



Australian Livestock, Wholesale & Export Meat Traders
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E.COLI STATEMENT

Date: 20/11/2003

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T & R Murray Bridge Establishment 533 confirms that its HACCP plan has been reassessed in accordance with IIS Federal Register Notice 9 CFR Part 417 Docket number 00-022N dated 7 October 2002. This reassessment has determined that *E. coli* O157:H7 is a hazard that is reasonably likely to occur without the implementation of the HACCP plan.

The reassessment of T & R Murray Bridge Establishment 533 HACCP plan has recently been audited and approved by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) on "17th December 2002".

The reassessed HACCP plan included the following interventions:

- Sanitary dressing procedures that are designed to minimise the transfer of contamination from hide to exposed carcass surfaces,
- Physical examination of incoming stock taking into account the age of the cattle, the season of the year, the amount and placement of any contamination. Excessively dirty feedlot cattle may be treated in the yards by pressure washing to reduce the level of soiling or the chain speed slowed to assist in the sanitary dressing of these animals.
- Best practice techniques/procedures are used in sanitary dressing of all carcasses.
- Procedures include the routine sanitation of equipment and the washing of hands, as well as contingency arrangements in the event of gross contamination, corrective actions to be taken and are incorporated into written work instructions and monitored in accordance with MHA program.
- Sanitary performance is measured through process monitoring under the ESAM program.
- 2-knife system used to assist in the hygienic processing and to help prevent cross contamination of microscopic bacteria.
- Our management plan for zero tolerance is an integral part of operations at Est. 533.
- CCP for zero tolerance located at final trim point on slaughter floor.
- Initial chilling of sides in accordance with provisions of Export Meat Order's, including spacing to allow air circulation and prevent microbial growth.

These measures are aimed to reduce, eliminate or control *E. coli* O157:H7.

The efficacy of these interventions is verified by microbiological testing for *E. coli* O157:H7.

T & R Murray Bridge Establishment 533, has since 2000 had a NATA {National Association of Testing Authorities} registered on site laboratory which is accredited for testing of Salmonella, *E. coli*, Standard Plate Counts and sampling methods we also undertake microbiological proficiency testing (*E. coli* O157:H7 & Salmonella) monitoring as part of its HACCP verification. It is concluded from these test results that *E. coli* O157:H7 is a hazard reasonably unlikely to occur in our products.

- Beef carcasses are tested for *E. coli* using NATA accredited methods at a rate of 1 animal tested per 300 animals killed, from 2000 to April 2003 we have tested 1,171 bodies. NIL have returned as positive for *E. coli* O157:H7.
- Boneless bulk pack beef is tested for *E. coli* O157:H7 and along with standard *E. coli* procedures is used to detect faecal contamination at a rate of not less than one (1) sample from each 140 cartons produced. This equates to 2000 to 2200 cartons per year. Since January 2000, 6056 cartons have been tested of which NIL have returned as positive for *E. coli* O157:H7.

The management of T & R Murray Bridge Establishment 533 is committed through our HACCP system to producing the highest safety and quality product possible. "Only product compliant with HACCP requirements and tested negative for *E. coli* O157:H7 is shipped." Under no circumstances is any unsafe product to leave T & R Murray Bridge Establishment 533.

Due to the annual reassessment of T & R Murray Bridge Establishment 533's HACCP plan and of its continued effective operation, detailed in the information provided here; T & R Murray Bridge Establishment 533 has concluded that E coll 0157:H7 has been under normal circumstances reduced to below detectable levels.

If you require further information please feel free to contact us on the above phone, fax numbers or e-mail.

Regards,

S Durdin

Sarah Durdin

on behalf of

Richard Grantham,
QA Manager

S Durdin

Sarah Durdin

on behalf of

James Rattus,
Operations Manager