

Guideline on the Appointment of Authorised Officers as Meat Inspectors

Food Unit / Version 01 / 09 December 2010

1.0 OBJECTIVE

Regulation 21 of the *Food Regulations 2009* (the Regulations) requires ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of animal carcasses by an 'authorised officer'. This guideline provides enforcement agencies with guidance on the appointment of an 'authorised officer' as a meat inspector, in accordance with Part 10 Division 3 section 122 of the *Food Act 2008* (the Act).

Meat inspectors do not have to be an employee of the enforcement agency.

2.0 GUIDELINES

An enforcement agency may appoint a person to be an 'authorised officer' for the purposes of inspection of animals before and after slaughter as per regulation 21 of the Regulations (Inspection of animals and carcasses at abattoirs).

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Department of Health (DOH) may issue guidelines in accordance with Part 10 Division 3 section 122 (2) on appropriate qualifications and experience to perform the functions of an 'authorised officer' as a meat inspector under the Act. The CEO of DOH has determined 'appropriate qualifications' to mean:

For the inspection of sheep, cattle and pigs if –

- The person holds a Certificate III in Meat Processing (Meat Safety); or

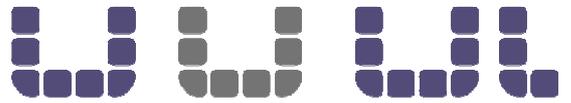
For the inspection of game meat and ratites if –

- The person holds a Certificate IV in Meat Processing (Meat Safety)

3.0 CERTIFICATES OF AUTHORITY

In approving an 'authorised officer' as a meat inspector, an enforcement agency must issue a 'Certificate of Authority' that meets the conditions of Part 10 section 123 of the Act.





The enforcement agency will be responsible for establishing application processes, verifying qualifications, appointing an authorised officer and limiting authorisation specifically to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection of animal carcasses. This should be reflected in the 'Certificate of Authority' issued to the meat inspector by the enforcement agency.

4.0. ACCOUNTABILITY

The enforcement agency must prepare and maintain a list of 'authorised officers' appointed by the agency. The maintenance of a list of 'authorised officers' as meat inspectors and compliance with appointment guidelines will form part of the local governments annual reporting requirements to the CEO of the DOH.

5.0 REFERENCES/ RELATED DOCUMENTS

The *Food Act 2008*

http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_3595_homepage.html (external site)

The *Food Regulations 2009*

http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_11233_homepage.html (external site)

SIGNED

Jim Dodds

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As delegate of the Chief Executive Officer

13 December 2010