AQIS Notice Number		Airfreight Inspection Arrangements for Export Meat	
MEAT 2002/ 01			
NSFS Ref 17			
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Date of Effect	Date of Expiry		
15 January, 2002	Until Further Notice		

Distribution Category	Last Notice this Category	Distribution Category	Last Notice this Category
☑ Central & Regional Office	2001/21	☑ Managers, Export Meat Establishments	2001/21
☑ OIC Inspection staff Meat Establishments	2001/21	☑ Licensed Meat Exporters	2001/16
☑ Meat Inspection staff	2001/21	☐ Managers, Export Slaughtering 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 guidance on the handling of airfreights of export meat, the types of registration that will allow export facilities to handle airfreights and the restrictions that will apply to each type of registration.

SCOPE

This notice applies to all establishments in the transport/storage chain for the export of meat by airfreight.

BACKGROUND

Controls on airfreight cargoes of export meat are poorly enunciated and understood. As the final point of the export supply chain, weaknesses in this system can adversely reflect on the overall integrity of the Australian Meat Inspection Programme and could lead to market access failure.

Particular points of concern relate to the transiting of airfreights through handling facilities for loading into final air transport containers. The levels of control exercised by AQIS over freight forwarders and cold stores has varied.

Other issues relate to the transport of airfreights between capital cities, prior to final loading and the controls that exist to ensure the integrity of the product is not compromised.

The procedures and export registrations described in this notice have resulted after consultation with the relevant cargo handling sectors.

IMPLEMENTATION

The procedures outlined in this notice are to be implemented from 15 January 2002 – from this date, ATMs should forward to AQIS Central Office recommendations for listing in the categories described in this notice. Current arrangements and new arrangements will be allowed to run concurrently until 15 February 2002, after which only the arrangements outline in this notice will be permitted.

John Dorian
Program Manager
Meat Inspection Program
AQIS

Container Terminal Operations (CTOs)

A **CTO** is the final handling point for Airfreight cargo. Located at or near an airport, the **CTO** loads airfreights into aircraft prior to dispatch.

A **CTO** has the following features –

- It is registered with AQIS (Operations – Load and Assemble Airfreight Containers).

- It holds no overseas listings and can handle all export meat types to be airfreighted, regardless of destination.

- It can only accept airfreight for final loading into aircraft.

- It cannot consolidate loads.

- It verifies whether the load requires a Meat Transfer Certificate (MTC – an MTC is not required for product coming from an Airport Transit Facility, or an establishment acting as an ATF – see later) and maintains records.

- Where an airfreight is accompanied by an MTC, a **responsible person**[1] will return the pink copy of the MTC to the consigning establishment and file the white copy.

- Where an airfreight is accompanied by an MTC, the **responsible person** will verify the integrity of the load (transport details, temperatures loggers etc) and keep records.

- Where an airfreight is accompanied by an MTC, the consigning establishment raises and validates the RFP, in accordance with the market eligibility of the product (eg EU).

- It is audited every six months by an AQIS Area Technical Manager (ATM).

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[1] A **CTO** currently has an authorised signatory, so authorised under the Quarantine Act. These people will be acting as the **responsible person** for the purpose of handling MTCs etc at these establishments.

Airport Transit Facility (ATF)

An **ATF** is a facility for loading product into airfreight containers prior to dispatch to the **CTO**. An **ATF** *must* be within 2 hours of a **CTO**.

An **ATF** has the following features –

- It is registered with AQIS (Operations – Load Meat into Airfreight Containers, Hold Meat: Chilled or Frozen). The facility must comply with relevant construction and equipment guidelines.

- It holds no overseas listings and can handle all export meat products regardless of destination.

- It can operate with or without a Meat Safety Quality Assurance (MSQA) Arrangement.

    - If it does not hold an MSQA, it must have AQIS presence for every loadout.

    - If it does hold an MSQA, it may undertake operations without AQIS presence.

- It must have an approved security programme.

- It cannot issue MTCs.

- It cannot raise or validate Requests for Permits (RFPs).

- It cannot hold product for longer than 72 hours.

- It cannot consolidate loads.

- It must be within 2 hours travelling time (by road) of the **CTO**.

- Airfreight cargo only transits an **ATF** – shipments must be prescribed loads accompanied by a validated RFP. Such loads are considered to be exported – the controls on ATFs and CTOs are designed to ensure that the integrity of the product is maintained whilst it remains physically in Australia.

- Consignments from an **ATF** may only go to a **CTO** and are not accompanied by an MTC.

- Incoming loads must arrive on an MTC – a **responsible person** will verify the integrity of the load (transport details, temperatures loggers etc), keep records and return the pink copy of the MTC to the consigning establishment and file the white copy.

- It must keep records of all consignments.

- It is audited every six months by an AQIS ATM.

Freight Forwarders (FFs)

Freight forwarders are similar to **ATFs** but have increased capacity to raise and validate RFPs and send product to other registered establishments that are greater than two hours travelling time away (by road).

An **FF** has the following features –

- It is registered with AQIS (Operations – Load Meat into Airfreight Containers, Hold Meat Commodities: Chilled or Frozen, Validation of Meat RFPs). The facility must comply with relevant construction and equipment guidelines.

- It must hold overseas listings – where overseas listing require, it must have procedures in place for handling product relevant to those listings (eg EU).

- It must have an MSQA.

- It must have an approved security programme.

- It can issue MTCs – an **FF** may dispatch consignments to any registered establishment on an MTC. Where it is consigning product on an MTC to other registered establishments, it must handle product in accordance with the requirements of its overseas listings.

- It can raise and validate RFPs – where it has consigned product to a **CTO** greater than two hours travelling time, it must raise and validate the final RFP.

- It can consolidate loads.

- It is not registered to hold product for longer than 72 hours.

- Where an FF functions as an **ATF**, ie, it is within 2 hours travelling time of a **CTO,** it can accept prescribed loads from other establishments accompanied by a validated RFP for loading into an airfreight container. Where it is acting purely as an **ATF**, it can handle all export meat products, regardless of overseas listings and without specific regard to overseas listing requirements.

- It must keep records of all consignments.

- It is audited in accordance with its overseas listings, by an AQIS ATM.

Coldstores

Coldstores have full functionality to store and export product. In addition, if they hold an approved MSQA, they can act as **ATFs**, irrespective of their overseas listings.

A **Coldstore** has the following features –

- It is registered with AQIS. (Operations – Load Meat into Airfreight Containers, Hold Meat Commodities: Chilled or Frozen, Validation of Meat RFPs, Store Meat Commodity - Frozen)

- It must hold overseas listings – where overseas listing require, it must have procedures in place for handling product relevant to those listings (especially EU).

- It must have an MSQA (where it also wishes to act as an ATF – MSQAs are not mandatory for cold stores that do not wish to undertake this function).

- It must have an approved security programme.

- It can issue MTCs. It can only issue an MTC for product that arrived on an MTC – prescribed verification checks under the MSQA must be carried out on arrival and the MTC reconciled under normal procedures. Inventory procedures must account for all product.

- It can raise and validate RFPs – where it has consigned product to a **CTO** greater than two hours travelling time it must raise and validate the final RFP.

- It can hold and store product in accordance with the requirements of the Export Meat Orders.

- Where a **coldstore** functions as an **ATF**, ie, it is within 2 hours travelling time of a **CTO,** it can accept prescribed loads from other establishments accompanied by a validated RFP for loading into an airfreight container. Where it is acting purely as an **ATF**, it can handle all export meat products, regardless of overseas listings.

- It must keep records of all consignments.

- It is audited in accordance with its overseas listings, by an AQIS ATM.

Summary

The preceding provides a four level hierachy – each level of the hierarchy has enhanced functionality in comparison to the level preceding it. Points of particular note are –

CTO

- A **CTO** has the simplest function – merely receiving product and loading into airplanes.

ATF

- An **ATF** has the next simplest functional scope – it can only accept product that has already been exported, that is, it is a prescribed load properly described on a validated RFP. The **ATF** cannot make any changes to this load, can only stack it in the final transport container and send it to a **CTO** within two hours travel time and can only hold it for 72 hours maximum. It can handle all meat products regardless of destination.

Freight forwarder

- The additional functionality ascribed to a **freight forwarder** is that it can, under an MTC, send product to destinations greater than two hours travelling time and raise and validate the RFP for that product. When it is handling product in this manner, it must do so in accordance with its overseas listings, however, when acting strictly as an **ATF**, and in accordance with the restrictions placed on an **ATF**, it can handle any product.

Coldstore

- The additional functionality, not possessed by a **freight forwarder**, but ascribed to a **Coldstore** is the ability to store product for periods exceeding 72 hours. All establishments that have a cold storage registration (including integrated slaughter/boning/processing establishments) can function as described herein. Again, when a **Coldstore** is acting as an **ATF**, it can handle any product regardless of overseas listings. When acting in any other capacity (storage, forwarding product to destinations other than a **CTO** or greater than two hours travelling time), it can only do so in accordance with the procedures and requirements dictated by its overseas listings.

All (when acting as ATF)

- Where a facility is acting as an **ATF**, it can handle EU product without the requirement for an AQIS presence at loadout, unless the facility is a registered solely as an **ATF** and does not hold an approved MSQA – these establishments require at AQIS presence at all loadouts.

The following table summarises the functionality of the various registrations.

	CTO	ATF	FF	Coldstore
Registered with AQIS	✓	✓	✓	✓
Country Listings	✗	✗	✓	✓
MSQA	No	Optional	Essential	Essential
Function as ATF	✗	✓	✓	✓
Issue MTC	✗	✗	✓	✓
Raise/Validate RFP	✗	✗	✓	✓
Send to facility other than CTO	✗	✗	✓	✓
Operate greater than two hours travelling time from CTO	✗	✗	✓	✓
Store product greater than 72 hours	✗	✗	✗	✓

Relationship between consigning establishments, facilities acting as ATFs and CTOs.

> 2 hours travel time

< 2 hours travel time

Raises and Validates RFP,
Handles product in accordance with
overseas listings

All Product, <72 hours,
Prescribed load on validated
RFP
Places product in final transport
container

Processing
Establishment

Coldstore

Freight
Forwarder
Eg in Vic.

Airport
Transit
Facility
Eg in Sydney

Container
Terminal
Operation

May be registered Air
Transit Facility, *or*
Freight Forwarder or
Coldstore acting as
Airport transit Facility.

Loads
Airplanes