

**MEAT NOTICE**

<b>Meat notice number:</b>	2020/05 (Re-issued)		
<b>Meat notice title:</b>	<i>Cysticercus ovis</i> disposition- alignment with Australian Standard 4696:2007		
<b>Category:</b>	Refining and reinforcement of existing requirements		
<b>NSFS reference</b>	<b>Issue date</b>	<b>Date of effect</b>	<b>Review date</b>
16	24 September 2020	Immediate	September 2022
<b>Contact officers</b>		<b>Distribution categories</b>	
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**Implementation schedule** (to be completed by the departmental on-plant officer)

**Date received:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date discussed with est. management:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Initial implementation date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Management representative initials:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dept. on-plant officer initials:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Purpose**

This notice provides export registered establishments with revised requirements for:

- Identification, segregation and processing of sheep, lamb and goat carcasses affected by *Cysticercus ovis* (*C. ovis*) to align the disposition of *C. ovis* affected carcasses and viscera at export establishments with the dispositions requirements of the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption 4696:2007.

- This notice supersedes Meat Notice 2007/16.

## 2. Scope

This notice applies to all export meat establishments slaughtering sheep, lambs and goats.

*C. ovis* affected carcasses and offal of sheep, lambs and goats have historically been managed at post mortem inspection and subsequent processing by:

- Condemning *C. ovis* affected viscera.
- Examining the carcass, tallying the number of *C. ovis* cysts in musculature.
- Condemning carcasses with more than five *C. ovis* cysts found in musculature.
- Passing for human consumption, carcasses with five or less *C. ovis* cysts found and removed from musculature, conditional upon boning.
- Identifying and segregating such carcasses to ensure they are boned and only exported in the boneless or manufactured form.

## 3. Definitions

The following table defines terms used in this notice.

Term	Definition
<i>Cysticercus ovis</i>	The intermediate or 'larval cystic' stage of the parasite <i>Taenia ovis</i> , a common tapeworm of dogs and wild canine species (primary hosts) with sheep and goats being the intermediate hosts. <i>C. ovis</i> is not transmissible to humans.
<i>C. ovis</i> cysts	Can appear as active clear fluid-filled cysts or degenerated firm nodules with scar/calcified tissue. Usually found in the heart, diaphragm, oesophagus, tongue, head muscles and/or in the carcass.

## 4. Responsibilities

### 4.1 Establishment management:

- may amend their approved arrangement to remove the requirement for carcasses identified at post mortem inspection with five or less cysts of *C. ovis* in musculature to be processed only as boneless meat
- must submit consequent approved arrangement amendments to their Area Technical Manager for approval

### 4.2 Departmental on-plant officers will:

- provide establishment management with a copy of this meat notice as soon as possible
- verify the establishment responsibilities and actions of this meat notice (as relevant) have been included in the occupier's arrangement

- c) verify that post mortem dispositions applied to *C. ovis* affected carcasses and carcass parts are applied in accordance with this notice and such carcasses are handled in accordance with the establishment's approved arrangement.

4.3 Area technical managers will:

- a) review the occupier's arrangement
- b) approve or not approve the arrangement as per their findings
- c) verify through audits the occupier compliance/non-compliance with relevant export legislation, importing country requirements and Australian standards.

## **5. Requirements**

When, through routine post mortem inspection, the presence of a *C. ovis* cyst is detected in the viscera or a carcass, the carcass must have a more detailed inspection for the presence of *C. ovis* cysts. This detailed inspection must consist of a careful palpation of the muscles of the diaphragm together with visual examination and deep palpation of the muscles exposed during regular dressing (the ventral muscles of the neck and brisket and the medial muscles of the leg etc.).

The Australian Standard requires carcasses with a general infestation (more than five cysts found in musculature) to be condemned along with all its carcass parts.

For carcasses with a light infestation (five or less cysts found in the skeletal musculature), cysts and surrounding tissue is to be trimmed from the carcass and condemned, with affected viscera also condemned. After removal of the cysts from the carcass, the carcass is passed for human consumption without restriction.

There is no requirement to bone *C. ovis* affected carcasses with five or less cysts identified in the musculature.

This meat notice does not preclude any current procedure that an establishment may have to identify and handle such carcasses. Rather, it removes the export requirement to identify, segregate and bone carcasses to ensure meat from these carcasses is only exported as boneless meat.

Jason Lucas

Director

Export Meat Program

24 September 2020