

Primary Produce Safety Act 2011

The *Primary Produce Safety Act 2011* (the Act) complements the *Food Act 2003* to achieve a consistent regulatory framework for food safety covering the whole food chain. It replaces the *Egg Industry Act 2002* and the *Meat Hygiene Act 1985*.

The statutory objectives of the Act are to –

- provide for the application in Tasmania of the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code*, as it relates to primary production activities;
- develop food safety schemes for primary industries that reduce risks to consumers associated with unsafe or unsuitable produce;
- promote consumer confidence in the safety and integrity of Tasmanian primary produce; and
- facilitate the trade of Tasmanian primary produce by ensuring it meets national and international food safety standards.

The Act establishes –

- the overarching legal framework for primary produce safety. Regulations made under the Act will determine which industry sectors are subject to direct regulation (initially only egg, meat, seed sprout and seafood sectors) and which primary producers will need accreditation under the Act; and
- an accreditation, auditing and certification system which is crucial for primary producers. Apart from its value as a flexible enforcement mechanism, accreditation enables producers to demonstrate compliance with statutory Primary Production and Processing (PPP) Standards in order to gain access to domestic and international markets.

The Act creates –

- the position of Chief Inspector of Primary Produce Safety to centrally administer the Act's producer accreditation, auditing and certification system; and
- offences which better reflect its focus on the primary production and the supply end of the food chain, complementing the retail focused offences in the *Food Act 2003*.

The Act allows for the –

- development of industry specific "food safety schemes" to bring new national PPP Standards into force; and
- Tasmanian Dairy Industry Authority (TDIA) to regulate dairy food safety under the new legislation, should it decide to do so in the future.

For further information, please contact:

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