

# IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR SPECIFIED PROCESSED BEE PRODUCTS

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Date: 15/06/2009

The import health standard is in four parts:

Part A. [GENERAL INFORMATION](#) describes the legal basis for this import health standard and your general responsibilities as an importer.

Part B. [IMPORTATION PROCEDURE](#) outlines whether a permit is required, the conditions of eligibility, and documentation that may need to accompany your consignment.

Part C. [CLEARANCE PROCEDURE](#) describes the clearance requirements at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, whether the consignment must go to a transitional facility or containment facility.

Part D. [ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION](#) contains model health certification which must be fully completed and accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

## PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for specified processed bee products.
- 1.2 To obtain biosecurity clearance the consignment must meet the requirements of this import health standard.

### 2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current version of the relevant import health standard at the time of importation. Current versions are available online at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/import-health-standards/search>. A register of import health standards is also publicly available for inspection at the office of the Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington, New Zealand.
- 2.2 The costs to [MAF Biosecurity New Zealand in performing functions relating to the importation of processed bee products must be recovered.](#)
- 2.3 Commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption must comply with the Food Act 1981. These requirements are independent of the import health standard requirements and are managed by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA). Importers are advised to consult the NZFSA website: <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/imported-food/index.htm> or contact the NZFSA directly.

- 2.4 Irradiated foods intended for human consumption are not eligible for import into New Zealand unless they have been through a pre-market safety assessment process conducted by NZFSA. Further information is available from the website <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consumers/food-safety-topics/food-processing-labelling/food-irradiation/index.htm>.

### 3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

#### **Biosecurity clearance**

A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand. (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction).

#### **Biosecurity direction**

Written authority from an inspector, given under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act (1993), to move un-cleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand.

#### **Commercially prepared and packaged**

A product manufactured in a commercial manner by a commercial enterprise and is subsequently packaged in tamper proof packaging.

#### **Inspector**

A person appointed as an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993).

#### **Shelf-stable**

Not requiring refrigeration or freezing.

#### **Transitional facility**

Means (a) any place approved as a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the purpose of inspection, testing, storage, treatment, holding or destruction of un-cleared goods; or (b) a part of a port declared to be a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act (1993).

#### **Terrestrial Code**

The World Organization for Animal Health *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

#### **Veterinary Authority**

The governmental Veterinary Service that has authority for implementing, supervising and auditing the animal health measures and international veterinary certification processes recommended by the Terrestrial Code.

## 4 EQUIVALENCE

The import health standard has been agreed as being suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the bee products will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply completely with this import health standard. In such cases, an application for equivalence may be considered, equivalence granted and a permit to import issued at the discretion of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, but only if the following information is forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authority:

- which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status and/or what proposal is made to return the consignment to an equivalent health status as set out in this standard; and
- the reasons why the veterinary authority of the country of origin believe this proposal must be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their recommendation for its acceptance.

## PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

### 5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

5.1 The following products require a permit to import:

- 5.1.1 processed composite foods/food ingredients containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly that have not been baked or fried
- 5.1.2 confectionery (excluding nougat) containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly that is not boiled
- 5.1.3 refined propolis products that have not been packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
- 5.1.4 dietary supplements containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly that have not been encapsulated and packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
- 5.1.5 medical preparations containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly
- 5.1.6 samples of honey and other processed bee products for evaluation and subsequent destruction.

(Refer to clauses 7.3, 7.4 and 7.7 in the [eligibility section](#)).

5.2 Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

- 5.3 Application for a permit to import must be made prior to the proposed date of importation in writing to the Animal Imports Team, Border Standards, MAF Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand.

Email: [animalimports@maf.govt.nz](mailto:animalimports@maf.govt.nz) or fax: +64 4 894 0773

## 6 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

- 6.1 The consignment must be accompanied by appropriately completed documentation where specified in section 7 of this import health standard.
- 6.2 Documentation must be in English, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English).
- 6.3 The consignment must be accompanied by appropriately completed original documentation. It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any required documentation is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in rejection of consignments or delays in obtaining biosecurity clearance and/or direction.

## 7 ELIGIBILITY

- 7.1 **Refined beeswax products such as beeswax polish, candles, crayons, ear candles, fire-logs, lubricants and surf wax** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided:
- i. The product is commercially prepared and packaged
  - ii. The product is manufactured into products
  - iii. The product is not foundation beeswax or any other product associated with the beekeeping industry.

### Note

1. Didgeridoos with a small amount of beeswax around the mouthpiece may be released. Didgeridoos must still be inspected at the border to ensure compliance with standards for importation of forest produce.

- 7.2 **Refined beeswax** may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) from *any country* provided:

- i. The product is accompanied by a [Manufacturer's Declaration](#) that identifies the product and certifies that the beeswax has been heated to at least 60 degrees Celsius for 2 hours and clarified.

### Note:

1. The beeswax may be in blocks that are not commercially packaged, but it must be clear to an Inspector that the Manufacturer's Declaration relates to the consignment of beeswax.

### 7.3 Processed composite foods, food ingredients and beverages containing honey:

#### 7.3.1 Baked or fried foods containing honey and boiled confectionery containing honey from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided:

- i. The product is [shelf-stable](#).

Note:

1. Examples of baked or fried foods containing honey may include baby rusks, baked muesli bars, baklava, brownies, cakes, biscuits, bread, breakfast cereals, chips, crackers, halvah, honey roasted nuts, muffins, soft nougat, snacks and teiglach.
2. Examples of boiled confectionery containing honey may include boiled sweets, nougat (e.g. Toblerone, Golden Boronia Crunchy Nougat), chocolate covered nougat, caramels, chocolate and fudge.

#### 7.3.2 Other processed composite foods, food ingredients and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) containing honey from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) or [biosecurity direction](#) provided:

- i. The product is commercially prepared and packaged
- ii. The product is:  
EITHER
  - a. accompanied by a Manufacturer's Declaration certifying that the product contains less than 2% honeyOR
  - b. in commercial packaging that states that the product contains less than 2% honeyOR
  - c. accompanied by a permit to import.

### 7.4 Dietary supplements and medical preparations:

#### 7.4.1 Refined bee venom products from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided:

- i. The product does not contain honey, pollen or royal jelly
- ii. The product is commercially prepared and packaged.

#### 7.4.2 Refined propolis products from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided:

- i. The product does not contain honey, pollen or royal jelly
- ii. The product is commercially prepared **AND**

- EITHER a. packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
- OR b. accompanied by a permit to import.

7.4.3 **Dietary supplements containing honey, pollen or royal jelly** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) or a [biosecurity direction](#) provided:

- i. The product is commercially prepared
- ii. The product is:
  - EITHER a. encapsulated (completely covered by an edible substance that does not contain sugar, fruit, honey, pollen or royal jelly, such as gelatine or wax) and packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
  - OR b. accompanied by a Manufacturer's Declaration stating that the product contains no more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly
  - OR b. in commercial packaging that states that the product contains less than 2% honey
  - OR c. accompanied by a permit to import.

7.4.4 **Medical preparations such as antibiotic ointments, breath sprays, cough syrups, healing creams, medicated plasters, toothpaste, and throat lozenges containing honey, pollen or royal jelly** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) or a [biosecurity direction](#) provided:

- i. The product is commercially prepared
- ii. The product is:
  - EITHER a. accompanied by a Manufacturer's Declaration stating that the product contains no more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly
  - OR b. in commercial packaging that states that the product contains less than 2% honey
  - OR b. accompanied by a permit to import.

Note:

1. Dietary supplements given a direction to a transitional facility may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided they are encapsulated and packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale.
2. Nin Jiom herbal cough syrup Pei Pa Koa contains honey; any importation will need to comply with the procedure detailed above.

7.5 **Cosmetics containing honey, pollen or royal jelly** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided:

- i. The product is commercially prepared

Notes:

1. Examples of cosmetics that may contain honey, pollen or royal jelly include products such as cleansing products, shampoo, creams and emulsions, packs or masks, and lip preparations.
2. Dermatological preparations and medicinal treatments containing honey to aid healing, prevent or reduce infection are defined as medicinal preparations and must meet the conditions outlined in clause 7.4.4 of this import health standard.

7.6 **Honey** from *Niue, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided:

- i. The product is accompanied by zoosanitary certification issued by the [veterinary authority](#) of the exporting country which certifies that:
  - the honey originates from that country;
  - the country is free from European foulbrood caused by *Melissococcus pluton*.

7.7 **Samples of honey** and other processed bee products for evaluation and subsequent destruction from any country may be given a biosecurity clearance provided:

- i. The product is commercially prepared and packaged.
- ii. The product is sealed.
- iii. The product is accompanied by a permit to import.

7.8 **New Zealand origin** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided all of the following requirements are met:

- i. The product is commercially prepared and packaged;
- ii. The product is within its original sealed packaging upon arrival;
- iii. The country of origin (New Zealand) is clearly identifiable on the packaging;
- iv. For commercial consignments the product is accompanied by the export certificate used to export the honey from New Zealand.

## **PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE**

### **8 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE AND DIRECTION**

- 8.1 An inspector may inspect consignments upon arrival in New Zealand.
- 8.2 Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of [eligibility](#), the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a [biosecurity direction](#) pursuant to section 25 to the [transitional facility](#) named in the permit to import, or a [biosecurity clearance](#) pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

## **PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION**

- 9.1 None required except for honey from Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. Refer to clause 7.6 and 7.7 of this import health standard.