

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF SPECIFIED BEE PRODUCTS

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Date: 26 October 2004

USER GUIDE

The information in MAF animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAF import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections which outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, transport and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a transitional facility in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and accompany the consignment to New Zealand. When MAF has accepted health certification produced by a government authority in the exporting country as meeting the requirements of the model health certification this is noted. When no health certification is required to accompany consignments Part D. will note "none required".

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 the importation into New Zealand of specified bee products.
- 1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of specified bee products imported into New Zealand is dependant upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the

originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Director Animal Biosecurity.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 The costs to MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of specified bee products shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.2 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.
- 2.3 Please note that commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption must comply with the Food Regulations (1984) of New Zealand. Importers are advised to contact the New Zealand Ministry of Health if in doubt whether or not imported foods are eligible for sale within New Zealand.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Biosecurity clearance

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Director Animal Biosecurity

The Director Animal Biosecurity, New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, or any person who for the time being may lawfully exercise and perform the power and functions of the Director Animal Biosecurity.

Equivalence

Acceptance by the Director Animal Biosecurity that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard.

Inspector

As defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993.

MAF

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Sealed packaging

The packaging is impervious and sealed at the point of manufacture. The original packaging must be intact i.e. has not been opened. Examples are screw-top glass or plastic containers with tamper-proof seals, sealed foil retort pouches, vacuum packed and heat-sealed plastic containers and cans.

4 EQUIVALENCE

It is expected that the animal product will meet the conditions of this import health standard in every respect. If the products do not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to MAF for consideration. Detailed information supporting the application for equivalence must be forwarded to MAF for a decision.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

Importations of specified bee products into New Zealand which meet the requirements of this import health standard may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act, be given biosecurity clearance and do not require a biosecurity direction to a transitional facility. As such, they do not require a permit to import.

6 ELIGIBILITY

- 6.1 *Products manufactured from beeswax including beeswax candles, refined beeswax, beeswax polish, lubricants etc.* from *any country* may be given clearance provided that the product is not intended for use in the beekeeping industry, and that the product is not attractive to bees.

(NB: Beeswax foundation sheets or unprocessed beeswax may not be imported under clause 6.1.)

(NB: If it cannot be determined whether or not a product is attractive to bees, a sample shall be referred to Import Management, Animal Biosecurity, MAF Biosecurity Authority, P O Box 2526, Wellington for assessment.)

- 6.2 *Up to 1 kilogram of unprocessed beeswax* from *any country* may be given clearance provided that the product is not intended for use in the beekeeping industry and that the product is not attractive to bees.

(NB: If it cannot be determined whether or not a product is attractive to bees, a sample shall be referred to Import Management, Animal Biosecurity, MAF Biosecurity Authority, P O Box 2526, Wellington for assessment.)

- 6.3 *Beeswax* foundation *sheets* from *any country* may be given clearance provided that the product is not attractive to bees and the consignment is accompanied by a certificate issued by the appropriate government authority in the exporting country confirming that the foundation sheets have been sterilised by:

- i. heat at 80°C for 60 minutes during manufacture; OR
- ii. irradiation (post manufacture) at 2.5 megarads and that the stacks of foundation sheets were no thicker than 100 mm during irradiation.

(NB: small quantities (i.e. < 5) foundation sheets may be imported without a certificate provided that the product is not for use in the beekeeping industry.)

(NB: coloured foundation sheets in retail packs for use by candle makers may be imported without a certificate.)

(NB: If it cannot be determined whether or not a product is attractive to bees, a sample shall be referred to Import Management, Animal Biosecurity, MAF Biosecurity Authority, P O Box 2526, Wellington for assessment.)

6.4 ***Foods for human consumption containing bee products as an ingredient such as flavourings, sauces, carbonated drinks and confectionery*** from *any country* may be given clearance provided that all the following requirements are met:

- i. the products shall be commercially packaged in sealed packaging.
- ii. the products have been fully processed i.e. have undergone a heating process during manufacture.
- iii. the products shall be shelf-stable.

(NB: jams, marinades, mustards (except as listed in clause 6.5) and fruit drinks (excluding carbonated canned and bottled drinks) containing honey may not be imported under clause 6.4.)

6.5 ***Honey & mustard and honey & port dressings manufactured by Taylors Original Mustard Company, Cheshire, United Kingdom*** may be given clearance.

6.6 ***Medicines, health foods and tonics containing bee products*** such as pollen, royal jelly, propolis, honey and bee venom from *any country* may be given clearance provided that all the following requirements are met:

- i. the product is commercially packaged in sealed packaging for direct retail sale.
- ii. the product is in the form of capsules, tablets, sachets or vials (i.e. individual doses).
- iii. The product is intended for human consumption.

(NB: commercially packed medicines containing propolis in alcohol may be given clearance regardless of packaging or dosages.)

(NB: Bulk importation of capsules, tablets or vials requires a permit to import.)

6.7 ***Honey (liquid, comb, propolis or any other form)*** from *Niue, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Western Samoa* may be given clearance provided that the consignment is accompanied by certification issued by the appropriate government authority which states that:

- i. the honey is a natural product produced by the honey bee *Apis mellifera*;
- ii. the honey originates from that country;
- iii. the honey is identified on the certificate as to the form that the honey is in e.g. comb, chunk, liquid, retail pack etc.;
- iv. the country is free from European foulbrood caused by *Melissococcus pluton*.

6.8 **Trade samples of honey** from *any country* may be given clearance provided that the following requirements are met:

EITHER: the honey shall be maintained under the direct control of an Inspector and the honey shall be examined/evaluated in the presence of an Inspector. The honey may be transhipped directly and securely to the office of any Inspector for evaluation.

OR: a biosecurity direction will be issued on entry of the honey. The honey shall be taken directly to a transitional facility for evaluation. The premises must be approved under *MAF Regulatory Standard 154.02.18 Transitional Facilities for Animal Products*.

Following evaluation, any remaining honey and residues are to be destroyed by incineration at an approved facility or small quantities may be washed down a sink.

The honey is not eligible for biosecurity clearance.

6.9 **New Zealand honey returning to New Zealand** (private consignments, trade samples or rejected commercial consignments) from *any country* may be given clearance provided that all the following requirements are met:

- i. the honey is commercially packaged in sealed packaging.
- ii. the Inspector shall be satisfied that the honey is of New Zealand origin (e.g. the labelling indicates that the product is of New Zealand origin).
- iii. for commercial consignments of rejected New Zealand origin honey, documentary evidence of the export of the honey from New Zealand shall be presented to the Inspector.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

7 BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

For trade samples of honey (see clause 6.8). If the honey is not to be examined in the presence of an Inspector, a biosecurity direction shall be issued. The honey shall be taken directly to a transitional facility for evaluation. The premises must be approved under *MAF Regulatory Standard 154.02.18 Transitional Facilities for Animal Products*.

Following evaluation, any remaining honey and residues are to be destroyed by incineration at an approved facility or small quantities may be washed down a sink.

The honey will not be eligible for a biosecurity clearance.

8 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

- 8.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand the Inspector at the port of arrival may inspect the consignment, or a sample of the consignment.
- 8.2 Providing that the documentation meets all requirements noted under PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION and 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 clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

None required.

Ref: AI00-26E

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