

MEDIA RELEASE

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IMMEDIATE CHANGES TO RUSSIAN MARKET ACCESS FOR THE BEEF INDUSTRY

Red Meat Advisory Council Ltd can confirm recent media reports that, in late 2013, Russian Authorities detected traces of trenbolone acetate (TBA), an active ingredient in some hormone growth promotants (HGP), in Australian product. This has resulted in disruption to Russian market access for a number of Australian exporters.

The Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, together with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have been working with Russian Authorities to clarify their import requirements.

The Australian Government has confirmed that Australian exporters are required to ensure they only source cattle that are HGP-free when processing meat and offal products for export to Russia.

In response, the industry has moved swiftly to refine systems that will ensure all product destined for Russia is HGP-free. For the livestock production sector, there are no changes to the safeguards already in-place to differentiate livestock based on their HGP status, all of which are subject to audit and verification:

- Producer's using the Livestock Production Assurance National Vendor Declaration (LPA NVD) must declare if cattle consigned have ever been treated with HGPs.
- State and Territory legislation requires cattle producers to permanently identify HGP-treated cattle with a triangular ear mark.
- All HGPs include a palpable marker to aid the detection of treated cattle throughout the supply chain, in accordance with their registration requirements with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA),

Russia's HGP-free requirement is separate - but in addition - to their existing specification for product being free of the antibiotic agents, oxytetracycline or chlortetracycline. A 90-day Provisional Russian Export Slaughter Interval (ESI) remains on products and feed containing oxytetracycline or chlortetracycline, unless otherwise determined by APVMA.



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Producers who do not use products or feed containing oxytetracycline or chlortetracycline, or who comply with the 90 day ESI (or the ESI specified by APVMA) must continue to write the words 'Russian Eligible' on the LPA NVD/Waybill for cattle in Question 9.

For consignments described on the latest 2013 LPA NVD, Question 6 now includes the Provisional Russian ESI and, once answered, does not need 'Russian Eligible' to be written.

Australian processors will continue to use the LPA NVD information to direct product in accordance with the requirements of the importing country. Processors will ensure product derived from cattle certified for the Russian market is supported by an LPA NVD on which the consignor has:

- Answered 'No' to Question 1 *'Have any of the cattle in this consignment ever in their lives been treated with a hormonal growth promotant (HGP)'; and,*
- Written 'Russian Eligible' in Question 9 *'Additional Information'*, or for consignments described on a 2013 LPA NVD, where the producer has answered 'No' to Question 6.

RMAC Export Processing Director, David Larkin, believes the industry as a whole is well placed to meet any customer country's requirements, because of the systems we have in place.

"Industry representatives will continue to work closely with the Department of Agriculture and Russian counterparts to minimise any further disruption to Russian market access for Australian exporters and producers". Mr Larkin said.

Producers seeking any further information on this matter should contact their processor or local agent.

ENDS

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