

## Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance

### Biosecurity (*Salmonella Enteritidis*) Control Order Assessment 2019-2021

The Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance team was tasked to inspect all licensed egg farms in NSW to ensure compliance with the Biosecurity (*Salmonella Enteritidis*) Control Order. Initially this required 241 egg farms to be assessed twice for compliance. A total of 440 inspections were conducted during the project resulting in 202 Individual Biosecurity Directions and 20 sanctions. As of 1 July, 2021, all licensed egg farms in NSW were considered compliant with the Control Order.

The Control Order was issued on 31 July 2019 for the management of *Salmonella Enteritidis* (SE) across NSW. The Control Order was amended on 30 June 2020, with the inclusion of mandatory testing for SE on farm.

In order to provide licensees with support, compliance officers developed a risk management program. This included the provision of training and guidance material to comply with the Control Order and was provided free of charge to licensees. The number of inspections conducted each week was limited due to adherence with strict biosecurity controls and thus the time between farm visits.

Impacts due to floods and fire delayed a significant number of inspections as licensees were impacted by these natural disasters. This program was also significantly impacted by COVID-19 with compliance staff conducting food retail premises inspections across NSW.

#### Phase One

Compliance officers were required to conduct two inspections on each licensed egg farm throughout NSW.

As the result of these inspections, an initial low level of compliance was observed. These findings were expected due to the increased requirements of the Control Order.

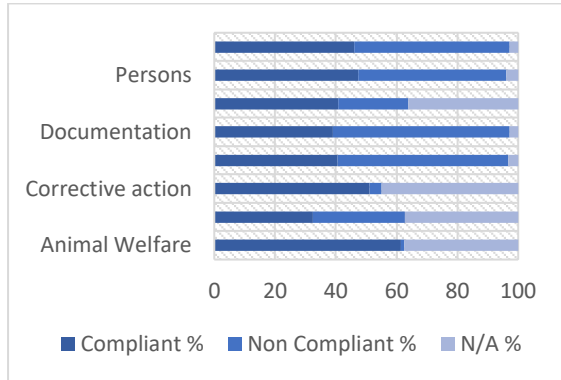
Areas where a low compliance level was observed included:

#### Biosecurity Act 2015 requirements

- Accurate signage defining the production area and appropriate control measures.
- Sufficient rodent control with bait stations regularly replenished and documented.
- Improved record keeping with respect to deliveries and entry to premises and production areas.

### Food Act 2003 requirements

- Appropriate fixtures, fittings and equipment in processing areas.
- Hygiene, sanitation and cleanliness of premises and equipment.



**Table 1** – Phase One Compliance Outcomes

Where areas of non-compliance were identified, an Individual Biosecurity Direction (IBD) was issued. The IBD detailed all actions required for the licensee to comply with the Control Order.

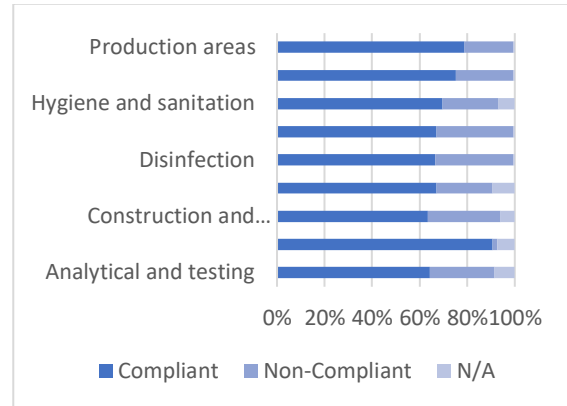
A high level of compliance with animal welfare was observed during this phase.

A total of 35 licensees left the industry during the program, in some cases due to increased costs required to comply with the Control Order.

### Phase Two

Control Order inspections conducted during Phase Two were targeted at those farms previously issued with an IBD during Phase One. This resulted in 140 farms being inspected.

Some facilities received multiple inspections as they had not yet met the requirements of the Control Order.



**Table 2** – Phase Two Compliance Outcomes

The outcomes of Phase Two found that all facilities, previously issued with an IBD, were assessed as compliant. In cases where continued corrective actions were identified, the breaches were considered minor in nature but were listed on the reports to ensure licensees implemented the required corrective actions.

### Program Outcomes

Compliance officers were able to successfully complete this project and verify, by 1 July 2021, that all licensed egg farms operating in NSW were compliant with the Biosecurity (*Salmonella Enteritidis*) Control Order.

This was a successful outcome that was achieved through collaboration with licensees, together with development and implementation of supporting materials by dedicated field staff.

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