



Advice 4 / 04

21 May 2004

**TO: ALL LICENCED MEAT EXPORTERS
MANAGEMENT OF ALL AUS-MEAT ACCREDITED ENTERPRISES**

**ATTENTION: Officer in Charge AUS-MEAT Standards:
PRODUCT DESCRIPTION CLARIFICATION – BONE IN SHEEPMEAT ITEMS**

Some recent confusion involving lower value Sheepmeat packs that are described as **Assorted Cuts (Damaged)** or **Non Specified Pieces** have created some problems between traders including Market suitability to destinations where restrictions for such 'Low Value' items exist.

These descriptions have been approved for general use where a packer believes they have a saleable item that meets the needs of their customer and clearly details the pack contents in their in house specifications. These descriptions were NOT approved to allow the inclusion of items such as residual bone portions of partly boned primals, leg tips, residual rib portions, sternum bones, costal cartilages or items that would general be considered Miscellaneous Variety items as opposed to Bone In Sheepmeat items.

The two descriptions which have created confusion:

ASSORTED CUTS (Damaged) HAM 5038: Consists of Assorted Cuts derived from damaged carcasses or cuts. The Primal cuts packed in this pack will be damaged or incomplete. Examples of such items that might be found in these packs would be heavily trimmed primals (eg hygiene reasons, dressing faults), primals removed from damaged carcasses or primals prepared with incorrect cutting lines.

NON SPECIFIED PIECES HAM 5034: Consists of 'Recognised items' such as Chops, Steaks and Primal Portions that are surplus to production needs or items that might not comply with the specification requirements of primal cuts, further processed products or retail ready items. Examples of such items that might be found in these packs would be Chops or Steaks that fail to meet portion thickness tolerances or weight tolerances, Short Loin Chops without any Tenderloin, Leg Steaks with unwanted vertebrae or Rack Cutlets missing the Ribs. In addition, damaged Assorted Cuts as described above could also be included in these packs.

NOTE: Both of these items are considered 'Low Value' packs and may NOT be suitable for some market destinations.

Whilst it is a requirement that full details of the contents of such packs will be clearly detailed in Company specifications, AUS-MEAT recommends Packers and Exporters establish a commercial agreement on the contents of these packs under their contractual arrangements. Packers / Exporters should also ensure such packs comply with Customer Country Requirements before exporting.

Detailed HAM specification charts of these products are available on the AUS-MEAT Cut Code Database which is accessible through the AUS-MEAT Members On Line subscription service or by contacting AUS-MEAT Product Description Manager, Ph (07) 3247 7200, Fax (07) 3247 7222 or e-mail glennbarker@ausmeat.com.au.

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