



## REQUIREMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF HORMONAL GROWTH PROMOTANTS (HGPs) IN CATTLE

### Updated as at 15 October 2004

To enable New Zealand farmers to benefit from the use of hormonal growth promotants (HGPs), while ensuring the approved use does not affect NZ overseas market access for animal products, HGPs are required by law to be used according to all specifications issued by the NZ Food Safety Authority. These include the following requirements:

1. HGPs may be used in cattle only. The use in all other categories of stock is strictly prohibited. HGPs must not be used in lactating cattle or cattle that are intended to be used for milk production.
2. HGPs must only be administered by a veterinarian, or a trained technician employed or contracted by a veterinarian or under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or trained technician.
3. HGPs must only be implanted under the skin of the animal's ear and in accordance with the label directions.
4. All HGP treated cattle must be identified:
  - with a primary or numbered replacement tag (R tag) approved under either the Animal Health Board (AHB) or the MINDA system;
  - with the NZFSA approved HGP ear tag (orange tag) supplied with the HGP doses,
  - Before implantation, the identity of the animal (primary or replacement tag) must be recorded on the approved form.
5. Direct to slaughter or (S tag) cattle must not be implanted.
6. Cattle that lose their orange HGP tag must have it replaced as soon as possible.
7. Cattle that lose their AHB or MINDA tag (primary tag) must have these replaced in accordance with their approved scheme.
8. The MAF approved HGP ear tag (orange tag) must not be used for any purposes other than identifying HGP treated cattle.
9. Owners or persons in charge of HGP treated cattle must include any HGP treatment of the cattle on Animal Status Declaration forms (ASDs).
10. Records must be maintained by owners or persons in charge of HGP implanted cattle, and by veterinarians responsible for implanting, for 4 years. These records may be audited at any time. The records to be kept are specified on the approved HGP form.
11. The form must be filled in accurately and completely including the details of the primary tag or the individually numbered replacement or R tag. The recorded ear tag number must include 3 components:
  - (a) the herd number, (b) the year code (when present) and (c) the individual animal number.
12. All veterinarians and trained technicians must be registered on the ATIS database prior to implantation. ATIS is available at [www.ATIS.org.nz](http://www.ATIS.org.nz).
13. Subsequent purchasers of HGP treated cattle must be informed by the vendor that the cattle have been treated. This notification should be done via the ASD.

Farmers and veterinarians are advised that the New Zealand Food Safety Authority regularly conducts audits on HGP registrants, on farms, at veterinary practices and at slaughter premises to ensure that all the requirements relating to the use of HGPs are met.

It is an offence under the Animal products Act 1999 to fail to comply with these requirements.  
Fines of up to \$20,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for companies are applicable.



Page	Num	Author	Modified	Text
1	2	Irene Hoffmann	25/05/2006 3:24:30 a.m.	approved, 24.05.2006
1	1	John Southworth	18/05/2006 1:18:03 a.m.	Approved by John Southworth on 17/05/06