or product modifications during processing, that are used by industry than can inactivate pathogens in milk from infected animals and other sources of contamination for each of the following categories of products:
 - milk and dried milk products
 - evaporated milk
 - condensed and sweetened condensed milk
 - cream and dried cream products
 - butter and butter oil

- acidified dairy products such as yoghurt and yoghurt drinks
- ice-cream
- whey products
- caseinate products and
- soft and hard cheese.

In each case:

- identify which animal health pathogen/s including zoonotic agents the process or modification is/are likely to kill/inactivate;
 - detail the feasible limits of operation of the process or modification (i.e. upper and lower limits of temperature, core temperatures, pH, water content, pressure etc) necessary for effective operation and maintenance of product integrity;
 - describe how pathogen control/inactivation is monitored and comment on the difficulties/limitations associated with monitoring methods;
 - any commercial or other factor that influences the type and level of application of processes, or product modifications used for removal, inactivation or control of pathogens domestically and internationally.
2. Outline domestic and international trends in processing technologies which might be anticipated for dairy and dairy-based products in the next five years.
 3. Outline any significant market changes or product developments that could be anticipated domestically and internationally over the next five years.

STANDARD OF REPORT

The report must be fully referenced and of quality suitable for use as a reference document for the dairy policy import review. A draft report, in electronic and hard copy form, must be submitted to Biosecurity Australia by a date agreed by both parties and the final report within two weeks, or other agreed upon, of receipt of comments from Biosecurity Australia on the draft report. Examples of import risk analysis reports may be found at Biosecurity Australia's website:

www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Australian Public Service terms and conditions regarding short-term contracts with external consultants apply to this proposal.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Based on the Terms of Reference the applicant should provide Biosecurity Australia with a written expression of interest that contains the following information:

Name of individual or organisation

- . Person or persons who would carry out the consultancy and their relationship to the consultant, company or institution
- . Previous experience of the nominated personnel in conducting similar assignments

- . An outline of how the assignment would be carried out, including milestones with identified timeframes
- . An estimated costing, including report writing and travel expenses (if costed separately)
- . Provide a statement of agreement with the draft contract or identify any variations that they would be seeking if offered the consultancy

Expressions of interest should be forwarded to:

General Manager Animal Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
DAFF Tender Box, Core 1
Edmund Barton Building
BARTON ACT 2600

and must be received by **2:00pm 22 May 2006**.

Biosecurity Australia will assess all expressions of interest and will contact the successful applicants as soon as possible after the closing date. The lowest tenders will not necessarily be accepted.

For further information please contact Simone Tolson by e-mail simone.tolson@daff.gov.au or telephone (02) 6272 4041.