

BRIDGING DOCUMENT ADVISING CHANGES TO THE DRAFT IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR ORNAMENTAL FISH AND MARINE INVERTEBRATES FOR ALL COUNTRIES

1. Introduction

This is an amendment to the current Import Health Standard (IHS) for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates from All Countries based on several requests from importers to add new species to the current list of species eligible for importation

Key changes include:

- The addition of “low risk” species within new genera.
These species were submitted during previous amendments. They can now be added to the IHS as they have gone through the risk analysis process which indicated these species do not do not pose any additional risk.
- The addition of “low risk” species within genera already listed on the IHS
This includes correction of administrative errors made during a previous amendment to the IHS.

2. Additional species

Attached are four documents that list all the species that were put forward for addition to the eligible species list of the IHS. These documents include:

- species of freshwater fish
- species of marine fish
- species of marine invertebrates
- species of hard and soft corals and anemones

3. Possible reasons for exclusion of species

Of the species submitted, not all are added to the eligible species list of the IHS as a part of this amendment. Possible reasons for exclusion of species include:

- Species considered by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) as ‘new’ to New Zealand under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act.
- Species already listed on the current import health standard
- Species where no valid scientific name could be determined
- Species considered in the DoC/NIWA report (Bob McDowall) as of high risk to our environment.
- Species considered by MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) to be “high risk” in the supplementary risk analysis document. This is further explained below.
- Species within a new genus which have not gone through the risk analysis process.
This exclusion only applies to species that were submitted as:
 - o Administrative errors.
These species were submitted when the IHS’s eligible genus list was converted to an eligible species list. The Federation of New Zealand Aquatic Societies (FNZAS) submitted species during that amendment, but due to an

administrative error these species were not added to the eligible species list. This has only recently become apparent and subsequently these species have been considered for addition to the IHS as a part of this amendment.

- Recent submissions

Importers were given the opportunity to add more species late in the risk analysis process if they obtained an HSNO approval from ERMA.

Some of the species submitted as ‘administrative errors’ or ‘recent submissions’ are within a new genus. Species within a new genus need to go through the risk analysis process before they can be added to the IHS. As these species were submitted too late to be included in the current risk analysis process they have not gone through risk analysis process and they can not be added to the IHS as a part of this amendment.

4. Supplementary risk analysis

The species that were not excluded have gone through a supplementary risk analysis which is currently being finalised. This document divides the submitted species into two categories:

- high risk, and;
- low risk species.

“High risk” species

Some species of fish and invertebrates (for example: goldfish, *Carassius auratus*) were identified as requiring advanced risk management measures to manage the associated risks. These species are categorised as “high risk” species. These “high risk” species are not eligible for import without advanced risk management measures. The IHS can’t be amended to include the advanced risk management measures until the supplementary risk analysis has been finalised.

The “high risk” species are not going to be added during this amendment. MAFBNZ will consider adding these species to the IHS once the additional risk analysis has been finalised.

“Low risk” species

The species not identified for advanced risk management are categorised as “low risk” species. The supplementary risk analysis suggests that “low risk” species are allowed entry subject to standard live ornamental aquatic animal import requirements.

These “low risk” fish species are added to the eligible species list as a part of this amendment because these “low risk” species do not pose any additional risk.

Corals and anemones

Corals and anemones are not covered by the additional risk analysis document.

During previous amendments all coral and anemone species under one genus were listed because it is extremely difficult to differentiate between species within one genus.

Secondly, due to their tropical nature the risk of establishment is negligible. This approach was confirmed with ERMA New Zealand.

The submitted species of corals and anemones are added to the eligible species list under the same arrangement as for previous amendments.

5. Minor updates

Further minor updates were made to bring this IHS in line with the other current IHSs:

- The user guide has been updated
- An equivalence section has been added
- Section permit to import: animal imports contact details have been updated