

## **RISK ANALYSIS PROCESS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF AVIAN SPECIES AND THEIR PRODUCTS INTO NEW ZEALAND**

Sabirovic M., Murray M., Christensen B., Pharo H., MacDiarmid S.C.<sup>1</sup>

A risk analysis model has been developed to assist in identifying avian diseases of regulatory concern, ie. diseases for which safeguards need to be imposed to ensure the safe importation of avian species and their products into New Zealand. The model consists of risk identification, risk assessment and risk management steps.

The risk identification step developed a list of all avian diseases. These diseases were evaluated in a qualitative manner with a number of filters applied (e.g. pathogenic significance, endemic diseases subject to national control programmes, exotic diseases) to develop a subset of avian diseases of regulatory concern to New Zealand. This list represents a starting point when assessing importations for each avian species and their commodities.

In the first application of the model, risk assessment and risk management steps were used to develop an import health standard for ratites (including hatching eggs and meat). The risk associated with each commodity was evaluated in a qualitative manner (e.g. transmission, environmental conditions, presence of vectors, susceptible animal populations, potential wildlife reservoirs, zoonosis, adverse impact) and safeguards for each commodity were determined. The safeguards were based on the OIE International Animal Health Code (OIE-IAHC) where applicable. Each safeguard prescribes what is required for the importation and also indicates a range of acceptable options. A quantitative risk assessment is recommended where proposed safeguards differ from the OIE-IAHC, or where there was a need to impose more stringent safeguards or where it was recommended that the importation of commodity be refused.

---

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, MAF Regulatory Authority, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand