



Proposed amendment to requirements relating to Live Animal Export Microchipping

MPI Discussion Paper No: 2019/2

Prepared for all exporters of cats, dogs, and horses
By the MPI Food & Live Animal Assurance Team

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1 Submission

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) invites your comment on this discussion paper, which proposes certain changes to the requirements relating to microchipping of live animals as specified under the Animal Products (Export Requirements - Cats and Dogs) Notice 2012.

The proposed changes relate specifically to the export of live horses where an official assurance is required. While all other requirements in the Notice remain unchanged, the structure has been amended and some provisions have been reworded for uniformity and clarification purposes.

Consultation closes on Monday 6 May 2019 at 5:00 pm.

1.1 HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

MPI encourages submitters to make their submission electronically so please email your submission to: food.assurance@mpi.govt.nz.

If you choose to convey your submission in writing, it should be posted to the following address:

Amendments – Export Requirements for Live Animals Microchipping
Food & Live Animal Assurance Team (Level 11 TSB Tower)
PO Box 2526
Wellington

Please include the following information in your submission:

- the title and number of the discussion document;
- your name and title (if applicable);
- your organisation's name (if applicable); and
- your address.

The following points may be of assistance in preparing comments:

- where possible, comment should be specific to a particular section in the document. All major sections are numbered and these numbers should be used to link comments to the document;
- where possible, reasons and data to support comments may be provided;
- the use of examples to illustrate particular points is encouraged;
- as a number of copies may be made of your comments, please use good quality type, or make sure the comments are clearly hand-written in black or blue ink.

1.2 SUBMISSIONS ARE PUBLIC INFORMATION

Note, that any submission you make becomes public information. People can ask for copies of submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA says we have to make submissions available unless we have good reasons for withholding them. That is explained in sections 6 and 9 of the OIA.

Tell us if you think there are grounds to withhold specific information in your submission. Reasons might include that it's commercially sensitive or it's personal information. However, any decision MPI makes to withhold information can be reviewed by the Ombudsman, who may tell us to release it.

1.3 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

MPI will consider all submission after consultation has closed and a recommendation will be made to the relevant decision maker about the final version of the proposed Notice to be issued. A summary of submissions and analysis will be sent to all submitters and posted on the MPI website.

The new Notice is scheduled to be issued on Friday 31 May 2019.

Indicative timeframes

Key dates	Action
Monday 8 April 2019	Consultation starts
Monday 6 May 2019	Consultation closes (4 weeks consultation)
Monday 20 May 2019	Consideration of submissions (2 weeks)
Monday 27 May 2019	Final review (1 week)
Friday 31 May 2019	Notice is issued

2 Background

The Animal Products (Export Requirements - Cats and Dogs) Notice 2012 (the Notice) specifies requirements in relation to the processing of the following two types of animals for export to countries for which official assurances are required:

- (a) dogs
- (b) cats

Since the intended importing countries require official assurances, it is necessary that the process of exporting these animals are subject to certain requirements that:

- (a) appropriately manage any associated risks; and
- (b) safeguard the integrity of associated official assurances; and
- (c) are in accordance with, or can reasonably be expected to satisfy, the requirements of the relevant authority of importing countries.

MPI proposes to amend the Notice. The proposed changes under consultation specifically relate to export of live horses with official assurances, and exporter being responsible for ensuring the animals are microchipped prior to issuing an official assurance. All other requirements in the Notice remain unchanged although, as stated, the structure of the Notice and the wording of some provisions have been amended for uniformity and clarification purposes. The proposed amended Notice is published in conjunction with this discussion document.

If the proposed changes are adopted after consultation, the amended notice will be issued, revoking and replacing the Animal Products (Export Requirements - Cats and Dogs) Notice 2012.

To assist readers and submitters, the specific provisions in the Notice that are under consultation are highlighted.

3 Summary of proposed changes

For a quick overview, the following table summarises the changes under consultation.

Issue/Subject	Proposal
Live horses exported with an official assurance are required are to be microchipped	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the purposes of identification for verification and certification all horses intended for export where an official assurance is required are to be microchipped.
The exporter is responsible for recording the microchip details appropriately, and make them readily available to reference for verification and certification purposes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the purposes of verification and certification, the microchip details must be in the control of a registered exporter who is able to provide these details in a reasonable timeframe.

4 Proposed changes

4.1 LIVE HORSES EXPORTED WITH AN OFFICIAL ASSURANCE ARE REQUIRED ARE TO BE MICROCHIPPED

Proposal

MPI proposes that the requirement for the export of live horses accompanied by an official assurance are to be microchipped as explicitly specified in the Notice.

Exporters are responsible for ensuring a horse is implanted with a microchip prior to issuing an official assurance. The exporter is responsible for recording the microchip details appropriately, and to have the microchip details readily available to reference for verification and certification purposes.

Rationale

Requiring horses that are exported with an official assurance to be microchipped will provide more accurate verification and certification during the export process. Verifiers and certifiers have noted the difficulty with using branding and silhouettes that are not distinct enough for accurate identification. This issue have also been raised by the border inspection staff of overseas competent authorities.

The use of microchipping for the purposes of accurate identification has been proven to contribute to a robust certification system, with close to 4000 successful consignments of cats and dogs being exported from New Zealand in 2018 using microchip scanning.

MPI seeks more harmonious standards for importing and exporting horses. All horses imported into New Zealand are required to be microchipped for the purposes of accurate identification, the proposed amendment to the notice shall bring the two requirements into alignment.

Question 1: Do you agree with this proposal to specify the requirements for horses that are exported with an official assurance are to be implanted with a microchip for the purposes of identification?

4.2 THE EXPORTER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RECORDING THE MICROCHIP DETAILS APPROPRIATELY, AND MAKE THE DETAILS READILY AVAILABLE FOR THE PURPOSES OF VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

Proposal

When a microchip is implanted, the registered exporter is to record the animal details including the microchip appropriately. When a representative of a recognised agency or an MPI official require the information for the purposes of verification or certification, the exporter is able to provide this information available in a reasonable timeframe.

Rationale

The exporter having the microchip information readily available for reference for verification and certification purposes has proven to contribute to a roust certification process in the dogs and cats space.

Question 2: Do you agree with this proposal that the exporter must record the microchip details and make this information readily available for the purposes of verification and certification?

5 Submissions

You may compile your submissions by answering the questions in this discussion document or commenting on any provisions in the proposed notice relating to microchipping of horses.

MPI recommends that the body of your submission is set out in a format that is identical or similar to the table in Annex 1 below.

Annex 1: Recommended table of submissions

If you prefer to make your submission by responding to the questions in this discussion paper, you may write down your answer and any additional comments to each question in the format below.

Question number in the discussion paper	Comments
1	
2	

If you prefer to make your submission by commenting on specific clauses in the draft amended Notice, you may write down your comments in the format below.

Clause(s) in the Notice	Comments