

# **MAF BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD**

## **Importation of Fertilisers and Growing Media of Plant Origin.**

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

**Biosecurity New Zealand  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry  
P.O. Box 2526  
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## ENDORSEMENT

The MAF Biosecurity New Zealand Standard: Fertilisers and Growing Media of Plant Origin is approved and issued in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

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Chief Technical Officer, Border Standards

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Date

**The official contact point** in New Zealand for overseas NPPOs is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. All communication relating to this import health standard should be addressed to:

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MAF Biosecurity New Zealand  
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## REVIEW

This MAF 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/ihp/search>

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 SCOPE

This import health standard states the phytosanitary requirements for the importation of fertilisers, bioremediation products, potting mixes and growing media of plant origin. The types of products are separated into three groupings.

**Group A:** Fertilisers, growing media and bioremediation products comprising:

- Plant products that have been produced by the decomposition of fresh or dry plant material (e.g. recycled cellulose wastes);
- Plant products produced as a by-product of other manufacturing, including oil seed meals used for fertiliser and composts that have been processed with heat (e.g. copra meal, cotton seed meal, mustard meal, neem meal, palm kernel meal, soybean meal and distillers dried grains);
- Other meals or husks derived from other seeds (e.g. cotton delinting by-product, ground nut shells); and
- Growing media units that have been manufactured from dried plant materials.

**Group B:** Manufactured fertilisers and growing media in granular, powder and liquid form containing only organic plant extracts (e.g. algae extracts, humic acid, fulvic acid).

**Group C:** Manufactured fertilisers and growing media containing micro-organisms.

## 1.2 EXCLUSIONS FROM THE SCOPE OF THIS STANDARD

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

- Coco peat and coir fibre products are prescribed in the import health standard [BNZ-COFP-IMPRT: Importation of Coco peat and Coir fibre Products](#)
- Oil seed meals and other plant products that are intended for animal feeds are prescribed in the import health standard [BNZ-PAFP-IMPRT: Importation of Processed Animal Feeds of Plant Origin](#)
- Excavated peat is prescribed in the import health standard [BMG-STD-SOWTR: Soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, peat and water from any country](#)
- Growing media associated with the importation of nursery stock will be assessed on a case by case basis. The entry conditions for the growing media will be assessed and included on the permit to import nursery stock, issued in accordance with the import health standard [155.02.06: Importation of Nursery Stock](#).
- Manufactured inorganic fertilisers and growing media not containing any plant material and/or micro-organisms have no biosecurity requirements under this import health standard. Bulk imports of inorganic fertilisers are covered under the import health standard [152-08-04i: Importation of Bulk Fertiliser](#)
- Requirements for fertilisers or meals of inorganic or animal origin can be found at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search>.

## 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
- Biosecurity Act 1993
  - Biosecurity (Costs) Regulations 2006
- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997

## **1.4 ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS AND 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**

Clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the entry of goods into New Zealand.

### **Certificate**

An official document which attests to the phytosanitary status of any consignment affected by phytosanitary regulations [FAO, 1990].

### **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)**

The division of MAF charged with leadership of the New Zealand biosecurity system.

### **MAFBNZ Inspector**

A person appointed under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the purposes of administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act.

## **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 authorising importation of a commodity in accordance with specified phytosanitary requirements. This may be a requirement of an Import Health Standard pursuant to section 22(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993, and it may also include certain conditions which must be met in order for the commodity to receive biosecurity clearance.

## **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.

## **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].

## **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**

A place approved and part of a port declared, in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the purpose of inspection, 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 devitalisation [FAO, 1990, revised FAO, 1995; ISPM No 15, 2002; ISPM No 18, 2003; ICPM 2005].

## 2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Fertilisers and growing media must be kept clean and free of seeds, pests, soil, animal material and any other contamination.

### 2.1 PACKAGING AND LABELLING

Each type of product in the consignment shall be commercially packaged and clearly labelled with its brand name or product type and intended use, or have this information stated on the invoice or accompanying manufacturer's information.

Products must be packed in one of the following:

- new retail packages
- new and clean bags made of either polypropylene or double walled strong paper secured by stitching, stapling or sealing
- strong plastic sealed drums or pails.

### 2.2 TRANSIT REQUIREMENTS

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

### 2.3 DOCUMENTATION

On arrival in New Zealand all documentation will be inspected to ensure compliance with the requirements of this import health standard and any additional requirements specified on an import permit. Documentation must be in the English language, and can be bilingual.

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented is made in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard and is clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining authorised movement and/or biosecurity clearance, or the rejection of consignments.

### 2.4 TREATMENT

If required as a permit condition, MAFBNZ accepts one or more of the following treatment options for seed devitalisation:

#### **Heat treatment with low humidity heat**

A minimum of 85°C core temperature for 15 continuous hours with 40% relative humidity.

#### **Autoclaving**

A minimum of 121°C for 30 minutes at 100KPa.

Any treatment completed prior to shipment must comply with the requirements of this import health standard. Those consignments treated prior to export must be accompanied by a valid treatment certificate issued by the operator/manager of the treatment company.

All treatments will be carried out at the importer's risk and expense.

## 2.5 OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Importers will need to clarify the status of their product with the ACVM Group of NZFSA if a product makes a claim to act as a pesticide or have medicinal properties. Registration under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act maybe required:

<http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/acvm/index.htm>

Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Group  
New Zealand Food Safety Authority  
68-86 Jervois Quay  
PO Box 2835  
Wellington  
NEW ZEALAND  
Phone: +64 4 894 2500  
Fax: +64 4 894 2501

Importers may also need to clarify the status of their product with the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA) if it is considered a hazardous substance under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act. See:

<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/abouths/index.html>

Manager, Operations  
Environmental Risk Management Authority  
P O Box 131  
Wellington  
NEW ZEALAND  
Phone: +64 4 916 2426  
Fax: +64 4 914 0433  
E-mail: [info@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:info@ermanz.govt.nz)

## 3 COMMODITY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

### 3.1 ENTRY CONDITIONS FOR FERTILISERS AND GROWING MEDIA COMPRISING PLANT PRODUCTS (GROUP A)

#### 3.1.1 Documentation

**Permit to import:** a permit to import is required.

To apply for a permit, complete the form “Application for Permit to Import Plant Products” available on the website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/forms/imports-plant-products>

Applicants must provide information describing the ingredients and manufacturing process as an attachment to the application. If the temperature of the product has been raised by heat during processing, full details of the temperature reached and the time period of heat application must be provided.

**Manufacturer’s information:** a certificate from the manufacturer must accompany each consignment confirming the identity of the product and the processing involved.

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

**Note:** Products derived from the Neem plant (*Azadirachta indica*) must be accompanied by evidence of approval or a Class Determination Outcome Letter from the ACVM Group, NZFSA.

### 3.1.2 Phytosanitary Requirements and Additional Declarations

Before a phytosanitary certificate is to be issued, the exporting country's NPPO must be satisfied that the following activities have been undertaken. The NPPO must confirm this by making the following additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate:

“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.”

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.

### 3.1.3 Inspection and Sampling

Each consignment will be inspected to check for the presence of pests, soil, seeds or any other visually detectable contaminants, unless otherwise stated on the permit to import. Inspections will be carried out in a transitional facility or biosecurity control area that has been approved by MAFBNZ as suitable for inspecting plant products.

The products are to be sampled according to the following sampling plan:

| No. of bags in consignment | No. of bags to be inspected |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1-50                       | 2                           |
| 51-100                     | 3                           |
| 101-200                    | 4                           |
| 201-350                    | 6                           |
| 351-500                    | 8                           |
| 501-750                    | 10                          |
| 751-1,200                  | 12                          |
| 1,201-2,000                | 15                          |
| 2,001-3,500                | 20                          |
| 3,501-5,000                | 25                          |
| Over 5,000                 | 40                          |

A minimum composite sample of 5kg per consignment is to be inspected visually for contaminants.

### **3.2 ENTRY CONDITIONS FOR MANUFACTURED FERTILISERS IN GRANULAR, POWDER AND LIQUID FORM CONTAINING PLANT EXTRACTS (GROUP B)**

#### **3.2.1 Documentation**

**Permit to import:** a permit to import is not required.

**Manufacturer's information:** a certificate from the manufacturer must accompany each consignment confirming the identity of the product and the processing involved.

**Phytosanitary certificate:** not required.

#### **3.2.2 Inspection**

Inspections are not required for consignments which consist of retail packs up to 30kg. All other consignments require inspection to check for the presence of pests, soil, seeds or any other visually detectable contaminants.

### **3.3 ENTRY CONDITIONS FOR MANUFACTURED FERTILISERS CONTAINING MICRO-ORGANISMS (GROUP C)**

Proposals for the deliberate introduction of new organisms (including genetically modified organisms) as defined by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act should be referred to ERMA (see contact details in section 2.5).

#### **3.3.1 Documentation**

**Permit to import:** a permit to import is required.

Where required, evidence of approval or a Class Determination Outcome Letter from the ACVM Group must accompany each import permit application (refer to Section 2.5).

Applicants must provide the full scientific name to species level of all live organisms, and state all ingredients contained within the product.

To apply for a permit, complete the form "Application for Permit to Import Micro-organisms or Biological Products" available on the website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/forms/imports-plants-ai-mcs>

**Manufacturer's information:** a certificate from the manufacturer must accompany each consignment confirming the identity of the product and the processing involved.

**Phytosanitary certificate:** not required.

#### **3.3.2 Inspection**

Inspections are not required for consignments which consist of retail packs up to 30kg. All other consignments require inspection to check for the presence of pests, soil, seeds or any other visually detectable contaminants.

## **4 INTERCEPTIONS OF PESTS AND CONTAMINANTS**

If any seeds are detected the importer is to be given the options of identification of the seeds, treatment, reshipment or destruction. If regulated seeds are found, the importer will be given the option for the product to be heat treated, reshipped or destroyed.

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

If other contaminants are detected, the MAFBNZ inspector will determine the action to be taken. Any treatments given will be in accordance with the standard: [BNZ-STD-TREAT Approved Biosecurity Treatments for Risk Goods Directed for Treatment](#). All treatments will be carried out at the importer's risk and expense.

## **5 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE**

If the MAFBNZ inspector is satisfied that the entry conditions have been met, biosecurity clearance of the consignment will be provided.

All consignments not complying with the specifications detailed in this import health standard must be stored in a transitional facility until biosecurity clearance can be provided, or until the consignment is inspected, treated, directed to another facility for processing, reshipped or destroyed.