



March 11, 2016

File: 44200-20/SE

**DELIVERED BY EMAIL**

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Dear Sirs/Madam:

***SALMONELLA* ENTERITIDIS (SE) AND ORDERLY MARKETING – FOLLOW-UP**

In winter 2015 it came to the attention of the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) that there were concerns about increasing levels of *Salmonella* Enteritidis (SE) in B.C.'s population and in commercial broiler and hatching egg sectors. BCFIRB requires regulated boards and commissions (commodity boards) to demonstrate they are using a principles-based, outcome-oriented approach to regulation that demonstrates that potential risks to orderly marketing, such as SE, are identified and managed.

Following-up on the initial information it received on SE concerns, BCFIRB requested reports from the BC Chicken Marketing Board (CMB) and BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (BHEC) related to SE risk assessment and management activities (December 16, 2015). BCFIRB also requested information from the Primary Poultry Producers Association of BC (PPPABC) and the BC Egg Hatchery Association (BCEHA) on January 26, 2016. On February 10, 2016 BCFIRB met with Dr. Jane Pritchard, Director and Provincial Chief Veterinary Officer to, in part, discuss Dr. Pritchard's understanding of the current SE issue and the joint roles and responsibilities of the involved

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**British Columbia  
Farm Industry Review Board**

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organizations, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, BCFIRB and the commodity boards.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)* BCFIRB and the commodity boards are collectively responsible for the maintenance of orderly marketing. Recent changes to the *NPMA* also clarify commodity board responsibility in “protecting and promoting the safety of a natural product” and the related roles of BCFIRB, the Chief Veterinary Officer (Chief Vet) under the *Animal Health Act*, and the Provincial Health Officer under the *Public Health Act (NPMA s. 14)*.

## **BCFIRB Review and Analysis**

BCFIRB reviewed the reports from CMB, BHEC, and PPABC/BCEHA on SE risk assessment and management activities alongside the information from the Chief Vet.

It notes that while there are increased reports of SE in the broiler and hatching egg sectors, significant information gaps remain, including the effectiveness of current standard testing protocols and being able to accurately determine the prevalence and root causes of SE to effectively assess risk. It is not confirmed that poor farm management is generating increased reports of SE, although rodents are generally thought to play a role in SE in poultry.

## **BCFIRB's Expectations**

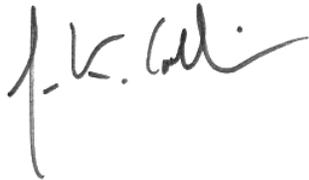
While BCFIRB is satisfied that at this time commodity boards are taking appropriate actions in coordination with other stakeholders, the Chief Vet and other organizations, commodity boards are to:

- Continue to ensure risk management programs are effective. This includes enforcement. Biosecurity risk management is a primary responsibility of the first instance regulator to ensure orderly marketing. As an example, the poultry sector's Poultry Biosecurity Standards and on-farm food safety programs include mandatory rodent control along with strict disinfection and waste management protocols. Commodity boards are to ensure that producers are upholding these standards through consistent on-farm audits that meet the intent of the standards, and to enforce these measures as necessary.
- Continue to work cooperatively with each other, other stakeholders, the Chief Vet and other appropriate organizations, as necessary, to manage SE risk. This includes collecting information and sharing it across industry sectors to maximize use of good management practices to help mitigate SE in the vertical supply chain. BCFIRB recognizes the operational challenges and risks that can come with more open exchange of information throughout the supply chain. However, commodity boards, as first instance regulators, must balance these considerations against the overall best interest of the poultry industry in order to deliver accountable risk management outcomes.

BCFIRB expects your boards to demonstrate – through annual and other reporting to BCFIRB as may be necessary – that this issue has been addressed effectively as part of their risk management programs.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact BCFIRB.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. K. Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long vertical stroke on the left side.

Jim Collins  
Executive Director

cc: Dr. Jane Pritchard, Director and Chief Veterinary Officer  
Plant and Animal Health Branch  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ron Kilmury  
Primary Poultry Processors Association of BC and  
BC Egg Hatchery Association

BCFIRB web site