

Biosecurity & Food Safety Compliance REGULATORY PRIORITIES 2018 – 2019

Biosecurity & Food Safety (BFS) protects the NSW economy, environment and community from biosecurity and food safety risks. The BFS Compliance team reviews its regulatory priorities annually to ensure that it adopts a risk based approach to its critical core functions, as well as new and emerging biosecurity threats and food safety risks. These priorities are determined in consultation with key industry and community stakeholders and are set in the context of NSW Government priorities and the NSW Department of Primary Industries Strategic Plan.

Critical Core Functions

Many regulatory activities conducted by BFS are fundamental to protecting the community from biosecurity and food safety risks and require a constant focus. These include:

- audit, inspection and certification services to verify a safe and secure food supply, the welfare of exhibited and research animals and to maintain and provide access to markets for NSW primary producers;
- investigation of unlicensed/unregistered operations and complaints;
- responding to, and investigating foodborne illness outbreaks and pest and disease issues, and assisting in emergency management operations as necessary.

Other priorities in 2018 – 2019 include:



Biosecurity

Small piggery project

Targeted property inspections identified through Land & Stock returns to assess compliance with swill feeding and NLIS tagging.

NLIS Compliance:

- *Operation Mary 3.0*
- *Property to property (P2P) NLIS recording*

Partnering with LLS to develop and enhance compliance and verification systems at key points in the supply chain for sheep, cattle, pigs and goats.

Abandoned/neglected orchards operation: Bilpin and Griffith

Targeted operation in areas with a high density of orchards and or vineyards to evaluate biosecurity risk to surrounding commercial orchards from abandoned/neglected horticultural operations.

Commercial and amateur beekeeper compliance

Targeted operation during pollination seasons identifying notifiable pests and diseases, unregistered beekeepers and bee pollination movements in regional NSW and the Sydney metropolitan area.

Import inspections program

Initiate regular import inspection programs within identified distribution centres within the Sydney area including the Sydney Markets.



System Enhancement

Enhancement of branch compliance systems

Implement a digital case management system to effectively and consistently capture, store and report on investigation outcomes.

Digitalisation of Plant Health Certificates

Develop a digital platform enabling Plant Health Certificates to be issued securely from mobile devices.

Implementation of the Biosecurity Accreditation Authority program

Implement policies, procedures and protocols allowing for third party accreditation of NSW biosecurity programs.

Review of programs:

- *Third party food safety auditing*
- *ICA audit program*
- *Manufacturer and Wholesale Inspection Program (MWIP)*

Desktop review to measure ongoing effectiveness and current compliance with these programs.

Industry Regulatory Enhancement Programs:

- *Development of guidelines to assist industry*
Prepare guidelines for small licensed food and exhibited animals businesses to assist them to meet their regulatory obligations.
- *Development of Gold Licensee Program*
Develop a program to trial self-assessment reporting for high performing food businesses engaged in low risk activities.



Food Safety

Plant products compliance improvement

Conduct a detailed review of licensed plant products businesses that have a poor compliance history to implement improved food safety management systems.

Review of high-risk horticulture primary production: rockmelons, lettuce, berries

Establish baseline requirements with industry for businesses engaged in producing and packing high risk horticultural produce.

Development of key food safety indicators for the egg primary production sector

Develop and implement improved food safety management systems, through the use of key food safety indicators.

Health food shop compliance operation: raw milk and hemp as a food

Conduct health food shop inspections to determine regulatory compliance related to the sale of raw cows' milk and food products containing hemp.

Food Fraud: Intelligence profile and targeted monitoring

Investigate, understand and verify food composition and food safety practices in targeted industry sectors to detect, deter and take action against economically motivated adulteration.



Performance Enhancement

Development and assessment of enforcement capability

Development and implementation of a program that ensures BFS Compliance can apply effective enforcement sanctions.

Enhance incident response capability

Review current food incident response protocols to ensure ongoing effectiveness, including building staff capacity and capability.

Development of new training modules

- *Outcomes based regulation*
- *General Biosecurity Duty*

Develop online, interactive training programs that addresses essential skills and knowledge for interpreting biosecurity and food safety legislation.

Delivery of Biosecurity Act 2015 training: Phase II

Deliver online and face to face interactive training that builds upon introductory themes introduced in Phase I of the biosecurity legislation program under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Food Act 2003 training

Develop online food safety modules to assist Authorised Officers achieve consistency and knowledge of regulatory activities under the *Food Act 2003*.