

Joint media statement from the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Meat Industry Association, Meat & Wool New Zealand, New Zealand Islamic Meat Management and the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand.

22/7/05

NZFSA, MFAT, MIA, M&WNZ, NZIMM and FIANZ find the current situation with meat exports to Malaysia highly concerning

Three days after Malaysia apparently reduced the number of New Zealand meat premises that can export to that country, New Zealand has yet to receive any official notification.

Government officials, the meat industry and New Zealand's two halal certifying authorities (FIANZ and NZIMM) are actively seeking clarification as to the situation from Malaysia via our High Commission in Kuala Lumpur.

New Zealand trade officials have met with the Malaysian High Commissioner in Wellington and New Zealand's High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur has spoken to the Malaysian Government to express New Zealand's concern that the apparent change to New Zealand's export status came without warning and that no reason has been given.

Malaysian officials have advised informally that a letter explaining the situation will be forthcoming in the very near future.

Until such a letter is received and further discussions held, it is unhelpful to speculate as to what may be the reasons and any potential implications.

The New Zealand Government, meat industry and halal certifying authorities have a long record of working together to ensure the highest animal welfare standards are met while also meeting halal requirements

In the year ending May 2005 New Zealand exported meat worth at least \$66 million (Free On-Board) to Malaysia.

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