Level 4, Wellington Chambers, 154 Featherston Street
PO Box 121, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
T: 64 4 473 9150 F: 64 4 474 0801
www.nzmeatboard.org

COMMUNICATION TO ALL REGISTERED MEAT EXPORTERS

Outcomes on September 2025 consultation re New Entrant Access provisions for WTO quotas

Report December 2025

Modification to WTO quotas new entrant mechanism

Background

The Meat Board Act 2004 requires NZMB to review quota allocation mechanisms (QAMR) at least every five years. In March 2024, NZMB consulted with all registered meat exporters and industry bodies on proposed changes and agreed on quota allocation mechanisms for both World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Free Trade Agreement (FTA) quotas to apply for quota years commencing on/after 1 January 2025.

The 2024 review introduced a liberalised approach for access to WTO quotas by new entrants: new entrants can now apply on a first-come, first-served, certificate by certificate basis throughout the quota year for a portion of the RQA pool with a cap at thirty (30%) per cent.

Since then, a quota holder has raised concerns about the timing of the reallocation of new entrant quota for WTO quotas when there are few or no new entrants.

Issue raised

A concern expressed regarding the revised new entrant Reserved Quota Allowance (RQA) quota allocation mechanism was that it delayed GQA holder access to unused new entrant RQA quota potentially reducing the ability of the industry to make best use of the quota access available.

Board Consultation and Decision

The New Zealand Meat Board considered the issues raised and carried out further consultation with the industry in September/October 2025.

As a result of the consultation the Board decided for WTO quotas (excluding EU and UK FTA quotas) commencing 1 January 2026 (calendar year quotas) and 1 July 2026 (for HQB quotas) :

- At the halfway mark of the quota year, up to 80% of the unused new entrant RQA quota may be reallocated to general quota holders, in proportion to their original allocations.
- All other aspects of the quota mechanism remain the same i.e. up to 2% set aside in each WTO quota for new entrant access, including that any unused new entrant quota as at hand back date shall be subsumed into the general quota pool for reallocation.

For example:

US Beef and Veal Quota 2026

- New entrant volume available = 2% of 213,402 tonnes = 4,268 tonnes
- New entrants utilise 325 tonnes up to 1 July 2026 – 3,943 tonnes remaining.
- Up to 80% [1](3,154 tonnes) reallocated to general quota holders, in proportion to their original allocations, with 789 tonnes remaining for use by new entrants.

Existing provisions of unused new entrant RQA quota remains unchanged. That is: at hand back (1 October for calendar year quotas; or 1 April for HQB quotas) any remaining new entrant quota becomes available for reallocation to general quota holders.

For clarify an extract from quota manuals[2] follows regarding reallocation precedence:

The Board shall reallocate in order of precedence to:

a. in the case where demand for access to returned quota exceeds the volume returned to the Board then it will be reallocated in proportion to the percentage of every such holder's initial allocation of General Quota Allowance for that Quota Year.

b. in the case where demand for access to returned quota is less than the volume returned to the Board then

> *i. on demand to General Quota holders*
>
> *ii. any remaining quota to be made available on a first come first served, certificate by certificate basis (with the 30% limit for New Entrants removed)*

[1] At the Board's discretion and determined by overall new entrant RQA utilisation as at 30 June or 31 March each quota year i.e. quota balance remaining.
[2] Section 8, Transfers and Unused Quota Allowance , Section B – Unused Quota Allowance