



## ANALYSIS

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| <p>Title</p> <p>1. Short Title and commencement</p> <p>2. Interpretation</p> <p>3. Director of Meat Division</p> <p>4. Qualifications of Inspectors</p> <p>5. Packing houses to be licensed</p> <p>6. Certain byproduct premises to be licensed</p> | <p>7. Export stores to be licensed</p> <p>8. Cancellation and suspension of licences</p> <p>9. Restrictions on meat used in meat packing houses</p> <p>10. Exemption from licensing and regulations</p> |
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1987, No. 196

**An Act to amend the Meat Act 1981**

[16 December 1987

BE IT ENACTED by the Parliament of New Zealand, as follows:

**1. Short Title and commencement**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Meat Amendment Act 1987, and shall be read together with and deemed part of the Meat Act 1981 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act).

(2) This section and section 2 of this Act shall come into force on the day on which this Act receives the Governor-General's assent.

(3) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, this Act shall come into force on the 28th day after the date on which it receives the Governor-General's assent.

**2. Interpretation**—(1) Section 2 (1) of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing the definitions of the terms "animal", "product", and "slaughter", and substituting, respectively, the following definitions:

"Animal" means—

"(a) Any stock, game, fish, or poultry; or

"(b) Any farmed deer and, if it has been farmed, any possum or rabbit; or

"(c) Any other creature declared by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of this Act:

“‘Product’ means any article or substance that—

“(a) Is intended for sale; and

“(b) Is intended to be, or capable of being, used for human consumption; and

“(c) When reduced to a dehydrated state, contains by weight 5 percent or more of substances (other than dairy produce) derived from any animal or animals;—

and, in relation to any animal or description or species of animal, means a product derived from that animal or animals of that description or species:

“‘Slaughter’ includes the killing of animals to produce byproduct.”

(2) The said section 2 (1) is hereby further amended—

(a) By omitting from paragraph (c) of the definition of the term “stock” the word “animal”, and substituting the word “creature”; and

(b) By repealing the definitions of the terms “fish product” and “game product”.

**3. Director of Meat Division**—(1) Section 3 of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

(2) Section 2 (1) of the principal Act is hereby consequentially amended by repealing the definition of the term “Director”, and substituting the following definition:

“‘Director’ means the Director-General.”

(3) The Meat Regulations 1969, the Slaughter of Stock, Game, and Poultry Regulations 1969, the Game Regulations 1975, and the Fish (Packing for Export) Regulations 1977 are hereby amended by revoking the definition of the term “Director” in regulation 2, and substituting, in each case, the following definition:

“‘Director’ means the Director-General.”

(4) The regulations referred to in subsection (3) of this section may be amended or revoked as if the amendments effected by that subsection had been effected by regulations made under the principal Act.

**4. Qualifications of Inspectors**—Section 5 of the principal Act is hereby amended by repealing paragraph (b).

**5. Packing houses to be licensed**—Section 19 of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsection:

“(4) The Director-General may, subject to any conditions the Director-General thinks fit, issue to the holder of an export store licence in respect of any premises written authority to freeze, thaw, re-freeze, and repack packed products, or to do any of those things, in the premises; and in that case that holder may, until the authority is revoked, use the premises accordingly.”

**6. Certain byproduct premises to be licensed**—Section 20 of the principal Act is hereby amended by inserting, after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“(1A) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, this section shall not apply to premises where every byproduct produced is a fish byproduct intended for export to a destination that, in the opinion of the Director-General, does not require byproducts imported from New Zealand to be certified by the Ministry.”

**7. Export stores to be licensed**—Section 21 (2) of the principal Act is hereby repealed.

**8. Cancellation and suspension of licences**—The principal Act is hereby amended by repealing section 29, and substituting the following section:

“29. (1) Where a Court orders the Director-General, under section 48 (c) of this Act, to cancel a licence, the Director-General shall forthwith cancel it.

“(2) Where a Court orders the Director-General, under section 48 (c) of this Act, to suspend a licence, the Director-General shall forthwith suspend it—

“(a) For the period or periods specified by the Court, if it specified a period or periods:

“(b) For any period or periods the Director-General thinks fit, in every other case.

“(3) Where the licensee concerned requests the Director-General to suspend a licence for a specified period, the Director-General shall do so; but the fact that a licence is suspended under this subsection shall not affect or prevent its suspension or cancellation under any other provision of this section.

“(4) The Director-General, if satisfied that—

“(a) The premises to which a licence relates, or its equipment, have never been suitable for the purposes for which the licence was granted; or

“(b) Those premises or that equipment have ceased to be suitable for those purposes; or

“(c) The licensee of those premises has failed or refused to comply, within a time that is reasonable in relation to the direction or condition concerned and the circumstances in which it was given or imposed, with a direction or condition given or imposed (in respect of those premises) in accordance with this Act,—

shall either cancel the licence or suspend it for any period or periods the Director-General thinks fit.”

### **9. Restrictions on meat used in meat packing houses—**

Section 32 of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the word “No”, and substituting the words “Except to the extent (if any) for the time being approved by the Director-General in respect of those premises (and, in that case, subject to any conditions the Director-General for the time being imposes), no”.

### **10. Exemption from licensing and regulations—**

(1) Section 50 of the principal Act is hereby amended by adding the following subsections:

“(3) The Director-General may,—

“(a) In the case of any particular premises, by notice in writing to the occupier of the premises; and

“(b) In every other case by notice in the *Gazette*,—  
exempt any specified product or byproduct from any requirement of this Act relating to premises, or to the production, processing, storage, sale, or export of the product or byproduct, or to any of them, if the Director-General is satisfied that the product or byproduct can be produced only by a process that gives it such physical, chemical, and biological characteristics that it can have no significant effect in relation to public or animal health.

“(4) The Director-General may—

“(a) Exempt any particular premises or process or class of premises or process from the requirements of any regulations (not relating to licensing) made under this Act if satisfied that it is desirable for the purposes of experiment or research to substitute other requirements; and

“(b) Prescribe the other requirements concerned;—  
but in that case the exemption shall apply only for so long as the other requirements are being observed.”

(2) Section 50 (2) of the principal Act is hereby amended by omitting the words “or is or can be dealt with by means of a directive issued under section 51 of this Act”.

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This Act is administered in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

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