



A Guide to Homekill and Recreational Catch

Animal Products Act 1999



Title

Guidance Document: *A Guide to Homekill and Recreational Catch*

About this document

This guide explains the requirements of the Animal Products Act 1999 in relation to homekill and recreational catch. It also includes key information on animal welfare and recommendations for food safety.

Related Requirements

Animal Products Act 1999, Part 6

Homekill and Recreational Catch Service Provider Records and Other Information Notice issued on 27 January 2015

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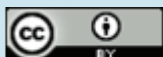
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Homekill and Recreational Catch

Quick facts for:



Animal owners

If you own animals, you can:

- kill and process them on your own property for your own use or consumption (including your family and household);
- pay someone else (a listed service provider) to do this for you, as long as you've been actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of the animals or animals of the same kind for at least 28 days immediately preceding its slaughter;
- provide product to certain farm employees;
- not trade the product, other than any parts that are not for human or animal consumption.



Recreational hunters, fishers

If you hunt game or catch fish you can:

- process it yourself on your own property or at or close to the place where the game or fish was caught, for your own use or consumption (including members of the hunting party, your family or household);
- pay someone else (a listed service provider) to do this for you;
- not trade the product, other than any parts that are not for human or animal consumption.

If you hunt animals recreationally on a game estate, similar rules apply.



Service providers

If you kill or process this type of product for others, and you are paid to do so, you must:

- list with MPI each year as a homekill and recreational catch service provider;
- keep prescribed records of what you do and have systems to identify these products.



Dual operator butchers

If you process regulated meat and homekill and recreational catch at the same place, you must:

- be listed as a homekill and recreational catch service provider;
- have a registered risk management programme for your processing of regulated meat;
- keep regulated meat and homekill and recreational catch separate and return it to the animal owner.

Introduction

This guide is intended to provide information about homekill and recreational catch. You should read this guide if you are:

- wanting to use or consume homekill or recreational catch;
- an animal owner, for example a farmer, lifestyle block owner or recreational hunter;
- a homekill and recreational catch service provider or want to be listed as one.

The Animal Products Act 1999 (“the Act”) regulates the production, processing and supply of animal material and animal products for reward and/or the purposes of trade. Its purpose is to ensure all traded animal products are fit for their intended purpose, and to facilitate entry of animal products to overseas markets.

Homekill and recreational catch products are not processed in accordance with these strict safeguards and so cannot be traded for human or animal consumption. Part 6 of the Act makes special provision for these products by stating that nothing prevents the slaughter and processing of homekill and recreational catch either by the person whose animal it is or by a listed service provider, and by imposing restrictions to ensure these products cannot be traded or exported, or mingled with products that are for trade or export.

If you slaughter, process or use homekill or recreational catch, you must familiarise yourself with Part 6 and Part 10 of the Act and comply with any requirements of the Act that apply to you.

As homekill and recreational catch is not subject to the same strict hygiene, processing and inspection controls that apply to meat or fish you would buy at a butcher, fishmonger or supermarket for example, you use or consume these products at your own risk.



Why these rules are essential

Many New Zealand farmers kill and consume their own stock, while many more Kiwis enjoy recreational hunting and fishing. The associated slaughtering and processing services are also significant rural activities.

The Act balances our desire to carry out these activities with the need to make sure all animal products for sale are safe and wholesome, and our export trade is not jeopardised.

The Act does this by distinguishing between:

- regulated animal products, which are subject to a range of controls and which can be traded; and
- unregulated animal products, such as homekill and recreational catch products, which must not be traded.

This guide explains what the law allows you to do depending on your role in the process. It also refers to the relevant animal traceability, welfare and disposal of meat processing waste requirements and provides some food safety guidelines.

What the terms mean

Key terms are defined as follows. All references are to sections or parts of the Act.

Homekill means an animal that:

- is killed (whether personally or by an agent) by its owner for the use or consumption of the owner, in terms of section 67; and
- is processed either by its owner or by another person under section 69, and not in compliance with Parts 2 to 4.

Homekill product has a corresponding meaning.

A homekill and recreational catch service provider is a person listed as such under section 76 of the Act. This is a person or business who provides slaughtering and/or processing services for reward to animal owners for homekill, or to hunters, fishers or other harvesters for recreational catch.

Own property, in relation to an animal owner, means land which the owner:

- owns or leases; or
- has a legal right to occupy or use, and does in fact occupy, or use to conduct farming or similar operations.

Recreational catch means a wild animal that:

- is killed, captured, taken, or harvested by a recreational hunter or fisher, or other person undertaking similar recreational activities (including a client hunter killing or catching an animal on a game estate, as if in the wild), for the use or consumption of the hunter, fisher, or other person in terms of section 68;
- is processed either by its catcher or by another person under section 69, and not in compliance with Parts 2 to 4.

Recreational catch product has a corresponding meaning.

Trade means sell for human or animal consumption or use; and includes:

- selling for resale (including as a constituent part of another article) for human or animal consumption or use;

- offering or attempting to sell, or receiving for sale, or having in possession or exposing for sale, or sending or delivering for sale, or causing or permitting to be sold, offered, or exposed for sale;
- barter;
- supplying an article under a contract, together with other goods or services or both, in consideration of an inclusive charge for the article and the other goods or services;
- supplying an article where there is a statutory responsibility to supply;
- offering as a public prize or reward, or giving away for the purpose of advertisement or in the furtherance of any trade or business;
- every other method of disposition for valuable consideration.



Homekill and recreational catch: what is involved

Homekill basics

If you own animals and want to engage in homekill, nothing in the Act prevents you from:

- killing your animals humanely yourself on your own property; or
- hiring a listed homekill or recreational catch service provider to do this for you, either at your property or theirs, if you have been actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal, or animals of the same kind, for at least 28 days immediately preceding its slaughter (refer to *When you can hire a service provider* on page 7).

This is as long as the resulting product is for the use or consumption of yourself, including members of your family or household, farm employees and is not for trade.

It is illegal to “select and slaughter” (where you select an animal from a farmer and then immediately slaughter it before taking the meat away). It is also illegal for a farmer to let you slaughter an animal on his or her property if he or she knows you have not been engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal, or animals of the same kind, for at least 28 days immediately preceding its slaughter. Farmers who effectively sell homekill material or product by allowing purchasers to select and slaughter may also be prosecuted for selling non-complying animal material or product.

As homekill cannot be traded for human or animal consumption:

- Homekill meat cannot be sold, bartered, served to paying customers as part of an inclusive charge (e.g. at bed and breakfasts, or lodges), supplied where there is a statutory responsibility to supply (e.g. hospitals, prisons), offered as a public prize or reward (e.g. raffles), given away for the purposes of advertisement or other promotional purposes, or disposed of for valuable consideration in any other way.
- However, anything that is not for human or animal consumption (e.g. an animal’s hide, skin, horns or antlers) may be traded. Waste material such as fat, offal and bone should be responsibly disposed of and may also be traded or disposed of to a renderer.

We explain these requirements further in the rest of this chapter.

Recreational catch basics

If you hunt, catch or harvest game or fish as recreational catch, nothing in the Act prevents you from:

- killing the animal as part of this activity;
- killing and processing it yourself on your own property or at or near the place where you hunted or harvested the animal; or
- having the animal killed or processed by a listed homekill or recreational catch service provider. This can be on your own property, at their premises, or at or near the place where you hunted or harvested the animal.

This is as long as the resulting product is for the use or consumption of yourself, members of the hunting party or members of your family or household, and is not for trade.

As for homekill, recreational catch product cannot be traded for human or animal consumption. Anything not for human or animal consumption (e.g. hides, feathers or a trophy head) may be traded and any waste material may be traded or disposed of to a renderer.

There are special provisions for recreational catch from game estates, as explained overleaf.

Customary catch can be treated as recreational catch

Customary catch authorised under the Fisheries Act 1996 is to be treated as recreational catch as long as it is used for the purpose for which the catch was authorised.



Special provisions for game estates

Game estates are places where animals are kept, either some or all of the time, so people have the opportunity to hunt or catch them as if these animals were in the wild.

The provisions relating to recreational catch from game estates are contained in section 65C of the Act:

- Client hunters may kill or process a game estate animal themselves, either on the game estate or on their own property, or have it processed by a listed homekill or recreational catch service provider.
- A game estate operator may carry out limited processing of recreational catch for their clients, such as removing trophy heads or skinning the killed animals. A game estate operator may also prepare and serve the recreational catch as a meal to the hunter and members of their hunting party.
- A game estate operator who wants to carry out more extensive processing must become a listed homekill or recreational catch service provider.

Game estate operators may also:

- have any game estate animal from their estate (whether or not caught or killed by a client hunter) killed or processed by a listed homekill or recreational catch service provider for their own use or consumption (including members of their family or household);
- sell or otherwise dispose of any parts of a game estate animal (including skins, hides, and trophy

heads) that are not for human or animal consumption;

- trade or dispose of waste materials to a renderer.

If you operate a game estate

Your legal obligations are set out in Part 5A of the Act. These include listing as a game estate operator with MPI in certain circumstances. This is a separate requirement from listing as a homekill or recreational catch service provider.

To find out more go to the MPI website and search on “game estate”.

Who may use and consume homekill and recreational catch

Homekill is only specifically exempt from the requirements of the Act if it is for the use or consumption of the animal owner, including his or her family and household. It may also be supplied to his or her farm workers for their use or consumption and that of their families and households.

Similarly, recreational catch is only specifically exempt from the requirements of the Act if it is for the use or consumption of the catcher, including his or her hunting party, family and household.

Homekill and recreational catch for human or animal consumption must not be exchanged for money, goods or services, or traded in any other way. Trading homekill or recreational catch is an offence.

Table 1: Examples of who may or may not use and consume homekill and recreational catch

User or consumer	Notes
You as the animal owner or its hunter/catcher	Can use and consume
Your family and household	Can use and consume. This generally applies to family members (grandparents, parents and children), and any other people living within the household, as long as there is no element of trade.
For homekill: your farm workers, their families and households	Farmers can supply homekill product to their farm employees. However, the farm employee must be employed in an ongoing manner in the farmer's daily farming operations. This does not include service providers such as accountants, veterinarians or farm machinery salespeople.
For recreational catch: You and members of your hunting party	A restaurant, hunting lodge or game estate can serve a meal of your fish or game to you and members of your hunting party. However, it cannot serve this food to other guests.
Paying guests e.g. as part of an accommodation package	You cannot serve homekill or recreational catch to paying guests as this would constitute trade. Paying guests include people who pay board, fees or other forms of payment as part of an accommodation package. This means you cannot use these products in meals supplied to customers as part of a tourist package (e.g. for farm stays, hunting lodges or tourist barbecues) except as described above for recreational catch.

If you are considering serving homekill or recreational catch at a marae, you need to decide whether the occasion is traditional/cultural, commercial or social. Whatever it is, no trading of homekill meat or recreational catch is legal. Trade will take place where any money, goods, services and/or other valuable consideration is received in exchange for providing the meal. For example:

- in the traditional context (e.g. activities within the iwi or hapu, including hui, tangihanga and unveilings), the assumption is that there is no element of trading. Homekill meat and recreational catch can be used;
- in the commercial context, including hui held for other organisations, it is assumed that money will have changed hands – even if this is in the form of a koha (Inland Revenue Department policy on GST and taxation of koha can provide guidance on what is a “commercial” activity). Meat supplied for commercial activity must be from the regulated system: i.e. from a registered abattoir or retail outlet;
- in the social context, there is a mix of situations and each would need to be considered by marae members on its merits. Generally, if money or anything else of value changes hands, homekill meat or recreational catch should not be used, even if the participants are aware that this is being offered.

Where animals can be slaughtered and processed

If you are an animal owner of farmed animals you can slaughter and process your own animal on your own property. This includes any property that you own or lease; or any property you have a legal right to occupy or use, and do in fact occupy, or use to conduct farming or similar operations. Recreational catch may be killed or processed on your own property or at or near the place where the animal was hunted or harvested.

However, you must also check your local authority bylaws and consider other potentially relevant legislation such as the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Health Act 1956 to make sure there are no other rules preventing you from carrying out slaughter and processing on your own property.

If you live in a town or city it is particularly important to check with your local authority whether you can slaughter or process animals on your property. Backyard slaughter is generally not permitted in these areas.

If you engage a listed homekill or recreational catch service provider (see *When you can hire a service provider*) they can slaughter the animal either on your property or at their own premises or property.

The Act allows anyone to kill an animal in any location if this is necessary for humane reasons. For example, you may need to kill an animal at the roadside if it is badly injured in an accident. If this happens, you can treat the resulting product as homekill.

Processing your animal as regulated meat product

You can also choose to have your animal slaughtered and butchered at a registered processing premises rather than by a listed homekill and recreational catch service provider.

The resulting product will not be homekill but regulated meat, as it will have met all the required processing requirements. However, if you or a homekill or recreational catch service provider processes this meat any further (for example, into sausages), the resulting product will no longer be regulated meat.

When you can hire a service provider

Only animal owners actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of an animal, or other animals of the same kind, for at least 28 days immediately preceding slaughter, may engage a listed service provider to kill and process that animal.

- The term “animal owner” can include a company or other entity that the person submitting the animal is acting on behalf of.
- Active engagement means being actively involved in looking after the animal or animals of the same kind for at least 28 days immediately preceding its slaughter (“the 28 day rule”). As an example of the meaning of being actively engaged, the person should be in sufficiently close proximity to conduct regular inspections of their animals; checking the adequacy of shelter, food, water, for any pests or diseases, and the animal’s general health. The person must be readily available to provide input or assistance to the animal if needed.

Because other animals of the same kind are included in this definition, this allows you (as a farmer) to buy an animal and have it slaughtered straightaway by a listed service provider without needing to look after it for at least 28 days beforehand. For example, a dairy farmer could buy a cattle beast for immediate slaughter by a service provider.

Select and slaughter is prohibited

“Select and slaughter” is a term used for the practice whereby people purchase live animals and immediately slaughter them, or have them slaughtered, for the ultimate purpose of purchasing meat, other than through the regulated system.

Select and slaughter activities undermine the Act by allowing people to effectively engage in trade of unregulated animal products. Product that can be traded is subject to a number of controls and restrictions which are for the purpose of protecting public health and New Zealand’s trading reputation. The Act seeks to prevent this practice by imposing restrictions on who can slaughter and process homekill, or present it for processing, and at what location.

Except as outlined in *When can you hire a service provider*, the Act prohibits anyone from buying an animal (for example from a farmer, off a trading website or from a sales yard) and slaughtering or having it slaughtered immediately so they can then take the meat away.

It is also illegal for someone (including a farmer) to provide facilities and equipment for anyone to slaughter the animal at their property if they know that the person has not been engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal or animals of the same kind for the preceding 28 days.

It is not illegal for someone to buy an animal and then slaughter or process it on their own property.

Select and slaughter could impact on public health and New Zealand’s trading status because:

- those who could take advantage of this type of activity would not have had an involvement in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal and therefore would not have the knowledge about the animal that would allow them to make an informed decision as to the fitness of that animal for consumption. This

raises potential public health and safety concerns;

- an increase in the level of illegal activity, and therefore the amount of unregulated product available, increases the potential for such product to enter the regulated system. This could threaten New Zealand’s access status for some markets.

An increase in select and slaughter brings potential flow-on problems of disposal of waste, difficulty of trace-back should health consequences arise, or animal welfare concerns if inexperienced people are slaughtering animals.

One impact of an increase in these illegal activities could be an increased level of compliance checks and monitoring of the homekill and recreational catch sector to manage these potential risks to human health and New Zealand’s market access status.

Strict penalties for select and slaughter

A person buying (“selecting”) the animal can be prosecuted if he or she slaughters it on any property other than his or her own property, or if he or she presents it to a homekill and recreational catch service provider without meeting the “28 day rule”. The maximum penalty upon conviction for this offence is a fine of up to \$75,000 for an individual or up to \$300,000 for a body corporate.

The person providing the service can be subject to even greater penalties. If you are a homekill and recreational catch service provider and you provide slaughter or processing services for an animal owner who you know has not been involved in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal, or animals of the same kind, for at least 28 days immediately preceding its slaughter, the maximum penalties upon conviction are:

- for an individual, imprisonment for up to two years and a fine of up to \$100,000;
- for a body corporate, a fine of up to \$500,000.

Anyone else providing facilities for slaughter may also commit an offence and be liable on conviction to a fine of up to \$75,000 for an individual or \$300,000 for a body corporate.

Homekill and recreational catch service providers

The basics

All homekill or recreational catch service providers must comply with the relevant provisions of the Act. You need to be familiar with all your legal obligations under Part 6 of this Act and the offence provisions under Part 10.

As a service provider, you must:

- be listed with MPI and renew this listing each year;
- in the case of homekill, record whether the animal owner presenting the animal has been actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal, or animals of the same kind, for at least 28 days immediately preceding its slaughter. It is illegal to kill or process homekill for a person when you know that they have not met this “28 day rule”;
- identify and distinguish product from different animal owners and have a system for doing this so that the product is returned to the right owner;
- maintain other records as specified in the Homekill and Recreational Catch Service Provider Records and Other Information Notice, and keep all records for at least four years.

You can provide your services:

- at your own premises or property;
- at the property of the animal owner or game estate owner;
- in the case of recreational catch, at or near the place where the animal was hunted or harvested;
- in the case of humane slaughter, at any location that is necessary.

You must return all homekill or recreational catch product for human or animal consumption to the animal owner or recreational hunter it came from.

You should dispose responsibly of any inedible products the animal owner does not want, or you can trade these. Offal and other waste may be sold or disposed of to a rendering operation, and other animal parts such as hides and skins may be traded (e.g. to a tannery).

Listing as a service provider

All homekill and recreational catch service providers must be listed with MPI. Once listed, your details will go on the public register of all New Zealand homekill and recreational catch service providers, which can be viewed on the MPI website.

Please use the AP2 application form to apply for or renew your listing. You can obtain this form by:

- going to the MPI website and searching on “AP2”;
- calling the consumer helpline on 0800 693 721; or
- emailing info@mpi.govt.nz.

Operating as a service provider without being listed could result in fines of up to \$75,000 for an individual and \$300,000 for a corporation.

Exemptions from listing

You do not have to list as a homekill or recreational catch service provider if you only slaughter and/or butcher your own animals for your own use or consumption.

You also do not need to be listed if you perform any of the following tasks, and this is the **ONLY** service you provide in relation to homekill and recreational catch:

- transporting homekill or recreational catch;
- taxidermy;
- heading, gutting or filleting fish on recreational charter vessels.

Refer to the Animal Products (Exemptions and Inclusions) Order 2000 for more information.

Listing with MPI does not provide any form of endorsement

If you are a listed service provider, it is OK to advertise this status. However, you cannot use it to imply that you have met any food safety standards or to imply that there has been any scrutiny of the safety or hygiene of your business.

If you want to use a listed service provider to slaughter or process your animal, you need to make your own checks of their services. You are consuming these products at your own risk.

Processing and packaging

If a service provider processes any animal product that has been sourced from operations subject to a registered risk management programme or the Food Act 1981 or Food Act 2014 (e.g. to turn it into salami or other smallgoods) it becomes unregulated product. This means it can no longer be traded

As a service provider, you should not reuse packaging from another processor or supplier for your product (e.g. packaging from a registered meat processing premises).

However, if you do reuse packaging, any labelling should be removed, defaced or permanently blocked out so there is no confusion about where the meat has come from and it is clear that it is not regulated meat.

Using the right packaging is critical

Reusing labelled packaging can seriously jeopardise the regulated meat market and provide false or misleading information about the product it contains.

Doing this could also give your clients the opportunity to handle homekill or recreational catch products fraudulently (such as offering it for trade) once it has left your control.



Special requirements for dual operator butchers

Dual operator butchers are retail butchers that also provide homekill and/or recreational catch services at the same premises or place as retail butchering activities. They can process homekill or recreational catch at this location if they have a registered risk management programme, but must not slaughter any animals there.

The phrase “same premises or place” can apply to a wide range of situations including where the retail butchering and homekill recreational services are carried out:

- within a single building;
- in buildings that are adjoining or in close proximity to one another;
- as different operations situated on a piece of land with one certificate of title;
- as different operations that share a perimeter fence;
- as operations that directly share facilities and/or services.

Find out more

For further guidance on “the same premises or place”, go to the MPI website and search on “homekill interpretation statement of policy”.

To register as a dual operator butcher and find out more about what you need to do, go to the MPI website and search on “dual operator butcher”.



Records and system requirements for service providers

Keeping inventory records

Every homekill or recreational catch service provider, including dual operator butchers, must keep records that meet the requirements of the *Homekill and Recreational Catch Service Provider Records and Other Information Notice* (“the Notice”) (view this on the MPI website by searching on “homekill notice”).

Your records must:

- be able to demonstrate what, how much and where all animal material and product (including inedible parts) has gone after processing;
- be sufficient to demonstrate traceability of animal material and animal product for audit purposes;
- be kept up to date and be available for inspection by any animal product officer or any other person; authorised by the Director-General of MPI at all times during working hours at the service provider's base of operations;
- be kept for at least four years.

Table 2 summarises the records you must keep depending on the type of service you offer.

We also provide some examples of record forms in Appendix 2 and tips on how to complete these. However, you are not required to use these and you are welcome to create your own forms as long as your recordkeeping contains all the details required by the Notice.

For example, some people find it convenient to use a simple exercise book with the left-hand page for slaughter, incoming product and so on, and the right-hand page for process information. If you provide dockets or invoices to the animal owner with details of material received and disposed of, you might also choose to use copies of these to supplement your records.



System required for distinguishing products

If you are a service provider, you must also have a system so that you can clearly identify and distinguish each animal owner's material and product from another's. For example, you might assign the owner's name, a number or a colour coded tag to all animal parts belonging to a particular owner as you carry out the processing.

You must be able to explain and demonstrate your system if an animal products officer or any other person authorised by the Director-General of MPI asks you to do so. This includes being able to identify each animal owner's product at any stage of processing if asked during an audit.

Under the Notice all products for consumption or use resulting from the slaughter and/or processing of a particular animal must be returned to the right owner.

Table 2: Records requirements for homekill and recreational catch service providers

Records required	Notes
Name, address and phone number of the animal owner presenting the animal for slaughter and/or processing	<p>The term “animal owner” includes a hunter or for example an agent of a company that owns the animal.</p> <p>You can use Rapid numbers as part of the address if this is convenient.</p> <p>If the animal was killed for humane reasons and its owner is unknown, you can put the details of the person presenting the animal.</p>
Date on which you provided the service	This should be the date the animal was slaughtered or the animal or product was initially received for processing.
Description of the service you provided	<p>A basic description of the processing is sufficient – e.g. slaughter and processing.</p> <p>You may choose to state more about the processing undertaken – e.g. cutting, mincing, boned out meat, sausages, salami, etc.</p>
The location(s) that your service was provided	<p>In general, this is likely to be your property and/or the animal owner’s property. It does not include the location of any work completed by another service provider. For example, if the animal was slaughtered by another service provider and delivered to you for processing, then you only record the location of the services you provided.</p> <p>The location that a recreational catch animal was killed does not need to be recorded unless you killed the animal.</p> <p>If you provided services at more than one location, this should also be recorded.</p> <p>If the animal was killed for humane reason at another place, this location should be recorded.</p>
The number and species of animals slaughtered and/or processed	<p>You need to record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of animals slaughtered and/or processed the species – e.g. cattle, deer, sheep, goat, pig. <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 deer slaughtered and processed.
If the carcass or animal parts were transferred to or received from another service provider, a description of what was transferred and the name or listing identifier of the other service provider	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deer carcass received from service provider Fred Meat, listing ID: HK123. Deer carcass transferred to service provider Fred Meat, listing ID: HK123.
A description of all animal product returned to the owner. This includes any non-edible parts such as hides or skins, including the number of hides/skins returned, or waste materials	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All meat returned to animal owner X. All offal left on animal owner’s property.

Records required	Notes
If the hides or skins were disposed of to a tannery, agent, transporter or other person, the name and address of the person or business, the number of hides or skins supplied, and the date they were supplied	For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Hides disposed of to tannery X on 21.09.2015.
A description of any other non-edible material, the location where it was disposed of (e.g. an offal pit on-site, a waste disposal facility or a renderer) and the date of disposal	A detailed description of the material is not needed here – terms such as “offal” and “waste” are sufficient. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All waste, offal, bone disposed of to renderer X on 21.09.2015
For homekill only, you must record either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whether the person for whom the service was provided was the animal owner and had been actively engaged in the day to day maintenance of the animal (or animals of the same kind) for at least 28 days immediately before the service was provided; or • the carcass was received from another listed homekill or recreational catch service provider. 	You may request this information from your client verbally (e.g. on the phone when booking the job) or in writing (e.g. by email or when writing up the job order). If you cannot accurately record this information you must not provide the service.



Animal welfare, traceability, feed and waste requirements

There are a number of responsibilities and requirements for animal welfare, traceability, feeding and the disposal of meat processing waste that you should be aware of if you own, hunt or catch animals, transport them, and/or carry out slaughter and processing. These are described below.

Animal care and welfare

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 imposes obligations on people that own or are in charge of animals to make sure these animals are cared for appropriately and killed in such a manner that they do not suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Codes of welfare contain detailed minimum standards covering areas such as methods of animal farming and transport as well as killing on farm and commercial slaughter, and any specific religious or cultural practices.

If you are an owner or person in charge of farmed animals, you are responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare in the Animal Welfare Act and relevant Codes of Welfare. You can view these on the MPI website by searching on “codes of welfare”.

Transporting animals

The transport of animals is covered by the *Animal Welfare (Transport within New Zealand) Code of Welfare 2011*. This code sets out the responsibilities of everyone undertaking the transport of live animals within New Zealand in all forms of conveyance. You can view this code on the MPI website by searching on “transport code of welfare”.

Animal slaughter

The Animal Welfare Act requires all killing to be humane.

Homekill and recreational catch service providers are covered by the *Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2010*, which can be found on the MPI website by searching on “commercial slaughter code of welfare”.

All commercially slaughtered animals must be stunned

All animals slaughtered commercially in New Zealand, including those killed by a homekill and recreational catch service provider, must be stunned before slaughter. This effectively means the use of a firearm (which stuns and kills) or captive bolt.

If the service provider is concerned that the animal cannot be restrained or stunned safely, it is the animal owner's responsibility to arrange its transport to a place where this can occur.

Animal identification and tracing

If you are in charge of, or slaughter, cattle or deer you must comply with the National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) Act 2012 and Regulations. In most cases, whoever is in charge of the animal at the time of slaughter – whether this is the animal owner or the service provider – must record its death on the NAIT database.

The animal owner must also record the animal's movement off farm to be slaughtered by a service provider, if this occurs.

Visit the NAIT website at www.nait.co.nz for more details.



Animal feed restrictions

Feeding ruminant protein (such as waste materials derived from ruminants, including blood) to cattle, sheep, goats, deer, buffaloes, llama or other ruminants is banned under the Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations 1999.

If you own pigs, you should be familiar with the *Biosecurity (Meat and Food Waste for Pigs) Regulations 2005*. Under these regulations any food waste that contains, or has come into contact with, meat must be heated to 100°C for one hour before it is fed to pigs. “Meat” is defined as any material taken or derived from an animal except for egg, milk and rendered material (such as tallow, blood meal, meat and bone meal).

You can find out more about these two requirements on the MPI website by searching on “feedban” or “food waste feeding”.

Disposing of meat processing waste

The *Biosecurity (Ruminant Protein) Regulations 1999* put a number of restrictions on the disposal of meat processing waste and wastewater on grazing land. Find out more about these restrictions on the MPI website by searching on “ruminant waste water”.

Under the NZCP 1: *Code of Practice for the Design and Operation of Farm Dairies* (section 6.4), you are not able to apply meat processing waste to land used for grazing milking animals. You can view this Code on the MPI website by searching on “NZCP1”.

Guidance for food safety

Reducing food safety risks

As homekill and recreational catch products are not subject to the law that regulates the safety of food produced for commercial purposes, including ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection or any other processing standards, no assurances can be given about their safety or fitness for human or animal consumption. Those who use or consume homekill or recreational catch products do so at their own risk.

However, we do have a number of guides and resources to help you reduce the risks associated with animal procurement and processing. You can view these on the MPI website by searching on “meat, ostrich, emu and game” or “hunting, collecting, fishing”.

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, which is a legal requirement for regulated products, is also mentioned here because even though homekill and recreational catch is not regulated, following food safety requirements will help ensure that any food you provide will not make people sick.

We recommend that you use the resources outlined in the following sections.

Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

The Food Standards Code (the Code) applies to regulated products and specifies labelling and compositional requirements. It also sets limits for certain food poisoning bacteria and chemicals in regulated products. For example, Standard 1.3.1 of the Code requires that nitrites (potassium and sodium salts) can only be added to cured meat products at a maximum permitted level of 125 mg/kg in the final product. This is because nitrite can be toxic to consumers if the levels are too high.

The Code also prohibits phosphates from being added to regulated raw meat products that have only been boned, sliced, diced, minced and/or frozen.

The addition of sulphur dioxide or sulphites to meat products can also be a concern. The consumption of foods containing these can provoke asthma attacks, severe allergic reactions or gastric irritation.

To find out more about which regulated products sulphites can be used in and the permitted levels for these, go to the MPI website and search on “sulphites”.

To view the Code, search on the internet using the term “Food Standards Code”.

Salamis and similar products

The *Guidelines for the Production of Uncooked Comminuted Fermented Meats (UCFM) Products* describe good practice for producing safe UCFM products.

The term “comminuted” is used to cover activities such as mincing, chopping or reducing in size. UCFM products include things like salamis or beer sticks. These products are considered higher risk as they are fermented using a starter culture and are not cooked as part of the process.

If you make UCFM products you should refer to these guidelines. You can view these on the MPI website by searching on “UCFM”.

Processed meats

The Processed Meats Code of Practice is a good source of guidance for people who make smallgoods. It provides a lot of information about best practice when making products such as:

- fresh sausages and bacon;
- cooked cured meats (such as ham, corned beef, pastrami);
- cooked uncured meats (such as roast beef);
- uncooked comminuted fermented meats (such as salami and pepperoni); and
- dry-cured meats, dried meats and meat patties.

You can view the *Processed Meats Code of Practice* on the MPI website by searching on “processed meat”.

Wild food safety

In 2008 MPI produced a wild food safety video to provide information to the growing number of Kiwis who either hunt, fish or gather food from the wild. This video aims to help hunters and gatherers to reduce the risks posed by wild foods and make safe decisions about how to catch, store and eat foods such as wild game, ducks and other game birds, and seafood.

It also addresses issues such as ensuring you hunt in poison-free areas, field dressing techniques, general hygiene and transporting carcasses.

Find out more on the MPI website by searching on “recreational hunters” or “wild food safety DVD”.



Frequently asked questions

Can I trade homekill or recreational catch for human or animal consumption?

No. Only regulated product can be traded for human or animal consumption. Homekill or recreational catch meat, for example, has not passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, nor has it met any hygiene or processing standards. Therefore, there can be no assurance of safety.

What is trade?

Under the Act “trade” means sell for human or animal consumption or use. It includes selling for resale; offering, possessing, sending or delivering for sale; causing or permitting to be sold, offered or exposed for sale; bartering; supplying under a contract or as part of a charge for another good or service; using for advertisement; and “every other method of disposition for valuable consideration” (i.e. changing hands for money or anything else of value).

What about pet food?

It is illegal for any person to trade, or attempt to trade, any homekill or recreational catch animal material or product as pet food or for consumption by other animals.

Can any parts of homekill or recreational catch be traded?

Yes. You can trade parts of homekill and recreational catch that are not for human or animal consumption (e.g. inedible parts such as hides, skins, horns or antlers).

The Act also allows for homekill and recreational catch waste material (e.g. bones, offal and fat) to be sold or disposed of to a renderer. However, note that fat (or any other material) from homekill or recreational catch animals cannot be rendered and traded for human consumption.

Who can homekill or recreational catch be served to?

Homekill is only specifically exempt from the requirements of the Act if it is for the use or consumption of the animal owner, including his or her family and household, and may also be supplied to his or her farm workers for their use or consumption or that of their families and households.

Similarly, recreational catch is only specifically exempted from the requirements of the Act if it is for the use or consumption of the catcher, including his or her hunting party, family or household.

Homekill and recreational catch must not be exchanged for money, goods or services, or traded in any other way. Trading homekill or recreational catch is an offence.

Can I barter homekill or recreational catch?

No. Barter is when you exchange homekill or recreational catch for other goods or services. Barter constitutes trade, and the barter of homekill and recreational catch is prohibited under the Act.

Can I or someone else raffle homekill and recreational catch meat, or donate it to advertise or promote my business?

No. Offering homekill or recreational catch as a public prize or reward, or donating it as part of an advertisement or in the furtherance of any trade or business, constitutes trade and is prohibited by the Act.

Can farmers provide homekill to their employees?

Yes, farmers may supply homekill to their employees who are employed in an ongoing manner in farming operations for the use or consumption of that employee (including his or her family or household).

Can I buy an animal from a farmer, have it slaughtered and take the meat away?

No. Engaging in this activity, which is sometimes referred to as “select and slaughter”, could result in prosecution for an offence under section 128 or 131 of the Act.

It is an offence for an animal owner to slaughter an animal on any property other than his or her own property, if he or she has not been involved in the day-to-day maintenance of the animal, or other animals of the same kind, for the for at least 28 days preceding its slaughter (“the 28 day rule”).

It is also an offence for a farmer to provide the facilities for a person to slaughter the animal at the farmer’s place if the farmer knows the person has not met the 28 day rule.

The farmer may also commit the offence of selling animal product processed other than in accordance with the Act. The High Court has confirmed that the concept of “sale” under section 128 of the Act is to be interpreted widely, such that the Court may find that where the ultimate outcome of a transaction is the delivery of animal product, it is immaterial whether money changes hands before or after the animal is slaughtered and/or processed.

If you cannot meet the 28 day rule or slaughter your animal on your own property, you can always buy an animal and send it to a registered processing premises (e.g. registered abattoir) for slaughter and processing. This means the meat will have been through the same rigorous controls as meat you would buy from a supermarket or butcher.

Can I feed homekill and recreational catch meat to paying guests?

No. Those who supply a meal as part of an accommodation, recreational or tourist package including homestays, hunting lodges, marae visits or tourist barbecues cannot use homekill or recreational catch product as part of the food provided to their customers.

Paying guests also include those who pay board, fees or other forms of payment as part of an accommodation package. Residents at boarding schools, hospitals, prisons and other institutions are treated as paying guests (through contract or statutory arrangement). Institutions must provide animal products from registered processing premises.

The only exception to this is that a restaurant, hunting lodge or game estate may serve a meal to a hunter or catcher and members of their party, the game or fish they have killed or caught.

Can homekill or recreational catch meat be served on marae?

Yes, if it is not traded. To determine whether or not the homekill or recreational catch product is “traded”, function organisers at marae need to decide whether the function is traditional/cultural, commercial or social (refer to *Who may use and consume homekill and recreational catch* for more details). Whatever it is, no trading of homekill or recreational catch meat is legal. Trade will take place where any money, goods, services and/or other valuable consideration is received in exchange for providing the meal.

Customary catch authorised under the Fisheries Act 1996 is to be treated as recreational catch, as long as it is used for the purpose for which the catch was authorised. The Fisheries Act also prohibits the sale of recreational or customary catch.

What does actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of an animal for 28 days mean?

For a person to be actively engaged in the day-to-day maintenance of an animal, they need to actively participate in looking after the animal (or animals of the same kind) on a regular basis for the 28 days prior to its slaughter.

It is expected that a person would be in sufficiently close proximity to conduct regular checks of their animals – checking the adequacy of shelter, food, water, and any pest, disease and general health condition of the animals. The person would need to be readily available to provide input or assistance to the animal should the need arise.

The person in charge is responsible for meeting the legal obligations for animal welfare and should be familiar with the contents of the Codes of Animal Welfare.



Appendix 1: Relevant requirements

Animal Products Act 1999

The Act is the primary law relating to the production and processing of animal material and product, including homekill and recreational catch. Relevant sections include:

- Sections 2, 3 and 7 Object and Scheme of Act, and Products to which the Act applies;
- Section 4 Interpretation – including the definition of “trade”;
- Part 5A (sections 65A to 65L): Game estates;
- Part 6 (sections 66 to 77): Homekill and recreational catch;
- Part 10 (sections 126 to 145): Offences, penalties, and proceedings – in particular, section 128 Sale of non-complying animal product and section 131 Offences in relation to homekill and recreational catch.

View the Act at: www.legislation.govt.nz

Homekill and Recreational Catch Service Provider Records and Other Information Notice

This Notice is law made under the Act and took effect on 1 May 2015. It sets out the recordkeeping and other requirements for service providers. You can view the Notice on the MPI website.

Animal Products (Exemptions and Inclusions) Order 2000

This Order is made under the Act. It states which transporters of homekill or recreational catch, taxidermy operations, and tourist and charter fishing vessel operators are exempt from needing to be listed as a homekill or recreational catch service provider. You can view the Order at: www.legislation.govt.nz



Appendix 2: Sample record forms

Service providers may use the following sample record forms to help meet their obligations under the Homekill and Recreational Catch Service Provider Records and Other Information Notice:

- Record 1: Client details.
- Record 2: Business details for inedible material disposal.
- Record 3: Service record.

This Appendix provides tips for using these forms and example text to illustrate these. You can download blank copies of these forms from the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz (search on “homekill”) or contact us on ph 0800 693 721 or email info@mpi.govt.nz.

Choosing ways to keep your records

These forms are examples only: how you keep your records is up to you. You might prefer to use an exercise book, keep copies of your customer dockets and invoices, use a computer programme, record information online, or use any combination of these methods. However, you must make sure that your records contain all the details required by the Notice and be able to access these records for at least four years.



Record 3: Service record

You can use this table for details of the services you provide. As you complete each row, check that all the materials received for a particular client tally with the products and waste materials returned to the animal owner or disposed of elsewhere. Tips for completing this table:

- Column 1: Animal owner includes the hunter of recreational catch. If you have already assigned a client reference number on Record 1 (Client details), you could use this number here, otherwise write the full client details. If there has been a humane killing (e.g. after a roadside accident) and you do not know the animal owner, put “humane kill, unknown” here and record the details of the person presenting the animal.
- Column 2: tick this box once you have checked with the animal owner that they have actively maintained these animals (or animals of the same kind) for the previous 28 days.
- Column 4: You could add more detail here about the processing you have undertaken for your own purposes (e.g. processing: sausages, salami, roast).
- Column 5: If the animal was killed at a place other than the animal owner's place or your place, for humane reasons put “Other” for the location (and give details of that location).
- Column 7: Listing ID means the identifier selected by the service provider. You can find this on the MPI website. If you don't have the identifier of a service provider, their name and contact details are sufficient. You may delete this column if transfers do not occur.
- Columns 9 and 10: If you have already assigned a business reference number to these people or businesses on Record 2 (Business details for inedible materials disposal) you could use this number here. Remember to record if the details differ for that job from the information recorded on Record 2; for example, if the materials were picked up on a different day to that stated in Record 2.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Animal owner	Confirmed owner meets 28 day rule? (✓)	Date service provided	Description of service provided	Location service provided	Animals slaughtered or processed	Description of materials transferred to/another service provider	Parts/products returned to the animal owner	Hides and skins	Waste disposal
Name, address and contact details or Client ref			S= slaughter P= processing	AOP = animal owner property SSP = service provider property Other – provide details	Number and Species (e.g. cattle, sheep, goat, pig)	Name or listing ID of other service provider and Date of transfer	Description and number of any hides/skins and Any other non-edible material	Business name and address, or business ref and Number of hides/skins and Date of disposal	Description of waste Location or business name and address or business ref and Date of disposal
C123	✓	30.03.15	S & P	S = AOP P = SSP	5 cattle	2 gutted sheep carcasses received from service provider Jane Jones 30.03.15	All edible cattle and sheep products, 3 hides, offal from cattle left with owner	2 hides, 2 skins to T123 on 2.04.15	Waste from 5 cattle to R123