

# Proposed amendment to the Import Health Standard for the Importation and Clearance of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables into New Zealand

## Disclaimer

The proposals in this paper are for consultation purposes and do not necessarily represent agreed Government policy.

All submissions must be received by MAFBNZ no later than 5pm on 23 December 2009. Please direct submission to the addressee below:

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## 1. Scope of amendment

Incorporation of peeled onions from China as a processed commodity within Section 8.7 of the standard for the [importation of fresh fruit and vegetables into New Zealand](#). An example of the proposed amendment can be found in Appendix 1 of this document.

MAFBNZ are proposing the use of a systems approach for the management of hazards associated with the importation of **processed fresh onions (*Allium cepa*) for consumption** from China. The proposed systems approach incorporates several of the mitigation options identified in the recently published [risk analysis for onion bulbs for consumption from China](#). This systems approach would require imported processed onions to have their outer layer completely removed prior to export from China. This proposed change would incorporate fresh peeled onions into section 8.7 of the standard for the [importation of fresh fruit and vegetables into New Zealand](#).

## 2. Background

Fresh fruit and vegetables imported into New Zealand which are considered to be risk goods under the Biosecurity Act 1993, must comply with the requirements of an import health standard (IHS) before biosecurity clearance can be given. Processed produce (eg. peeled, shredded, or diced) is rendered unlikely to be infested with hazards associated with the fresh commodity. Section 8.7 of the fresh fruit and vegetable (<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/152-02.pdf>) standard contains a list of commodities that have been approved for importation into New Zealand in a processed state.

MAFBNZ recently published a draft risk analysis for onion bulbs (*Allium cepa*) for consumption from China (available at the MAF Website <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/draft-ira-onions-from-china.pdf>). The risk analysis document identifies a number of hazard organisms associated with onion bulbs from China and lists a range of management options that may be used to mitigate these hazards.

### 3. Identified risks and mitigation measures

The [draft risk analysis for onion bulbs for consumption from China](#) identifies 27 hazard organisms; and also assesses the likelihood of entry, exposure, establishment potential and the consequences of establishment for each of the identified hazards. The risk analysis has surmised that the primary method for exposure of the hazards into the New Zealand environment would be through disposal of onion waste (outer skin layers) into domestic and commercial environments.

MAFBNZ consider that the complete removal of all outer skin layers of Chinese onions prior to export to New Zealand will effectively mitigate potential biosecurity risks associated with the possible disposal of waste on imported onions.

MAFBNZ has evaluated the method and degree of processing of the onion bulbs before considering phytosanitary measures. MAFBNZ considers that a systems approach that includes removing all the outer layers of the onion bulbs and a sanitizing wash is sufficient to mitigate the risks identified in the risk analysis.

### 4. A systems approach for importing processed onions from China

A systems approach as defined by ISPM 14 (*The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*) integrates a variety of pest risk management measures to meet the appropriate level of phytosanitary protection of the importing country. A systems approach typically combines two or more independent measures to provide a more robust and effective management of pest risks than what is usually achieved by using just a single measure.

The following describes the proposed systems approach that is intended to be used for the export of processed onions from China.

All onions for export to New Zealand will be produced under standard cultivation, pest-control, harvesting and packing activities. Onion bulbs will only be exported from farms that have a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme. This programme will incorporate field sanitation and appropriate management of pests, diseases and pathogens of quarantine concern to New Zealand.

Following harvest, the onions will undergo physical processing that involves the complete removal of all of its outer hardened skin layers (see figure 1). This processing also removes all root material that is left at the base and the top of the bulb and any roots are trimmed back to within a few millimetres of the bulb surface.

**Figure 1.** Onion bulb with all of its outer layers removed



The onions will be cleaned using a standard sanitising wash following the processing. This wash shall be applied after the bulbs have been cleaned of all soil and/or decaying plant material.

Only companies certified by AQSIQ as meeting the processing requirements for New Zealand are eligible to export processed onions from China. [Section 8.7 of the standard for the importation and clearance of fresh fruit and vegetables](#) will contain the list of exporters that are approved for the export of processed onions from China. The addition of exporters to this list will be on a case-by case basis upon verification that New Zealand's processing requirements have been met. This pathway will be audited by MAFBNZ staff within eighteen months of commencement of trade. Subsequent audits will be conducted as required.

## 5. References

**MAFBNZ STANDARD Importation and clearance of fresh fruit and vegetables from New Zealand** <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ih/152-02.pdf>

**Import risk analysis: Onion (*Allium cepa* Liliaceae) fresh bulbs for consumption from China** <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/draft-ira-onions-from-china.pdf>

**ISPM No. 14 (2002) *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*** [www.ippc.int](http://www.ippc.int)

## Appendix 1: Example of proposed change to section 8.7 of MAFBNZ Standard 152.02 *Importation and Clearance of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables in New Zealand*

The most updated list can be found at the following website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/152-02.pdf>

### List of approved processed commodities

Country	Commodity	Pathway
Australia	Carrots (diced)	“Sumich”
Australia	Fresh peeled pineapples (whole or pieces)	“Twin View Farms” or “Golden Circle Ltd”
Australia	Carrots (washed and peeled) Lettuce (shredded) Cabbage (shredded)	“Harvest Fresh Cuts”
	Lettuce (shredded)	“Story Fresh”
Australia	Carrots- baby (washed and peeled)	“Bunny Bite”
Australia	Carrots (topped, washed and peeled)	“Carmel”
China	Carrots (topped, washed and scrubbed) Carrots (topped and peeled)	“Frutia” “Frutia”
China	Carrots (topped, washed and peeled)	“Junpuku”
China	Lettuce (shredded)	“Essentia foods”
<b>China</b>	<b>Onions (peeled and washed)</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>
Cook Islands	Taro (peeled)	“Raro Taro”
Cook Islands	Blanched breadfruit, chestnuts, arrowroot, taro Taro hash browns, Taro “vege burgers” Sun dried bananas and pawpaw	“Clear-Pac”
Cook Islands	Pawpaw puree Pawpaw salad (in light syrup) Pawpaw salad (in pawpaw juice) Pawpaw fruit drink concentrate Pawpaw pieces (peeled and vacuum packed)	“Raro-Pacific Foods Ltd”
Cook Islands	Pawpaw pieces	“Pacfruit Ltd”
Fiji	Mangoes (pickled)	“Ranjan Farms” “Fresco”
Hawaii	Pineapple wedges Pineapple spears Pineapple tidbits	Del Monte Fresh Produce (Hawaii) Ltd
India	Coconuts (de-haired and polished)	“Craca-coco”
Philippines	Processed corn cobs	“Dole Sweet Corn”
Samoa	Banana (peeled and chopped) Mango (peeled and chopped) Pineapple (peeled and chopped)	“Malaefono Plantation”*
South Africa	Carrots (washed and topped)	“Yukon International”