

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Budget Estimates May 2013  
**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question:** 164

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Listing status of Coldstores for China

**Proof Hansard page:** 97 (27/05/2013)

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

**Senator COLBECK:** Fine. I will move on. The minister recently said that China had accredited 28 cold stores for export access to China. Have any of those shut or handed their licences back that you are aware of?

**Mr Read:** I do not quite get the question. Twenty-eight establishments have been approved for listing by CNCA. We were required to provide and furnish information back to AQSIQ in China in regard to those cold stores. That information has been provided. We are now waiting for advice from AQSIQ in terms of the listing of those cold stores.

**Senator COLBECK:** But have any of those cold stores handed in their certification that you are aware of?

**Mr Read:** Do you mean export registration?

**Senator COLBECK:** Yes. My information is that eight of them have.

**Mr Read:** I am not aware of that. I would have to take that question on notice.

**Senator COLBECK:** They have either handed back their licence or closed, and the rationale for that is the new fees. If you don't know you don't know. That is fine.

**Mr Read:** We have furnished responses to 28 plants back to AQSIQ. It would surprise me if eight of them are closed, but we will take that question on notice and clarify it.

**Answer:**

China accredited 28 cold stores. Five have voluntarily deregistered since the initial request was made.

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**Question:** 165

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Export meat consignments detained in Indonesia

**Proof Hansard page:** 99 (27/05/2013)

**Senator BACK asked:**

**Senator BACK:** I will acknowledge the role of the department in assisting with the movement of many of those 63, except to say—and I hope you will also accept this—that in some ways the department could have acted more expeditiously and promptly in assisting that process. But I will acknowledge the role of the department in assisting that process. I just urge that it could happen more expeditiously. So you will provide to us, on notice, your understanding of the fate of the balance of them? As you say, some of them are Indonesian owned, but I am interested in—

**Mr Read:** Sorry, Senator: I will provide on notice what we know that we issued certificates for.

**Answer:**

For the containers held in Indonesia where the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry assisted the export to other countries, forty one (41) certificates were provided, after confirming that importing country requirements had been met and product integrity maintained. In addition, two certificates were re-issued to enable consignments to be accepted for entry into Indonesia. One consignment was returned to Australia in accordance with Australia's import requirements. It should be noted that some consignments consisted of more than one container.

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**Question:** 166

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**Topic:** Export meat consignments detained in Indonesia

**Proof Hansard page:** 99 (27/05/2013)

**Senator BACK asked:**

**Senator BACK:** That is correct. But what I am anxious to know is, of those for which you were responsible for certification, what proportion of them, if any, eventually failed in the certification process as a result, for example, not maintaining frozen temperatures et cetera. I am not suggesting the department had any involvement. I just want to know, if possible, what the fate of them was in terms of the product integrity and the proportion of them that did not actually get sold—of those that you were responsible for re-certification.

**Mr Read:** I am unaware of any particular problems with the ones that we were responsible for. But, again, we can provide advice on any deviation from that to you.

**Answer:**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) is only aware of the fate of the containers that DAFF cleared by providing new certification. DAFF reissued all health certificates, following the assessment of documentary evidence to confirm that product integrity had been maintained. Forty one certificates were issued for export markets other than Indonesia and a further two were issued to allow consignments to be accepted into Indonesia. One consignment was returned to Australia in accordance with Australia's import requirements. It should be noted that consignments may consist of one or more containers.

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**Question:** 167

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Coldstores

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

The minister recently said that China had accredited 28 cold stores for export access to China. Have any of those shut or handed their licences back that you are aware of? Who are those 28?

**Answer:**

Of the 28 independent cold stores recommended for approval by China's Certification and Accreditation Administration (CNCA), five are deregistered and one has recently undergone management change and may progress its listing in the future. One of the deregistered plants is known to have closed, and has re-established operations at another site.

CNCA has published an updated list of approved establishments, including the 22 cold stores recently approved. This is available at:  
[www.cnca.gov.cn/rjwzcjgb/qwfbcx/jkspqy/meat/images/2013/06/19/875B35C9672F5CDC35E9285ACC52B619.pdf](http://www.cnca.gov.cn/rjwzcjgb/qwfbcx/jkspqy/meat/images/2013/06/19/875B35C9672F5CDC35E9285ACC52B619.pdf).

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**

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**Question:** 168

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Coldstores

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator COLBECK asked:**

Mr Read from DAFF said in Senate estimates 27 May 2013 to Senator Colbeck that water testing on non-EU cold stores is now reduced from 4 tests per year to 1. From when is this applicable?

**Answer:**

The policy reducing water testing on non-European Union coldstores using town potable water from four tests per year to one has been agreed. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is looking to implement this change at an operational level from the end of July 2013.

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee**

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Budget Estimates May 2013

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question: 169**

**Division/Agency:** Food Division

**Topic:** Horse Meat

**Proof Hansard page:** Written

**Senator RHIANNON asked:**

1. How many tonnes of horse meat were produced in Australia in 2011 and in 2012?
2. In Australia, how much horse meat is produced for the following market categories: the pet food industry, human consumption, and any other category such as tallow, hides, etc?
3. How much of each category is exported and how much of each category is for the domestic market?
4. How many abattoirs and how many knackeries in Australia process horse meat and where are they located?
5. Of these abattoirs and knackeries how many export horse meat overseas and to which countries?
6. What quantity of horse meat is exported to each country?
7. What abattoirs and knackeries export horse meat overseas?
8. Does Australia DNA test imported meats to ensure it is true to label, and if so how regularly are these tests scheduled, and what percentage of imported meat is tested?
9. Of the total number of horses slaughtered what is the ratio of feral versus domestic horses?
10. How has the horse meat scandal in Europe affected the Australian horse meat market?
11. Has the government responded by undertaking more DNA testing of imported meats?
12. Has the government upgraded the labelling of horse meat exported from Australia?
13. Any other actions that the government has taken?

**Answer**

1. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) regulates export registered establishments only. DAFF export registered establishments produced approximately 1830 tonnes of horsemeat in 2011 and 1995 tonnes of horsemeat in 2012.
2. DAFF is unable to provide information on the total number of tonnes of horsemeat produced as it relies on data from levies collection for information on small industries, such as horse meat. This data collected is not provided in the number of tonnes of meat produced. DAFF export registered establishments produced approximately 1830 tonnes in 2011 and 1995 tonnes in 2012 for the export market. Processed pet food, tallow and hides are not regulated by the department.
3. Please refer to the response to part 2 (above).
4. There are two DAFF registered export establishments that process horse meat – one in Queensland and one in South Australia.

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**Question:** 169 (continued)

5. The two DAFF registered export establishments exported horse meat to Belgium, Switzerland, France, Japan, New Caledonia Reunion and Russia.
6. For the period 2011 – 2012 the following quantities of horse meat were exported:  
Belgium: 191 tonnes  
Switzerland: 379 tonnes  
France: 43 tonnes  
New Caledonia: 0.7 tonnes  
Reunion: 45 tonnes  
Russia: 3167 tonnes
7. There are two DAFF registered export establishments. These are Establishment 750 (Samex Peterborough Pty Ltd) and Est 3416 (Meramist Pty Ltd).
8. There is currently no DNA testing applied to imported meat. Before beef may be sourced from a country for export to Australia, that country must have been assessed by the Australian government to verify that Australia's Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy policy and quarantine requirements will be met. On import to Australia, the beef products from these approved countries must be accompanied by government certification identifying the origin of the beef.
9. The department does not have statistics on the source or type of horses processed.
10. There has been a decrease in the quantity of horsemeat exported for the period January – May 2013 when compared to the corresponding period in 2012. However, it is not possible to determine if a causal relationship exists between the horse meat scandal in Europe, and the quantities of horse meat being exported from Australia.
11. No.
12. No.
13. In response to the horse meat substitution in Europe, the department published questions and answers on this issue and likely implications for Australia. This information is available from [www.daff.gov.au/about/media-centre/questions-and-answers-on-horse-meat-in-australia](http://www.daff.gov.au/about/media-centre/questions-and-answers-on-horse-meat-in-australia). The department also convened a horse meat substitution roundtable on Thursday, 21 March 2013 with representatives from retailers, industry and regulators to discuss the horse meat substitution issue in Europe. A communiqué on the outcomes of this meeting is available from:  
[www.daff.gov.au/about/media-centre/questions-and-answers-on-horse-meat-in-australia/roundtable-horse-meat-substitution-maintaining-consumer-confidence-and-standards](http://www.daff.gov.au/about/media-centre/questions-and-answers-on-horse-meat-in-australia/roundtable-horse-meat-substitution-maintaining-consumer-confidence-and-standards).