AQIS Notice Number **MEAT 2000/12**	**Amendment to AQIS Notice 2000/08: The use of official marks on EU product – 1. Fresh Meat 2. Farmed Game 3.Wild Game 4. Ratites**
NSFS Ref 16 and 17	
J:\Food Exports\AMEATSEV\2006\Sam\meat_notices\Updated Individual\2000\2000_12 Amendment to notice 2000.08- Official marks.doc	Contact Officer: Bill Turner
Date of Effect 9 October 2000 / Date of Expiry Until further notice	Principal Veterinary Officer Technical Services Branch Ph (02) 6272 4167 Fax (02) 6272 5442

Distribution Category	Last Notice this Category	Distribution Category	Last Notice this Category
☑ Central & Regional Office	2000/11	☑ Managers, Export Meat Establishments	2000/08
☑ OIC Inspection Staff Meat Establishments	2000/08	☑ Licensed Meat Exporters	2000/08
☑ Meat Inspection Staff	2000/11	☐ Managers, Export Slaughtering Establishments	
☐ State/Territory Departments Responsible for Agriculture		☐ Managers, Domestic Meat Establishments	

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE (to be completed by the On Plant Supervisor on the AQIS file copy)

Date received_____ Date discussed with management_____

Initial implementation date_____ Date completed_____

Initials_____

Purpose

To provide instruction and clarification regarding the use of official marks on fresh meat, farmed game, wild game and ratites for EU eligible product and to update AQIS Notice 2000/08 accordingly.

Background

There has been considerable confusion relating to the use of official marks on EU eligible product, particularly wild game and ratite, since the issue of AQIS Meat Notice 2000/08.

Additionally, computer generated official marks have been used on some EU eligible wild game. This practice was initially allowed for by AQIS Notice 97/14, however subsequent information from the European Commission indicated that this was not allowed.

This notice supersedes AQIS Notice 97/14.

Scope

This notice applies to all EU listed establishments producing fresh meat, farmed game, wild game or ratite products.

Actions

AQIS Staff are to ensure that this notice is brought to the attention of senior management and the "Implementation Schedule" on the front page completed appropriately. Companies and AQIS staff are to insert the attached pages into AQIS Notice 2000/08, in accordance with the following instructions –

Remove pages 11 – 22	Insert Replacement Pages 11 – 22
Remove pages 27 – 28	Insert Replacement Pages 27 – 28
Remove pages 31 – 32	Insert Replacement Pages 31 – 32
Remove pages 35 – 36	Insert Replacement Pages 35 – 36

The number of this notice is printed against each change in the replacement pages. Insertions and altered text are in italics. A summary of the changes is provided below.

This notice and the above instructions should be attached to the front of AQIS Notice 2000/08.

Where procedures are not in accord with this updated notice, they are to be discontinued as soon as is practical. Area Technical Managers are to manage this process in co-operation with company and AQIS on-plant staff and where indicated, separation programmes amended.

Summary of procedures

1. Fresh Meat and Farmed Game

Official Health Mark: **Australia Inspected (AI)**
Official Mark (EU Identifier): **E-in-Oval**

A minimum of two carton seals bearing the Official Health Mark should be applied to every carton. The Australia Inspected Official Health Mark and E-in-Oval Official Mark must be applied to the end panel of every carton.

If the product loses EU eligibility, the E-in-Oval official mark must be obliterated.

All official health marks applied to the end panel may be computer generated, however, control of the means of generating the mark must be secured by AQIS when AQIS is not present on the establishment.

Official marks (EU identifier) applied to the end panel must be applied with a rubber or metal stamp. Computer official marks are not permitted for the purpose of identifying EU product.

2. Wild Game

Official Health Mark (for EU product): *Pentagonal Wild Game Mark*
Official Health Mark (non-EU product): **Australia Approved (AA)**
Official Mark (EU Identifier): **Pentagonal Wild Game Mark**

It is important to note the dual role of the Pentagonal Wild Game Mark.

For EU product, a minimum of two carton seals bearing the Official Health Mark should be applied to every carton. The Official Health Mark must be applied to the end panel of every carton.

If the product loses EU eligibility, the carton seals must be removed or obliterated and an Australia Approved mark applied to the end panel. There is no need to do this for product diverted to non-EU markets, provided the product is handled at all times as EU eligible up until the point of container loading.

Computer generated Pentagonal Wild Game Marks are not permitted on EU eligible product, because of the dual role as the EU identifier.

NOTE: It is permitted for computer generated Australia Approved marks to be applied to EU eligible wild game at the time of carton sealing, provided the appropriate carton seals are applied and the Pentagonal Wild Game Mark is applied by stamp. If this is done, the means for generating the computer generated health mark must be secured by AQIS when not on the establishment.

3. Ratite

Official Health Mark: **Australia Approved (AA)**
Official Mark (EU Identifier): **E-in-Oval**

As for fresh meat and farmed game, except the AA Official Health Mark is used on the end panel and carton seals instead of the AI Official Health Mark.

Brian Macdonald
Director
Meat Inspection Division

References

AQIS Notice 2000/08 EU Separation Programmes – consolidating and updating AQIS Notices 99/16 and 99/19.

AQIS Notice 98/22 1. Consolidation of security notices 2. Devolvement of day-to-day control over the official mark to industry.

AQIS Notice 97/14 Revision to pentagonal wild game mark for game meat destined to the European Union.

Both the official health mark *{changed by 2000/12}* **and the E-in-Oval official mark are used by company personnel under the general supervision of AQIS staff. When not in use, they must be returned to AQIS security. The separation programme must detail who is responsible for the collection and return of the official health mark and official mark for EU production.**

4.1. Non-EU carcasses during an EU production run must be positively identified using a system of marks or tags described in the separation programme. Non-EU carcasses may occur during EU production runs for the following reasons –

(a) Emergency slaughters – animals slaughtered for animal welfare considerations.

(b) Lost identification on **SCHEME CATTLE** – every effort should be made to detect and isolate such cattle in the lairages prior to slaughter. The occurrence of animals with lost identification on the slaughter floor should trigger a review of the separation programme in the lairages and the implementation of appropriate corrective action.

(c) Ineligible identification on **SCHEME CATTLE** – the NLIS database has returned an ineligible reading for an animal.

4.2. Offal from these animals must not enter the offal room until the EU run is finished.

The separation programme should address the procedures for handling and separating these carcasses from EU eligible carcasses.
The separation programme should address the handling of offal from these animals such that it can be positively excluded from EU production (must not enter offal room whilst EU offal production is taking place) and so that it is handled properly to ensure HACCP critical limits are not exceeded and food safety is not compromised. Options include, but are not limited to –

1. **Not saving offal from EU production as E-in-Oval product, in which all offal is free to enter the offal room, but is packed for other destinations.**
2. **Condemning the offal of non-EU animals slaughtered during EU production.**

Alternative approaches must be addressed in the company HACCP plan to ensure that food safety is not compromised.

Cattle

4.3. In addition to the above general requirements, **SCHEME CATTLE** must have their NLIS RFID identification read to confirm eligibility. This should be done prior to hide removal (while the RFID remains attached to the carcass).

4.4. The database should be notified of the slaughter of each individual animal.

Separation programmes must address where the reading of identification takes place and address the interaction with the database. As above, there should be procedures for handling and identifying those carcasses that return ineligible readings. To be eligible, the database must list the RFID/NLIS number of each individual animal against the PIC of the consigning property (listed on the EUVD).

NOTE: The National Livestock Identification Scheme is in the process of being adopted within the broader Australian cattle herd. Additionally, cattle identified as a

*requirement of this Scheme may move out of the closed system. To ensure the continuing integrity of the HGP free Accreditation Scheme to supply cattle to the EU market, EU listed establishments are required to read all individual identification on cattle (whether **SCHEME CATTLE** or otherwise) and notify the NLIS database that the animal has been slaughtered.*

Separation programmes must address the reading of non-SCHEME CATTLE bearing NLIS permanent individual identification and the notification to the NLIS database of the slaughter of those animals. SCHEME CATTLE must be notified to the NLIS database even if not processed for the EU.

4.5. The RFID or NLIS number of each Scheme animal must be linked to the body number of the carcass to ensure traceability of carcasses to the live animal.

4.6. Company inventory controls (required under AQIS notice 98/22) should link body numbers to cartons produced and should show the number of EU eligible units (animal, carcasses, and cartons) at each step.

4.7. Records relating to number of EU eligible cattle slaughtered should be submitted to AQIS on a weekly basis for audit. The AQIS OPVO is expected to undertake a test trace back from cartoned product to the NLIS number, date of slaughter etc and record results in the NPMS.

4.8. Companies are further encouraged to develop systems for tracing carcass meat from individual animals into cartons.

4.9. Carcasses must be palpated (or searched by another approved and effective method) for HGP implants.

4.10. Palpation must be **active** and **determined** and must focus on both approved implantation sites and illicit sites (including the caudal tail fold, brisket and inter-digital space).

4.11. Palpation must occur prior to hide removal whilst the RFID is still attached to the carcass.

4.12. The person undertaking the palpation must have both hands free to palpate each site and all its surfaces actively. It is not satisfactory to hold the horn cutter in one hand and casually feel the ear with the free hand.

4.13. All HGP free declared stock (either on NVDs or from EU accredited properties) during non-EU production runs must be verified as HGP free. This verification is required at non-EU listed establishments.

4.14. All HGP treated declared stock (on NVDs) must be examined for triangular earmarks. This verification is required at non-EU listed establishments.

4.15. AQIS must be informed if an implant is detected. Details of the accredited property must be provided and appropriate records (EUVD, for example) made available.

4.16. The hide of the animal must be retained along with the lime-green tail tag (if attached) and the NLIS identification still attached to the ear.

4.17. Reporting of suspected HGP breaches must be done in accordance with AQIS notice 97/12.

4.18. All companion animals and all animals from the same Property Identification Code will be ineligible for the EU market. All live animals from the PIC at the abattoir must be separated from **SCHEME CATTLE**. When these animals are slaughtered, they should be palpated to detect additional implants.

4.19. All carton products on the establishment from animals from the PIC must be traced and removed from the EU market (the E-in-Oval mark must be defaced).

Separation programmes must address the traceback and traceforward of all live animals and product to ensure that all product from any given PIC can be identified and removed from the EU export chain if indicated. It is expected that the OPVO will undertake test traceback and traceforward to ensure that the separation programme is effective.

4.20. All RFIDs on **SCHEME CATTLE** and non-Scheme cattle must be collected and disposed of in a secure manner. For additional information on collection and disposal, companies should contact Meat and Livestock Australia.

Separation programmes must also address the secure collection and disposal of RFIDs.

4. **Separation in the offal room**

All production

5.1. EU production in offal rooms must be positively identified.

5.2. During changeover from EU production to non-EU production, all EU packed offal must be packed into cartons *prior* to any non-EU offal entering the offal room.

5.3. The start of non-EU production must be positively identified if following EU production.

5.4. The end of non-EU production must be positively identified if preceding EU production.

Separation programmes must describe the identification of EU and non-EU production runs. Additionally, the separation programmes must describe procedures for ensuring that EU and non-EU offal is properly separated and how part cartons of EU offal will be handled to ensure that they are identified and separated from non-EU production (unsealed part cartons must be held under AQIS security when AQIS staff are not present on the establishment).

5.5. Eligible cartons are to be stamped with the E-in-Oval official mark and sealed with an Official carton seal required for the EU (this seal is described in Section 15 of this notice). *The end panel must also bear an impression of the Official Health Mark - these may be computer generated, but the means of generation must be under AQIS security after hours* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

Separation programmes must address the collection and return of the E-in-Oval official mark and the Official carton seal required for the EU. Additionally, inventory control systems must reconcile the number of offal cartons produced against the number of carton seals used against the number of EU carcasses slaughtered. The reconciliation should include lost, damaged, defective and destroyed carton seals and the circumstances relating to this.

5.6. If EU production follows non-EU production (see separation on the slaughter floor) there must be an effective clean down of facilities prior to EU offal entering the offal room.

(a) An effective clean down ensures that no non-EU eligible products can be mixed, or otherwise come in contact with EU eligible product.

(b) Particular attention should be paid to potential common contact points.

Separation programmes must fully describe the clean down between production runs where companies elect to follow non-EU production with EU production.

5. Separation in carcase chillers

All production

6.1. Where it is practical and possible, EU eligible carcasses marked with the E-in-Oval official mark *or Pentagonal Wild Game Mark* *{inserted by 2000/12}* should be kept in separate chillers from non-EU eligible carcasses.

6.2. Where this is not possible, there should be clear separation (one rail) between EU eligible carcasses and non-EU carcasses and the ends of rails holding EU eligible carcasses must be clearly identified.

6.3. Inventory controls required under AQIS Meat notice 98/22 must specifically account for all E-in-Oval *or Pentagonal Wild Game Mark* *{inserted by 2000/12}* product. The inventory controls must be able to link carcass numbers to individual identification number of the animal and the accompanying EUVD *in the case of beef* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

Separation programmes must address the above points.

6. Separation in boning rooms

All production

7.1. Independent boning rooms must only source carcasses for boning for EU production from EU listed slaughter establishments and must be able to reconcile the EU product brought in to the accompanying meat transfer certificate (MTC).

(a) The accompanying MTC must have been signed by an AQIS officer and this should be checked and followed-up in the event that there is any doubt.

(b) Where a consignment of EU eligible product (with the E-in-Oval *or Pentagonal Wild Game* *{inserted by 2000/12}* official mark intact) arrives and the MTC has not been signed by an AQIS officer, this product should be retained, an investigation conducted and an incident report submitted.

Separation programmes for these establishments must address the sourcing of eligible carcasses and the reconciliation of carcasses to the appropriate MTC. A system for identifying carcasses to the accompanying MTC should be described.

7.2. It is preferred that EU production precedes non-EU production.

7.3. Changeover from EU production to non-EU production must be conducted in such a way that no non-EU product is placed on tables prior to all EU product being packed in cartons.

7.4. If non-EU production is completed first, there must be effective cleaning of product contact areas to prevent the mixing of EU and non-EU product.

(a) An effective clean down ensures that no non-EU eligible products can be mixed, or otherwise come in contact with EU eligible product.

(b) Particular attention should be paid to potential common contact points.

7.5. Both EU production and non-EU production runs must be positively identified.

7.6. In multiple line boning rooms, it is permissible to operate one or more lines for EU production whilst boning non-EU production on the remainder, provided that the EU line is positively identified and all procedures are EU compliant and there is no cross-contamination between EU and non-EU lines.

7.7. For centralised pack-off systems, there must be sufficient gap between EU eligible product and non-EU product so that there can be no possibility of mixing the two lines under any circumstances (including breakdowns).

Separation programmes must describe the identification of EU and non-EU production runs. Additionally, the separation programmes must describe procedures for ensuring that EU and non-EU meat is properly separated and how part cartons of EU meat will be handled to ensure that they are identified and separated from non-EU production (unsealed part cartons must be held under AQIS security when AQIS staff are not present on the establishment). For multiple line boning rooms, the separation programmes must address the identification of EU lines and any controls necessary to prevent mixing of product. Where companies elect to undertake EU production after non-EU production, the scope of the effective cleandown must be fully described in the separation programme, paying particular attention to common contact surfaces.

7.8. Vacuum packaged product must be positively identified up until the point of carton closure. Inserts may be used, but not displaying a facsimile of the AI official health mark or the E-in-Oval official mark, as these are not considered secure.

Separation programmes must describe the positive identification of vacuum packaged product.

7.9. Procedures must be documented to handle vacuum packaged product that must be re-bagged to ensure mixing with ineligible product does not occur.

7.10. Dropped meat procedures should be described to ensure that there can be no mixing between EU eligible and ineligible product (eg in multiple line boning rooms – separate table for EU dropped meat or similar arrangement).

Separation programmes must describe the separation of vacuum packaged product rebagging and dropped meat procedures to the extent that it is necessary to ensure no mixing between eligible and ineligible product occurs.

7.11. Eligible cartons are to be stamped with the E-in-Oval official mark *or Pentagonal Wild Game mark (where appropriate)* *{inserted by 2000/12}* and sealed with an official carton seal *bearing the appropriate official health mark* *{inserted by 2000/12}* see Section 15). *For non-wild game products, the end panel must also bear an impression of the Official Health Mark - these may be computer generated, but the means of generation must be under AQIS security after hours* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

7.12. The E-in-Oval official mark/*P*entagonal Wild Game mark *{altered by 2000/12}* and carton seals must be returned to AQIS security when the production run is complete and before non-EU production reaches packing stage.

Separation programmes must address the collection and return of the E-in-Oval official mark and the Official carton seal. Additionally, inventory control systems must reconcile the number of cartons produced against the number of carton seals used against the number of EU carcasses entering the boning room. The reconciliation should include lost, damaged, defective and destroyed carton seals and the circumstances relating to this.

8. Separation in further processing rooms

8.1. Independent processors of EU eligible meat products must only source meat for processing for EU markets from EU listed establishments (abattoirs, boning rooms or coldstores).

8.2. Inventory controls must be able to reconcile incoming meat with the accompanying MTC.

8.3. The accompanying MTC must have been signed by an AQIS officer and this should be checked and followed-up in the event that there is any doubt.

8.4. Where a consignment of EU eligible product (with the E-in-Oval official mark intact or pentagonal Wild Game mark) arrives and the MTC has not been signed by an AQIS officer, this product should be retained, an investigation conducted and an incident report submitted.

Separation programmes for these establishments must address the sourcing of eligible meat and the reconciliation of meat to the appropriate MTC. A system for identifying incoming carton meat and/or carcasses to the accompanying MTC should be described.

8.5. It is preferred that EU production is undertaken before non-EU production. If non-EU production does precede EU production, there must be an effective clean down between production runs.

(a) An effective clean down ensures that no non-EU eligible products can be mixed, or otherwise come in contact with EU eligible product.

(b) Particular attention should be paid to potential common contact points.

8.6. EU and non-EU production runs must be positively identified.

8.7. Eligible cartons are to be stamped with the E-in-Oval official mark *or Pentagonal Wild Game Mark (where appropriate)* *{inserted by 2000/12}* and sealed with an official carton seal *bearing the appropriate official health mark* *{inserted by 2000/12}* (see Section 15). *For non-wild game products, the end panel must also bear an impression of the Official Health Mark - these may be computer generated, but the means of generation must be under AQIS security after hours* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

8.8. Inventory controls must reconcile incoming eligible meat with the eligible product produced.

Separation programmes must address the collection and return of the E-in-Oval official mark, *Pentagonal Wild Game mark* *{inserted by 2000/12}* **and the Official carton seal. Additionally, inventory control systems must reconcile the number of cartons produced against the number of carton seals used against the amount of EU meat entering the production area. The reconciliation should include lost, damage, defective and destroyed carton seals and the circumstances relating to this.**

9. Separation at cold stores

9.1. EU storage areas must be clearly designated. There must be separate racks and stacks for EU eligible product. Product should be stored against the establishment number of the packing establishment.

9.2. Inventory controls must be able to link all product to the accompanying MTC.

9.3. The accompanying MTC must have been signed by an AQIS officer and this should be checked and followed-up in the event that there is any doubt.

9.4. Where a consignment of EU eligible product (with the E-in-Oval official mark/pentagonal Wild Game mark intact) arrives and the MTC has not been signed by an AQIS officer, this product should be retained, an investigation undertaken and an incident report submitted.

Separation programmes must clearly describe the separation and identification of EU eligible product within the coldstore, as well as the link between product and the applicable MTC.

10. Load-out

10.1. If EU product is being loaded for inter-establishment transfer in the same vehicle as non-EU product, there must be a physical barrier, such as shrinkwrap or boards, between the two categories of product.

10.2. Only EU eligible product is to be loaded out for export to the EU or movement to an EU listed establishment.

10.3. The E-in-Oval official mark/pentagonal Wild Game mark must be defaced, removed or obliterated if product loses its EU eligibility *and an Australia Approved Official Health Mark applied, if not already present* *{inserted by 2000/12}*. This need not be done provided the product is handled as EU up until container loading for export.

10.4. All EU load-outs are to be supervised by an AQIS officer (directly at independent establishments, generally at integrated plants).

10.5. EU product loaded for non-EU destinations need not be loaded under AQIS supervision, however, the officer authorising the RFP must note in the inspector's comments field that EU product has been loaded and the inventory controls (MTCs etc) must accurately reflect the destination of this product.

10.6. MTCs for EU eligible product must be signed by an AQIS officer and endorsed with the words "**This meat has been produced, stored, transported and despatched in accordance with EU requirements"**. The endorsement may be completed by a company official, but must be countersigned by the signing AQIS officer.

Separation programmes must describe the method for separating product on vehicles where applicable. They should describe a system for notifying AQIS when EU eligible load-outs are to take place.
For integrated establishments with fulltime AQIS presence, the AQIS staff MUST be notified of the intent to load out BEFORE loading begins. Product may be marshalled before AQIS is notified, but if loading commences before AQIS staff have the opportunity to verify the eligibility of the product to be loaded, the product must be unloaded so the AQIS inspector can verify the eligibility of the product.
For independent establishments, notification must be made to allow sufficient time for the presence of an AQIS officer to be arranged. Product may be marshalled prior to the arrival of the AQIS officer, however, if loading commences before AQIS staff have the opportunity to verify the eligibility of the product to be loaded, the product must be unloaded so the AQIS inspector can verify the eligibility of the product.

10.7. For product loaded for export –

(a) The exporter **MUST** use the Single Electronic Window option on EXDOC for RFPs covering edible product to an EU member country or its Territory.

(b) The RFP must be submitted and accepted via EXDOC prior to the inspection of the consignment by AQIS. A printout of the submitted RFP must be given to an AQIS officer **BEFORE** the load out commences. The RFP status should be one of the following – ORDR, INIT or FINL.

(c) If variations between the submitted RFP and the actual consignment occur during the load out of the product, the amendments must be sent via EXDOC and a new copy of the RFP supplied to the inspecting officer **PRIOR** to authorisation.

(d) The RFP may only be authorised by the inspecting AQIS officer (or where the inspecting AQIS officer does not have direct access to EXDOC, by a second AQIS officer acting on the confirmation of the inspecting AQIS officer). After authorisation, a new print out of the RFP (showing the status at INSP, HCRD or COMP, with the inspector user ID and statement regarding EU eligibility) must be provided to the inspecting AQIS officer within one working day of the RFP authorisation.

(e) The Export Permit Number (PIM number) will not be available until the RFP is authorised. It will be sent to Customs via the Single Electronic Window, which will generate a clear Export Clearance Number (ECN).

(f) EXIT clearance will not be available for product exported to EU markets after 30 June 2000. The use of PIA numbers will no longer be acceptable for edible meat to EU markets from 30 June. The Customs EXIT system will identify any PIA applications lodged after this date for these destinations and AQIS will not supply certification.

(g) The date of departure cannot be amended by the exporter after authorisation of the RFP. This can only done by AQIS documentation staff after written confirmation of the change of the departure date is provided by the exporter.

(h) Similarly, the health certificate description cannot be amended after authorisation.

(i) Health certificates must be printed on or prior to the nominated date of departure of the vessel. No amendments to the RFP by the exporter will be permitted after the after the date of departure.

(j) If the health certificate is not submitted in sufficient time to allow printing and signing on or before the departure date, AQIS will not issue the health certificate for any EU destination. The product will have to be diverted to a non-EU market or returned to Australia for re-inspection.

14. Other programmes

14.1. Separation programmes must be consistent with other approved programmes, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and HACCP. Where establishments hold MSQAs, the separation programme is to be integrated as an EU separation Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the approved MSQA.

Management are to review their separation programmes to ensure that they are consistent with this notice by 31 July 2000. Where no changes are identified as necessary, the separation programme must still be submitted to the AQIS ATM for verification that the programme is consistent with the requirements of this notice.

The separation programme must be reviewed at least annually by company management to ensure it continues to be practical and workable and implemented correctly.

15. Carton seals

15.1. All carton product (red meat, wild game, farmed game and ratites) destined for EU markets must have two carton seals, bearing the applicable official health mark.

15.2. On fresh meat and farmed game, the official health mark that will be applied will be the Australia Inspected (AI) official health mark.

15.2A On ratites, the official health mark that will be applied will be the Australia approved (AA) official health mark {inserted by 2000/12}.

15.3. On wild game, the official health mark that will be applied will be the Pentagonal Australia Approved official mark*{altered by 2000/12}*, as described in AQIS notice 97/14 *(referred to in this notice as the Pentagonal Wild Game Official Health Mark {inserted by 2000/12})*.

15.4. The seals must be applied so as to make each carton tamper evident. For example –

(a) One piece cartons will have one seal on all possible entry points (a minimum of two seals, but more may be required to cover all possible entry points – the reconciliation of product should account for this extra usage, if necessary).

(b) Two piece cartons (a lid and a base) will have two carton seals applied one on each side such that the seal overlaps lid and base.

15.5. These carton seals are accountable items and will be issued by AQIS for use only during an EU production run. At the completion of the production run, the carton seals must be returned to AQIS lock-up security.

15.6. A full reconciliation of the use of the carton seals will be required at the completion of each day.

Carton Reseals

15.7. Product opened for direct examination by an AQIS officer, or opened by company persons under the supervision of an AQIS officer must be resealed using an "AQIS Official Re-inspection Seal".

15.8. The re-seal must be applied next to the site of the removed seal in the same manner as the removed seal.

15.9. The re-seal must be endorsed with the applicable official health mark (Australia Inspected, *Australia Approved{inserted by 2000/12}* or *P*entagonal *Wild Game Mark {inserted by 2000/12}*) bearing the establishment number of the establishment where the examination was undertaken.

Reconciliation of Carton Re-seals

15.12. The reconciliation of carton re-seals must be maintained in the manner outlined above in a “Daily Issues – Carton Seals” (E252) maintained separately from the records maintained for the reconciliation of carton seals.

16. *O*fficial marks *{altered by 2000/12}*

16.1. The E-in-Oval official mark must be applied by rubber or metal stamp to all carcasses and cartons of EU eligible fresh meat, farmed game and ratite, in the manner described above within this notice.

16.2. The Pentagonal *Wild Game* *{inserted by 2000/12}* official health mark must be applied by rubber or metal stamp to all EU eligible wild game *carcasses and cartons* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

16.3. The design and size of the E-in-Oval official mark is as specified *in the relevant instrument of approval (for further information, contact AQIS Central Office)* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

16.4. The design and size of the Pentagonal official health mark for wild game is as specified in the PG(G)Os and AQIS Notice 97/14.

Approved Stamp manufacturers

16.5. All currently approved official stamp manufacturers are eligible to make the E-in-Oval official mark *and the Pentagonal Wild Game official health mark (if listed in their approved Code of Practice)* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

16.6. Only rubber or metal stamps of the E-in-Oval official mark *and the Pentagonal Wild Game official health mark* *{inserted by 2000/12}* are permitted.

16.7. The use of on-plant computer generated E-in-Oval official marks *or Pentagonal Wild Game official health marks* *{inserted by 2000/12}* is not permitted.

Security of the official marks {inserted by 2000/12}

16.8. Existing procedures for official mark issue and reconciliation must also be followed for the E-in-Oval official mark *and Pentagonal Wild Game official health marks* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

16.9. Companies must describe in their separation programmes the daily collection and return of E-in-Oval official marks *and Pentagonal Wild Game official health marks* *{inserted by 2000/12}*.

Abattoir Monitoring Sample Sizes for EU eligible cattle

Fortnightly EU eligible slaughter numbers	Fortnightly sample size
1 000	138
1 500	142
2 000	143
2 500	144
3 000	145
3 500	146
4 000	146
4 500	146
5 000	147
6 000	147
7 000	147
8 000	147
9 000	148
10 000	148
> 10 000	149

17.15. This can be done in one of two ways –

(a) Record either the RFID number or the NLIS number (the first is the number encoded on the chip in the device and can be read from the company reader; the second is the number printed on the outside of the tag) and verify that the company records demonstrate the eligibility of this number.

(b) Record either the RFID number or the NLIS number and independently verify eligibility on the NLIS database. Instruction on how to do this will follow.

17.16. At an integrated establishment, the AQIS veterinary officer must randomly monitor at least 2 production changeovers (from or to EU production) per week in each production area.

17.17. At independent boning and processing establishments, the AQIS officer must monitor all production changeovers (from or to EU production).

17.18. The E-in-Oval official mark, *the Pentagonal Wild Game official health mark* *{inserted by 2000/12}* and official Carton seals must be secured under AQIS lock-up security at the end of an EU production run (section 13).

17.18A Where computer generated official health marks (either the Australia Inspected or Australia Approved) are used, the means of generating the mark must be kept under AQIS lock-up security when AQIS is not present on the

establishment.

17.19. Additionally, AQIS inspectors are to ensure that all inspection requirements for EU product, as per the Export Meat Manual, Volume II – Essential Requirements, are carried out correctly. The OPVO is to monitor inspection procedures.

- **Load-out**

17.20. At establishments with full-time AQIS presence loading EU product during normal working hours, all EU load-outs must be under general AQIS supervision – shift hours are considered normal working hours on the establishment where shifts are undertaken.

17.21. At independent establishments without full-time AQIS presence and all establishments loading EU product outside normal working hours, all EU load-outs are to be directly supervised. Supervision commences with the pre-loading hygiene check of the container or transport unit.

17.22. Supervision should ensure that only EU eligible product is loaded out for EU destinations and that the requirements regarding separation of EU and non-EU product on transports detailed in the approved separation programmes are adhered to.

17.23. Meat Transfer Certificates (MTCs) for inter-establishment transfers may be completed by company personnel but must be signed by an AQIS officer. The AQIS officer must only sign the MTC if it has been endorsed with the words "**This meat has been produced, stored, transported and despatched in accordance with EU requirements".**

17.24. Product subsequently loaded out from a receiving establishment must be able to be reconciled with the accompanying MTC.

17.25. Where product is being loaded for export, AQIS staff must examine the load against the printout of the RFP provided by the company to ensure that the details of the consignment are correct. If variations in the details are detected during inspection, the RFP must be appropriately amended by the exporter. A new printout will be supplied by the exporter.

17.26. When the consignment details have been confirmed, the RFP can be authorised. This should take place as soon as possible after inspection, and must be done on the day of inspection.

17.27. If the inspecting officer does not have immediate access to EXDOC to enable timely validation, then the details (RFP number, container and seal number and confirmation of compliance with EU requirements) should be faxed to an AQIS officer at either the regional office where the health certificate is to be printed or an export establishment with EXDOC access. The faxed details must be validated with an impression of the departmental seal and the authorised officer's card number. The receiving officer should validate that RFP.