



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



18 December 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/52

IMPORT RISK ANALYSES: UNCOOKED CHICKEN MEAT

PROGRESS REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with a progress report on the uncooked chicken meat import risk analysis (IRA). It also provides details on technical working groups (TWGs) established to assist the risk analysis panel.

Since the last progress report issued under cover of ABPM 2002/22 of 15 May 2002), the uncooked chicken meat and egg and egg products risk analysis panels undertook visits to poultry enterprises outside Adelaide on 16 and 17 May 2002. These included a high security breeder operation, layer farms, meat chicken farms, an egg processing plant and a chicken processing plant. The objective was to ensure that all panel members were fully conversant with current husbandry, biosecurity and processing practices. The visits also assisted in the consideration of the exposure pathways and consequence assessments in the IRAs.

More recently, the two panels have met in joint session in Canberra on 15 August 2002, and the uncooked chicken meat panel has met on 27 September, 31 October and 1 November and 5 and 6 December. Members of the egg panel attended the last meeting. Both panels have been working on discussion papers on IRA methods to be circulated shortly, and semi-quantitative mathematical models for the release, exposure and consequence assessments that are part of the draft IRA reports.

Following his retirement from the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL) in Geelong, Dr Westbury has retired as a member of the chicken and egg panels. The panels and Biosecurity Australia would like to acknowledge Dr Westbury's significant contribution to the IRAs and also to his broader work at AAHL.

The uncooked chicken meat panel considered that with the support of Technical Working Groups (TWGs), and given the advanced stage of the IRA process, it did not need to replace Dr Westbury. However, a replacement virologist will be necessary for the egg and egg products panel, and on behalf of the panel, Biosecurity Australia will seek expressions of interest from suitably qualified individuals.

Technical Working Groups

The uncooked chicken meat panel has again discussed its need for specialist support through TWGs and has decided that there are technical issues sufficiently important to require such groups. As the issues are common to the egg and egg



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products IRA, there are efficiencies in drawing on the expertise already represented in those TWGs convened by the egg and egg products panel. A RAP member from the relevant panel will chair each group. The composition of the uncooked chicken meat TWGs is set out below.

Salmonella and other bacteria

Professor Peter Coloe (chair)	Uncooked chicken meat panel member
Professor Tom Humphrey	Microbiologist with expertise in <i>Salmonella</i> – UK
Professor Alan Frost	Veterinary microbiologist
Dr Marion Healy	Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
Ms Dianne Davos	<i>Salmonella</i> reference laboratory
Dr Glenn Browning	Deputy Dean, University of Melbourne Veterinary Faculty, bacteriology expertise

Newcastle disease

Dr Andrew Turner (chair)	Uncooked chicken meat panel member
Dr Clive Jackson	Poultry disease consultant
Dr Dennis Alexander	Virologist with expertise in ND – UK
Professor Peter Spradbrow	Veterinary virologist with expertise in ND

Infectious bursal disease virus

Dr Paul Gilchrist (chair)	Uncooked chicken meat panel member
Professor Joseph Giambrone *	Professor of poultry science, Auburn University, USA, with expertise in IBDV
Dr Tom Grimes	Poultry disease consultant
Dr Jagoda Ignjatovic	Virologist with expertise in IBDV, AAHL

* Professor Joseph Giambrone replaces Dr Thierry van den Berg who is no longer available to serve on the TWG.

Next steps

We expect to release shortly the discussion paper for the uncooked chicken meat IRA. The egg paper will follow later. Information on the content of the discussion papers was foreshadowed in ABPM 2002/22.

Stakeholder comments on this Memorandum including the proposal to share the TWGs would be appreciated. Comments should be sent to the contact officer whose details appear below.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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