

PROPOSED CHANGES TO IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD BNZ-PAFP-IMPRT: Importation into New Zealand of Processed Animal Feeds of Plant Origin

April 2009

The import health standard (IHS) for the Importation into New Zealand of Processed Animal Feeds of Plant Origin was last amended on 29 August 2008. A proposed amendment to the standard is now available for public consultation.

BACKGROUND

All products imported under this standard must be clean and accompanied by the required documentation. Fumigation with phosphine is mandatory for many of the products and all consignments are inspected on arrival with the exception of a few finished brand name products which are imported under permits to import.

Over the last few years consignments of products listed in section 7.3 of the standard, particularly palm kernel meal and tapioca pellets for the dairy industry, have increased considerably in quantity. Consignments of containerised products are sometimes in the order of 25 containers and containerised products have proved to be more prone to pest contamination, especially within damp areas surrounding doors if containers get wet. During the latter part of 2008, MAF experienced a few heavily infested containers which required actions on arrival before the products could be deemed clean and given a biosecurity clearance. There have also been two unrelated post border detections within the last few months in consignments of Tapioca pellets. One detection was identified as a regulated organism, Long headed flour beetle (*Latheticus oryzae*), and subject to a post border fumigation procedure. An unusually long storage period post arrival was considered to have contributed to the situation.

MAF have also become aware of a growing phosphine resistance observed among several stored grain pests. It is now appropriate to strengthen the import requirements by increasing the exposure time to the phosphine fumigant and to modify the sampling and inspection regime for containerised products. Fumigation with phosphine can only be tightened by an increase in exposure time, not an increase in concentration.

It is worth noting that occasionally consignments have been fumigated offshore with methyl bromide. Along with the worldwide move to reduce its use, MAF continues to discourage its use on a regular basis, other than for interceptions on arrival.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Section 3.2.3

The phosphine fumigation exposure times are increased. There is a requirement to have the method of application stated on the fumigation certificate. This is considered necessary to identify consignments that have been fumigated completely prior to shipment with no phosphine generating products added into or on top of the consignment for fumigation to continue during the voyage. Consignments fumigated completely before the voyage must be exposed for the required number of days.

Section 4.2.2

A proposed modification to the sampling regime for product in containers will require more containers to be inspected by the MAF inspector. The proposal is that if the first two containers of the first 5 containers are clean a further one container for each of the next 5 containers are to be

inspected. If pests are intercepted at all in this inspection, as has been the situation, every container will require inspection. Containers not inspected by the MAF inspector are inspected by a trained MAFBNZ Accredited Person.

Section 4.2.3

Amendment of inspection rate for bags not fumigated from 1 in 10 to double the rate of the fumigated bags. It has been found that a sampling rate of 1 in 10 is not appropriate. No contaminants have been intercepted. The new proposed rate for these consignments is double the number of bags for fumigated consignments.

Section 7.3.1 (new)

Allowance for importation of small trade samples of product listed in 7.3. This proposed allowance will provide for amounts up to 5kg to receive a clearance without the full documentation required for a full consignment. A declaration from the supplier is required relating to the production premises and a 100% inspection on arrival.

Section 7.7.2

Inclusion of the clause "Dried seaweed products imported under this standard are only to be used for terrestrial animal feed additives." This extra proposed note is inserted to remove any possibility of such feeds being used for aquaculture.

A number of other minor editorial changes have been made.