



Returned New Zealand Animal Products

RETURNAP.ALL

9 September 2022

TITLE

Import Health Standard: Returned New Zealand Animal Products

COMMENCEMENT

This consolidated standard comes into force on 9 September 2022.

This import health standard amends the *Import Health Standard: Returned New Zealand Animal Products*, which came into force on 26 April 2017, and consolidates all amendments made up to [document date]

The amendment history to this import health standard is set out in *Schedule 1: Document History*.

REVOCATION

This Import Health Standard revokes and replaces the following standards:

- *Import Health Standard: Returned New Zealand Animal Products, RETURNAP.ALL, 26 April 2017*

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This import health standard is issued under section 24A of the Biosecurity Act 1993 and incorporates amendments made in accordance with section 24B(1)(a) of that Act.

Dated at Wellington, 9 September 2022

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Import Health Standard (IHS), but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing returned New Zealand animal products into New Zealand.

Background

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating, and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.

IHSs issued under the Act set out requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with importing goods. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit, and during importation, before biosecurity clearance can be given.

Guidance boxes are included within this IHS for explanatory purposes. The guidance included in these boxes is for information only and has no legal effect.

Who should read this Import Health Standard?

This IHS should be read by importers of returned New Zealand animal products.

Why is this important?

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of this IHS are met. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may not be cleared for entry into New Zealand and/or further information may be sought from importers. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may be re-shipped or destroyed under the Act, or treated in accordance with this IHS prior to release or equivalence determined. Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

The costs to MPI in performing functions relating to the importation of returned New Zealand animal products will be recovered in accordance with the Act and any regulations made under the Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage, and obtaining a biosecurity clearance must be covered by the importer or agent.

Equivalence

The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may approve measures under section 27(1)(d) of the Act, different from those set out in this IHS, that may be applied to effectively manage risks associated with the importation of these goods.

If an equivalent measure is approved, an import permit may be issued under section 24D(2) of the Act if the Director-General considers it appropriate to do so. The details of the CTO direction on equivalence may be included as notes in the special conditions section of the permit to inform the inspector's assessment of the commodity.

MPI's preference is that the exporting country's Competent Authority or customs authority makes equivalence requests. Equivalence requests can be lodged with animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

Inspection

On arrival, all documentation accompanying the consignment will be verified by an inspector.

Document History

Refer to *Schedule 1*.

Other information

This is not an exhaustive list of compliance requirements and it is the importer's responsibility to be familiar with and comply with all New Zealand laws.

Food Act 2014 and Animal Products Act 1999

Consignments of food imported for sale into New Zealand for human consumption must comply with relevant requirements of the Animal Products Act 1999, Food Act 2014, and the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code.

The Food Act 2014 requires that importers of food intended for sale for human consumption are registered with MPI prior to the importation of any food into New Zealand. This requirement is independent of this IHS requirements. Importers are advised to consult MPI's website: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/food/> for information on the Food Act requirements that importers must meet to import food for sale in New Zealand.

Some imported foods known as High Regulatory Interest foods and Increased Regulatory Interest foods, will require food safety clearance on arrival. These foods include beef and beef products, some seafood products, and cheese. A full list of these foods can be found in the Schedules to the [Food Notice: Importing Food](#). A food safety clearance will include a documentation check and may include inspection, sampling, and testing at the importers cost.

Imported animal material or product, that is of New Zealand origin and is intended for re-export to a country where official assurance is required, must comply with the requirements in Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR) 01/172 under the Animal Products Act 1999. To arrange for an inspection under the OMAR 01/172, contact your primary verifier or local MPI Verification Services Office.

Import Health Standards

Other relevant IHSs must also be complied with before biosecurity clearance will be issued. These may include but are not limited to the following:

- a) Consignments containing wood packaging material must meet the requirements of the following: [IHS: Wood Packaging Material from All Countries](#)

Harmonised System (HS) Codes

The Harmonised System is an international product numbering classification developed by the World Customs Organization. The New Zealand Harmonised System is found here: [Tariffs in New Zealand | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment \(mbie.govt.nz\)](#)

Trade Single Window (TSW) and Customs clearance

All goods imported into New Zealand need to be cleared by the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). To gain customs clearance, the required documentation must be lodged through the TSW portal.

For more information about TSW please visit <https://www.customs.govt.nz/business/trade-single-window/>

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to all importers of personal or commercial consignments of returned New Zealand animal products from all countries into New Zealand.

Guidance for 1.1

- Some returned New Zealand animal products may be eligible for biosecurity clearance if they meet the requirements of another IHS. Some of these IHSs are:
 - [*Import Health Standard: Specified Foods for Human Consumption Containing Animal Products, EDIPROIC.ALL, 25 June 2020*](#)
 - [*Import Health Standard: Specified Animal Products, SPECPROD.ALL, 25 June 2020*](#).
 - [*Import Health Standard for Biological Products\), BIOLOGICAL.ALL, 17 December 2021*](#)
 - [*Import Health Standard for Microorganisms from All Countries, MICROIC.ALL, 31 January 2010*](#)
 - [*Import Health Standard for Shelf-Stable Petfoods containing Animal Products, PETFODIC.ALL, 20 February 2020*](#)

1.2 Definitions

- (1) For the purposes of this standard and the associated guidance, terms used that are defined in the Act have the meanings set out there. The Act is available at: www.legislation.govt.nz.
- (2) See *Schedule 2* for additional definitions that apply.

1.3 Requirements for clearance

- (1) To obtain biosecurity clearance, returned New Zealand animal products must:
- a) Where applicable, be accompanied by an import permit as required by clause 1.4.
 - b) Meet the requirements of clauses 1.5 and/or 1.6 of *Part 1: Requirements*, and *Part 2: Specified Requirements*.

1.4 Import permit information

- (1) An import permit issued under section 24D of the Act is required if a CTO has approved an equivalent measure prior to import, different from that set in this IHS, that may be applied to effectively manage risks.

Guidance for 1.4

- Application forms can be found on the MPI website at: [*Permit Application Form Animal Products*](#), or apply for the import permit at the following weblink when active: <https://animalplantimportpermit.mpi.govt.nz/>
- Completed applications can be submitted to Animal Imports animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz

1.5 The documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) All documentation that is required by clause 1.5 to accompany returned New Zealand animal products must, unless otherwise stated:
 - a) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible.
 - b) Be original.
- (2) Documentation that is in an electronic format must, unless otherwise stated, be transmitted directly from the Competent Authority or customs authority of the exporting country to MPI, using an electronic system approved by MPI for that purpose.
- (3) The consignment must arrive in New Zealand with the documentation that is specified in, and meets the requirements of, clauses 1.5.1 to 1.5.4 below:

1.5.1 Import permit

- (1) An import permit (copy acceptable), where required by this IHS, which is for a single consignment.

1.5.2 New Zealand official assurance

- (1) A copy (paper, electronic, or extract) of an official assurance (veterinary or export certificate) for the original export from New Zealand, where one has been issued by MPI.

1.5.3 Shipping documents

- (1) Copies of air waybills (for air freight) or bills of lading (for sea freight) for the original export from, and its subsequent return to, New Zealand.

1.5.4 Additional documents

- (1) Where additional documents are required in *Part 2: Specified Requirements* of this IHS, these documents must include the following:
 - a) A unique consignment identifier (e.g. lot numbers, container numbers or container seal numbers).
 - b) The description and amount of product.
 - c) In the case of official documents (e.g. certificate of non-manipulation, refused entry notice, rejection letter) in a paper format, endorsement by the official of the overseas Competent Authority or customs authority with their original stamp, signature, and date.
 - d) In the case of marine, cargo, or independent surveyor reports, the date and signature of the surveyor.

1.6 Inspection and verification

- (1) Where inspection is required, returned New Zealand animal products must be inspected at an MPI approved transitional facility to verify the following if applicable:
 - a) Container number.
 - b) Container seal number.
 - c) MPI official security devices on product packaging.
 - d) Product and packaging integrity.
 - e) Product quantity and identity.

Guidance for 1.6

- Where an inspector is satisfied, based on an assessment of the documents as required in clause 1.5 of this IHS, that the returned animal products have been under overseas official control (see *Schedule 2* for definition) and MPI official export security devices are intact, inspection on arrival in New Zealand is not necessary.
- Returned New Zealand animal products that are intended to be re-exported with official assurances must comply with the requirements in the [OMAR 01/172 Import of Foreign Animal Material and Animal Products and Return to New Zealand of New Zealand Animal Material and Animal Products for Domestic Use or Export](#), issued under the Animal Products Act 1999.
- An MPI inspector warranted under both the Biosecurity Act 1993 and the Animal Products Act 1999 may carry out inspections for the purposes of biosecurity clearance in New Zealand and re-export from New Zealand.

Part 2: Specified Requirements

2.1 Returned sea containers

2.1.1 With intact, original MPI container seals

- (1) Returned sea containers with intact, original MPI container seals are eligible for biosecurity clearance.

2.1.2 Without intact, original MPI container seals

- (1) Returned sea containers without intact, original MPI container seals must be accompanied by one of the following additional documents:
 - a) An official document (e.g. certificate of non-manipulation, refused entry notice, rejection letter) issued by the overseas Competent Authority or customs authority demonstrating all of the following:
 - i) The animal products have been held in a secure area under overseas official control (see *Schedule 2* for definition) until their return to New Zealand.
 - ii) The sea container has been resealed by the overseas Competent Authority or customs authority. The new container seal number must be recorded on the official document.
 - b) A marine, cargo, or independent surveyor report detailing any repacking, the condition of the animal products, and any change of sea container and container seal.
- (2) Returned sea containers without intact, original MPI container seals that have been transhipped must be accompanied by document(s) as described in clause 2.1.2(1) that demonstrate the traceability of the consignment to the satisfaction of MPI.
- (3) Returned sea containers without intact, original MPI container seals that do not meet clause 2.1.2(1) or 2.1.2(2) must be inspected to confirm that any original MPI official export security devices on the product packaging are intact.

Guidance for 2.1.2(1)a

- Examples of a secure area include customs-bonded warehouse, customs-bonded store, and port.

Guidance for 2.1.2(1)b

- A marine, cargo, or independent surveyor is a person who inspects, surveys or examines cargo to assess and report on the condition of the cargo and the products in it.

Guidance for 2.1.2(2)

- Transshipment refers to the unloading of goods from one sea container and re-loading of the goods into another sea container to complete a journey to a further destination.

Guidance for 2.1.2(3)

- This clause only applies to products that have MPI official export security devices on their packaging.
- MPI official export security devices are MPI tamper-evident seals, as described in the [*Animal Products Notice: Tamper-Evident Seals*](#).

2.2 Returned air freight

- (1) Returned air freight that has been subjected to a commercial package tracking system must be held in a secure area under overseas official control (see *Schedule 2* for definition) until its return to New Zealand.
- (2) Returned air freight that has not been subjected to a commercial package tracking system must be accompanied by one of the following additional documents:

- a) An official document (e.g. certificate of non-manipulation, refused entry notice, rejection letter) issued by the overseas Competent Authority or customs authority demonstrating that:
- i) The air freight has been held in a secure area under overseas official control (see *Schedule 2* for definition) until its return to New Zealand.
- b) A cargo or independent surveyor report detailing any repacking, and the condition of the animal products.
- (3) Returned air freight that does not meet clause 2.2(1) or 2.2(2) must:
- a) Be inspected to confirm that any original MPI official export security devices on the product packaging or germplasm transport containers are intact; or
- b) For germplasm air freight, be accompanied by an official document issued by the overseas Competent Authority or customs authority recording the new security device number.

Guidance for 2.2(1)

- Examples of courier, express, or parcel service providers that operate a commercial package tracking system are FedEx and UPS.

Guidance for 2.2(2)a)

- Examples of a secure area include customs-bonded warehouse, customs-bonded store, and port.

Guidance for 2.2(2)b)

- A cargo or independent surveyor is a person who inspects, surveys, or examines cargo to assess and report on the condition of the cargo and the products in it.

Guidance for 2.2(3)

- This clause only applies to products or germplasm that have MPI official export security devices on their packaging or germplasm transport containers.
- MPI official export security devices are MPI tamper-evident seals, such as those described in the [Animal Products Notice: Tamper-Evident Seals](#).

2.3 Non-compliant animal products

- (1) Returned animal products that do not meet clause 2.1 or 2.2 of this IHS must be treated, destroyed, or disposed of in accordance with *Schedule 3*.

Guidance for 2.3

- Non-compliance may be due to:
 - a loss of overseas official control (see *Schedule 2* for definition); or
 - a loss of product packaging integrity, caused by inspection activities carried out by the overseas Competent Authority or customs authority (e.g. sampling of animal products, opening of packaging) or mechanical damage due to handling during shipping.
- Packaging integrity refers to the intactness of both the animal products' primary packaging and the outer packaging seal (if there is one). Primary packaging is the layer of packaging in direct contact with the animal product. For the purposes of this IHS examples of primary packaging include but are not limited to:
 - Bottles containing honey or capsules of bee product in retail ready packaging.
 - Drums for transporting honey or animal fat in bulk.
 - Bladder tanks and pillow tanks for transporting animal fat.
 - The plastic wrap (vacuum sealed or otherwise) covering the meat or butter transported within cardboard cartons.
 - Pouches containing petfood.
 - Bulk bags, sacks, bins, and totes for transporting milk powder.

- Sea containers transporting meat and bone meal in bulk.

Schedule 1 – Document History

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
26 April 2017	Import Health Standard: Returned New Zealand Animal Products	RETURNAP.ALL
Date of Issued Amendments	Title	Shortcode
9 September 2022	Import Health Standard: Returned New Zealand Animal Products	RETURNAP.ALL

Schedule 2 – Definitions

Competent Authority

The Veterinary or other Governmental Authority of a WOA Member, that has the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the *Code* in the whole territory.

CTO Direction

Chief Technical Officer Direction - equivalent measures recorded by number under section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Act, to enable border staff to clear the goods and record the number in the MPI database.

Director-General

The chief executive of the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Germplasm

Semen or embryos collected from any animal species.

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.

Overseas Official Control

New Zealand animal products are under overseas official control when they are held securely under the supervision or regulatory oversight of the overseas Competent Authority or customs authority, before all required clearances (e.g. customs, biosecurity, quarantine) are given for the products to enter the overseas country.

Returned New Zealand Animal Products

Animal products that were originally exported from New Zealand. The animal products were under overseas official control (see definition in this Schedule), and have not been reprocessed, remanufactured, or repackaged in the overseas country, before being returned to New Zealand.

The Code

The WOA *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* as found on the WOA website.

Veterinary Certificate

A certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the *Code* Chapter for certification procedures, describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

WOAH

The World Organisation for Animal Health.

Schedule 3 – Treatment or Disposal

- (1) Returned New Zealand animal products specified in clauses 2.3 of this IHS must be treated or disposed of at a transitional facility approved to one of the following standards:
 - a) MPI [Standard for Transitional Facilities for General Uncleared Risk Goods, MPI-STD-TFGEN](#)
 - b) MPI [Standard for Transitional Facilities for Animal Products, MPI-STD-ANIPRODS](#)

Commodity-specific treatments

- (1) The following is a list of treatment options for mitigating the biosecurity risks of the corresponding commodities. The approved transitional facility applying a treatment must be approved specifically for carrying out that treatment.

Guidance

- This list will be reviewed and updated as new or amended import risk analyses or IHSs become available.
- MPI may consider treatments that provide equivalent biosecurity risk mitigation as alternatives to those listed below. Please refer to Equivalence of this IHS for details.
- Some of the treatments may alter the original intended purpose (e.g. export eligibility and intended consumers) of the returned New Zealand animal products. Please check with your transitional facility operator or biosecurity treatment supplier, and understand any Overseas Market Access requirements, if the returned New Zealand animal products are intended for re-export.

Meat, tallow, offal, bone, blood, and products

- (2) Heat treatment to a core temperature of at least 121°C for no less than 3 minutes, or any alternative time/temperature parameters that are recognised to be equivalent to F₀3.

Non-salmonid freshwater fish products

- (3) Heat treatment to a core temperature of at least 85°C for no less than 15 minutes.

Processed bee products (except honey)

- (4) Gamma irradiation with 15 kGy for products not intended for human consumption.
- (5) A heat treatment in which the bee products have reached a core temperature of:
 - a) 50°C for a minimum of 54 hours
 - b) 60°C for a minimum of 10 hours
 - c) 70°C for a minimum of 1 hour and 48 minutes
 - d) 80°C for a minimum of 22 minutes
 - e) 90°C for a minimum of 5 minutes

Honey

- (6) Honey must be managed using a biosecurity treatment option specified in the 'Biosecurity treatments for disposal' section of this Schedule.

Hides and skins

- (7) Refer to MPI [Import Health Standard for Hides and Skins, HIDESKIN.ALL](#), for specified requirements.

Animal fibre

- (8) Refer to MPI [Import Health Standard for Animal Fibre ANIFIBRE.ALL](#), for specified requirements.

Biosecurity treatments for disposal

- (1) The following is a list of options for disposal:
 - a) Incineration.
 - b) Rendering.
 - a) Deep burial.