

BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND (PLANTS) STANDARD

Importation of Coco peat and Coir fibre Products.

Issued as an import health standard pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

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Endorsement

The MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Standard: Importation of Coco peat and Coir fibre products is approved and issued in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

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Date

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Review

This Biosecurity New Zealand import health standard is subject to ongoing review and amendment.

New Zealand import health standards are updated and published as necessary with the most recent version on the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand web site at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/plant-imports/introduction>

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 SCOPE

This import health standard states the phytosanitary requirements for the importation of coir from all countries as follows:

A. Coco peat (or Coir peat) for use as a growing medium in various grades and finished products for horticultural/agricultural use e.g. grow slabs, grow bags, bales, blocks, discs, pots, starter cubes and small blocks. This includes the products known as “chips” and “crush”, derived from the whole chopped and crushed husk pieces. Product may be compressed or non-compressed.

B. Coir fibre products made from large coir fibres for a variety of uses eg. Mattress matting, basked liners, erosion and weed control matting, fibre blankets, domestic mats, brushes and fillers for industrial uses. Also includes clean coir twine or fibre rolls.

1.2 EXCLUSIONS FROM THE SCOPE OF THIS STANDARD

This standard does not cover the requirements for importation of the following plant commodity classes:

- Excavated peat. See importation of soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, peat and water, covered in BMG-STD-SOWTR Soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, peat and water from any country. <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/non-organic/standards/bmg-std-sowtr.htm>
- Mats and fibres derived from other plants (in preparation).

1.3 REFERENCES

The following Acts, Regulations and MAF Biosecurity standards are referred to, or complement, the implementation of this import health standard:

- International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), FAO, Rome 1997
- International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication 5; Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, IPPC, 2007.
- New Zealand Biosecurity Act 1993
 - Biosecurity (Costs) Regulations 2006.
- New Zealand Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act 1996)

1.4 ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS, DEFINITIONS

Additional declaration

A statement that is required by an importing country to be entered on a phytosanitary certificate and which provides specific additional information on a consignment in relation to the regulated pests.

[IPPC]

Biosecurity clearance

A clearance under Section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand.

Coir

Fibre derived from the husk of coconuts.

Consignment

Unaccompanied goods being moved from one country to another and covered by an airway bill/bill of lading or consignment note.

Contamination

Unwanted presence in a commodity, storage place, conveyance or container, of any material (including a regulated organism) that may pose a biosecurity risk.

MAF

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ)

That part of MAF responsible for leadership of regulatory biosecurity functions.

MAFBNZ Inspector

A person appointed under Section 103 of the New Zealand Biosecurity Act 1993 to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act. (Explanatory Note: An Inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act and controls imposed under HSNO).

National plant protection organization (NPPO)

Official service established by the government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC (FAO 1990). **Note: MAF is the NPPO of New Zealand.**

Permit to Import

Official document authorizing importation of a commodity in accordance with specified phytosanitary requirements (Biosecurity Act 1993).

Pest

Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants or plant products [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; IPPC, 1997]

Phytosanitary certificate

A certificate patterned after the model certificates of the IPPC (FAO (1990)). A certificate issued by the exporting country NPPO, in accordance with the requirements of the IPPC, which verifies that the requirements of the relevant import health standard have been met.

The phytosanitary certificate must contain all information as detailed in the "model phytosanitary certificate", ISPM#12 – Guidelines for phytosanitary certificates, Appendix Model phytosanitary certificate, April 2001. This can be found at the following web site:

https://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/16199_ISPM_12_E.pdf?filename=1146658528409_ISPM12.pdf&refID=16199

Plant products

Unmanufactured material of plant origin (including grain) and those manufactured plant products that, by their nature or that of their processing, may create a risk for the spread of pests. (FAO, 1990; revised IPPC, 1997).

Retting

Soaking for a period of many weeks to help separate fibres. Used for brown fibre products.

Standard

Document established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines or characteristics for activities or their results, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context [FAO, 1995; ISO/IEC GUIDE 2:1991 definition].

Transitional facility

Any facility approved in accordance with Section 39 of the New Zealand Biosecurity Act 1993 for the purpose of inspection, testing, storage, treatment, quarantine, holding or destruction of uncleared goods.

Treatment

Official procedure for the killing, inactivation or removal of pests, or for rendering pests infertile or for devitalization [FAO, 1990, revised FAO, 1995; ISPM No 15, 2002; ISPM No 18, 2003; ICPM 2005]

2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure compliance with this standard. Products not complying will be treated prior to biosecurity clearance (if a treatment is available) or may be reshipped or destroyed.

Wood pallets or packaging must also comply with the standard:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/forests/standards/non-viable-forest-produce/wood-packaging-ihs.htm>

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COCO PEAT PRODUCTS

(as described under A of Scope)

- Coco peat must be kept clean and free of seeds, pests, soil, animal material and any other contamination.
- No imported coco peat is to be produced from the traditional method of retting husks in open troughs or ponds.
- Washing or rinsing of coco peat, chips or crush must be carried out with bore water, not pond or dam water.
- Coco peat drying areas must be buffered underneath from contact with soil.
- A weed free buffer zone of 3 metres must be maintained around the coco peat drying areas unless concrete walls are built on the perimeter of concrete pads.

2.2 GENERAL INFORMATION FOR COIR FIBRE PRODUCTS

(as described under B of Scope)

- Coir fibre products must be kept clean and free of seeds, pests, soil, animal material and any other contamination.

2.3 TRANSIT REQUIREMENTS

All consignments must be packed and shipped in a manner to prevent possible in-transit contamination by regulated pests.

3. COMMODITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

3.1 ENTRY CONDITIONS FOR COCO PEAT PRODUCTS

(as described under A of Scope)

(i) *Documentation*

Phytosanitary certificate: a completed phytosanitary certificate issued by the NPPO of the exporting country must accompany all coco peat exported to New Zealand.

Import permit: an import permit is required. Applicants must provide information describing the quality processes used in manufacture and full supplier's details. MAF reserves the right to decline an application. To apply for a permit, complete the form "Application to Import Plant Material" available on the website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/plant-imports/forms>

(ii) *Phytosanitary requirements*

Before a phytosanitary certificate is issued, the NPPO of the exporting country must be satisfied that the following activities required by MAF have been undertaken.

The consignment has been

- inspected in accordance with appropriate official procedures and found to be free of any visually detectable soil, contaminant animal or plant material and other extraneous matter.

AND

- randomly sampled and tested by a grow-out test showing freedom from viable seeds.

(iii) Additional declarations to the phytosanitary certificate

If satisfied that the phytosanitary requirements have been undertaken, the exporting country NPPO must confirm this by providing the following additional declarations to the phytosanitary certificate:

"The coco peat consignment has been:

- inspected in accordance with appropriate official procedures and found to be free of any viable seeds, visually detectable soil, regulated pests, soil, contaminant animal or plant material and other extraneous matter.

If visually detectable pests are found, the certifying NPPO must establish their regulatory status prior to issuing the certificate. This information is available in MAF's "Biosecurity Organisms Register for Imported Commodities": <http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/pests-diseases/registers-lists/boric/>

If a visually detectable pest is not listed in this register, the certifying NPPO must contact MAF (official contact point listed above) to establish the regulatory status of the pest.

If seedlings are found from the grow-out test, the consignment must be rejected for export to New Zealand, unless treated with ethylene oxide (if available and approved for use in the exporting country).

3.1.1 Treatment option

Treatment with ethylene oxide in the country of origin (if available) will be accepted in lieu of a grow-out test in the exporting country and the entry requirements on arrival at the border. One following rate must be used:

Under initial minimum vacuum of 50 kilopascals at 1500g/m³ for 4 hours at 50°C; or 1500g/m³ for 24 hours at 21°C.

If satisfied that this treatment has been undertaken, the exporting country NPPO must confirm this by recording the treatment in the "Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment" section of the phytosanitary certificate.

Treatment must be given within 21 days of arrival. Inspection on arrival will not be required.

Consignments must be held securely post treatment to prevent re-contamination.

3.2 ENTRY CONDITIONS FOR COIR FIBRE PRODUCTS

(as described under B of Scope)

(i) Documentation

Phytosanitary certificate: Not required.

Import permit: Not required.

(ii) Phytosanitary requirements

Exporters must ensure that consignments are free of pests and extraneous matter.

4. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ON ARRIVAL AT THE BORDER

4.1 DOCUMENTATION UPON ARRIVAL

Where required in the entry conditions, consignments must be accompanied by correct documentation.

All consignments of Coco peat and Coir fibre products which are not inspected immediately on arrival in New Zealand, must be stored in a transitional facility until such time as they are inspected.

All consignments not complying or suspected of not complying with the specifications detailed in this standard must be stored in a transitional facility until such time as they can be inspected and or treated, directed to another facility for processing, given biosecurity clearance, reshipped or destroyed.

4.2 INSPECTION

The MAFBNZ inspector will inspect the commodity to check for the presence of pests, signs or symptoms of pests, soil, seeds or any other visually detectable contaminants. Inspections must be carried out in a transitional facility or biosecurity control area that has been approved by MAF as suitable for inspecting plant products.

4.3 SAMPLING AND INSPECTION OF COCO PEAT PRODUCTS

4.3.1 Sampling

Consignments will be randomly sampled by a MAFBNZ inspector at the following rates:
For a full 40ft container load:

| Product | No. of Units |
|---|--|
| 1 metre Slabs | 12 |
| Short slabs | 20 |
| Bales | 4 |
| Discs | 40 |
| Grow cubes/stater blocks | 50 |
| Uncompressed coco peat (bagged) Pots | Use sampling plan for coir products below |

The samples are to be destructively broken down and combined into one sample from which representative samples are to be examined for seed presence in accordance with a MAFBNZ process.

4.4 INSPECTION OF COIR FIBRE PRODUCTS

(as described under B of Scope)

This sampling plan shall be used for the inspection of coir fibre products. Specific examination for seed presence is not required.

| Lot | Standard Inspection Sample Size |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 - 50 | 2 |
| 51 – 100 | 3 |
| 101 – 200 | 4 |
| 201 – 350 | 6 |
| 351 – 500 | 8 |
| 501 – 750 | 10 |
| 751 – 1200 | 12 |
| 1201 – 2000 | 15 |
| 2001 – 3500 | 20 |
| 3501 – 5000 | 25 |
| over 5000 | 40 |

NOTE 1: A "lot" means the smallest homogeneous unit of plant products imported in the consignment.

For regularly imported products by the same importer, inspection of consignments of the product will reduce to 1 in 10, on a regional port basis when at least 10 consignments have been found to be clean.

4.5 INTERCEPTIONS OF PESTS AND CONTAMINANTS

If any seeds are detected the importer is to be given the options of heat treatment of the consignment, in accordance with the MAF Standard BMG-STD-TREAT: Approval of Suppliers Providing Treatments of Risk Goods and Forestry/Plant Related Material for Export <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/border/transitional-facilities/bmg-std-treat.pdf> or reshipment or destruction.

If live organisms other than seeds are detected, the importer may be given the option of pest identification. If the organism is regulated, the product may be treated (if available), reshipped or destroyed as directed by the MAF inspector. The product may be given biosecurity clearance if the pest identified is classified as non-regulated.

If other contaminants are detected, any treatments given will be in accordance with the MAF Standard BMG-STD-TREAT. If signs or symptoms of pests are detected, the MAF inspector will determine the action to be taken.

5. BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE

A biosecurity clearance shall be issued by an inspector for each consignment cleared for entry into New Zealand.

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