



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources**

14 December 2016

BIOSECURITY ADVICE 2016/36

FRESH (CHILLED OR FROZEN) BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS FROM JAPAN, THE NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, THE UNITED STATES AND VANUATU

This Biosecurity Advice invites stakeholders to provide comments by 13 February 2017 on the department's draft report on its review of the import requirements for fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products from Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the United States and Vanuatu.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has reviewed import requirements in response to market access requests from the United States, Japan and the Netherlands for the importation of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products for human consumption.

New Zealand and Vanuatu are included in the review as both have long standing access for fresh beef. The appropriateness of the conditions under which importation occurs has not been reviewed for some time, and as such a review is warranted.

Prior to the commencement of the review, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) had assessed the bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) food safety risk of the applicant countries; the United States, Japan and the Netherlands as Category 1 BSE food safety risk status, which means they are already able to export heat-treated, shelf-stable beef and beef products to Australia. New Zealand and Vanuatu are also Category 1 status countries.

The scope of the review includes fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products as meat, bone and offal of cattle (*Bos taurus* and *Bos indicus*), buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis* i.e. water buffalo or domestic Asian water buffalo) and bison (American bison, *Bison bison*).

The review takes into account current scientific information, international standards developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health, as well as policies adopted by other countries for the importation of these products. It identified and categorised hazards of biosecurity concern, other than BSE, associated with the importation of fresh (chilled or frozen) beef and beef products for human consumption. Risk assessments of disease agents was undertaken as required.

Comments on the draft report should be submitted by 13 February 2017.

This Biosecurity Advice and the draft report is available via the department's website:
agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos

All submissions received on the draft review will be carefully considered by Animal Biosecurity in finalising the review of existing policy.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact Animal Biosecurity.

Lodging a submission: There is no specific format for a submission, but they must be in writing, and identify the relevant technical biosecurity issues being raised with supporting evidence. Preferably, submissions should be in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats and lodged electronically via email, but postal submissions are acceptable. Submissions should be received by the department within the stated comment period and addressed to:

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Dr Andrew Cupit
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Animal Biosecurity