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biosecurity



The MAF and
MFish merger

Removing
marine pests

Managing
Bryozoans

Border controls
for biofouling

Remote
diagnostics

➤ **Marine aquatics**

Biosecurity magazine

Biosecurity is published six times per year by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. It is of special interest to all those with a stake in the protection of New Zealand's economic, environmental and social assets from the dangers posed by pests and diseases. The articles in this magazine do not necessarily reflect government policy.

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Growing and protecting New Zealand fisheries and aquaculture

EDITORIAL

In the 40 years to 2009, the world's population doubled to a hefty 6.8 billion. With this burgeoning population comes increased food demand.

Seafood now plays a more important role than ever in food security. In 2009, seafood supported the livelihoods of an estimated 540 million people, or 8 percent of the world's population. On average, just over 17 kg of seafood is now consumed annually by every person on earth. Global wild capture fisheries produce no more today than they did almost 30 years ago, so aquaculture has an increasing role in supplying high-quality protein to the growing world population, accounting for almost half of all the seafood consumed today. Aquaculture is the fastest growing animal-based production sector in the world and significantly, the only one to outpace human population growth.

Internationally, aquaculture is producing more from existing sites of cultivation while exploring new areas and new species. This produces exciting challenges, but refreshingly, there is also a real drive towards sustainability and innovation. New Zealand is well placed to capitalise on increasing global seafood demand. As well as producing great kai moana for New Zealanders, we are recognised internationally for fisheries sustainability and high-quality, high-value seafood.

Seafood products move around the world on a massive scale, in fact, they are the world's most traded food commodity. Apart from reflecting its importance as a food source, there are numerous implications for biosecurity.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is involved in managing trade risks in seafood. This includes teams developing risk analyses and import standards for seafood, quarantine inspectors at the border verifying shipments, trade experts ensuring continued market access overseas for New Zealand seafood, and specialist scientists carrying out export disease testing. MAF is also involved in setting international standards for seafood trade through the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), with our country a leading member. Our staff actively participate in the World Assembly of the OIE, which ratifies trade and scientific standards and individuals from MAF work on the OIE commissions and working groups that write the standards based on best current scientific knowledge.

Domestically, the Government has committed to assisting the aquaculture industry to realise its full potential. We know from overseas experience that biosecurity planning forms an underpinning foundation for a growing, sustainable aquaculture industry. MAF hopes to work more fully with stakeholders, enabling relevant industries and local government to integrate biosecurity planning into their growth models.

Within MAF, there has been excellent work done to assist with preparing for any disease outbreak. MAF-funded projects have helped us to understand the current state of aquaculture, fish movements and linkages between marine farming areas. MAF has developed sensitive and specific DNA tools for the rapid identification of diseases of aquatic animals, with their effective use in disease investigations and at the border. This includes work to introduce rapid tests for viral diseases of paua, helping to protect a valuable and iconic animal.

But protecting our seafood resources for growth and future generations is not just MAF's job. We rely on New Zealanders, wherever they work or play, to tell us about potential disease problems in our seafood resources. We call this passive surveillance. By phoning the MAF hotline number (0800 80 99 66) when you see something unusual, you enable us to investigate potential exotic disease outbreaks.

Some final food for thought: seafood, and especially aquaculture, represents significant potential for global food security. Increased world demand opens market opportunities for New Zealand, but with growth and increased trade comes biosecurity considerations that need to be managed by industry, MAF, and all New Zealanders. It seems that nowadays, fish comes with more than just chips and tomato sauce.

■ Colin Johnston, Principal Adviser, Aquatic Animal Health, Investigation & Diagnostic Centres, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Merger of MAF and MFish is good news for the primary sector

The beginning of July marked the start of a new era for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish), merged into a single agency bringing the best of both together to achieve the vision of 'Growing and Protecting New Zealand'.

The merger will significantly enhance the new Ministry's ability to deliver high-quality services and support to the whole of the primary sector. It will also enable the organisation to deliver more integrated strategic advice on long-term economic growth through the

sustainable management of natural resources used by the primary sector.

As the government hub for the primary sector, the new Ministry is committed to the ongoing development of good relationships, not only with primary production and food businesses, but also with Māori, environmental non-governmental organisations, trading partners and across local and central government.

New branches

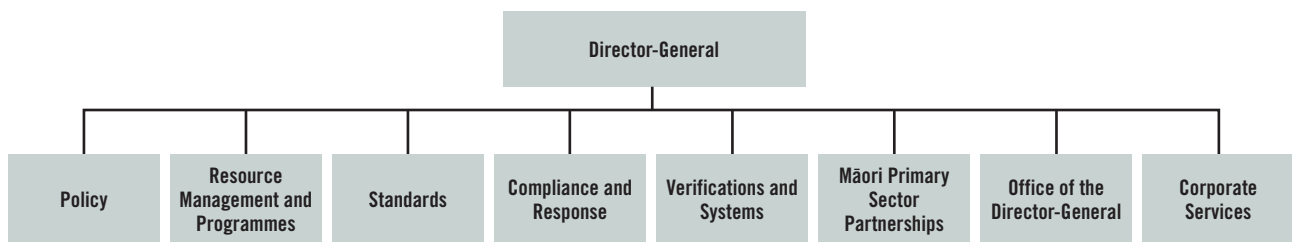
In a formal sense, on 1 July, MFish was disestablished as a government department and its functions and responsibilities transferred to MAF.

At this stage, stakeholders and the general public shouldn't notice any significant changes in how they engage with MAF. In the immediate future, the

organisation will continue operating under the existing MAF and MFish names and brands as appropriate. Key contact information, phone numbers, addresses, policies and other details remain much as before.

The first phase of the merger concentrated on putting in place a new high-level organisational design of eight branches, which came into effect on 1 July. These branches are detailed in the table below.

MAF Director-General Wayne McNee has also appointed an interim senior leadership team to carry the agency forward until permanent appointments are made for these senior management roles. They will ensure the agency continues to deliver on existing high-priority programmes and business as usual functions while the merger progresses.



Branch	Key Functions
Policy	The Policy branch is responsible for providing the regulatory processes and advice for the wide range of legislation administered by the new Ministry. It will also provide forward-looking analysis, strategic science, policy development and advice on strategic issues relating to the primary sectors. The branch is also responsible for managing the Primary Growth Partnership (PGP) and Irrigation Acceleration Fund/Community Irrigation Fund.
Resource Management and Programmes	The Resource Management and Programmes branch administers and implements a range of policy programmes, funding programmes and research funds, as well as the delivery of services to implement the Emissions Trading Scheme, fisheries management activities and the Aquaculture Unit.
Standards	The Standards branch develops and reviews import, export and domestic standards and systems, and maintains the environmental standards for fisheries and aquaculture. The branch also includes food safety and biosecurity science capability and risk assessment functions.
Compliance and Response	The Compliance and Response branch is responsible for surveillance, investigation, diagnostic and enforcement functions in relation to pest incursions, animal welfare, food safety and fisheries. As part of the preparation for a response, the branch will also be responsible for the Government Industry Agreements programme.
Verifications and Systems	The branch is responsible for the verification of cargo, passengers, animal products and food. It will also be responsible for intelligence gathering, risk and targeting strategies, planning, training and quality assurance.
Māori Primary Sector Partnerships	The branch provides strategic and operational advice to support the organisation in staying abreast of Māori issues and in working with Māori to maximise the benefits from their primary sector assets. The branch will also monitor the performance of the Ministry in ensuring that its specific and general obligations to Māori are met.
Office of the Director-General	The Office of the Director-General manages the Ministry's organisational strategy and planning process, maintains the risk, evaluation and internal audit functions, delivers internal and external communications, provides project management capability and is responsible for governance and ministerial servicing. The branch also includes the stand-alone commercial operating functions of the Crown Forestry Unit.
Corporate Services	The Corporate Services branch provides a broad range of business functions to the whole of the Ministry, including financial, information, human resources, legal and business support services.

Phase two underway

While the 1 July merger is a major step forward, there's still much more to do over the coming months to further integrate teams, systems and processes, and build the detailed organisational designs of each branch. This work is covered in phase two of the merger and is now well underway.

Consultation with the Ministry's staff about proposals for the branch designs will take place from late August until mid-September. Final decisions about the branch designs will be made in late September and these structures will start coming into effect from October.

The next few years promise to be exciting and challenging for the new Ministry as it looks to support the

Government's agenda of export-led economic growth, reduce the regulatory burden and ensure a sharp focus is maintained on food and biosecurity systems.

Stakeholders will be kept updated on any important changes resulting from the merger.

- Iain Murray, Senior Communications Adviser, MAF, iain.murray@maf.govt.nz



REMOVING MARINE PESTS FROM SIGNIFICANT PLACES



The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and iwi are exploring ways of clearing a sea squirt from important sites in the far north.

In 2010, *Biosecurity* featured an article about a new to New Zealand species of sea squirt known as *Pyura praeputialis* (Pyura), which was first detected in the far north where it has become widespread. Since then, MAF has begun a new programme to clear Pyura from certain sites.

Pyura, known in its native Australia as Cunjevoi, is a marine animal known as an ascidian. After the larvae settles onto a hard surface, it grows into a sac-like form with a tough leathery outer skin or tunic, often with sand incorporated into the tunic and seaweed species, such as sea lettuce and red algae, growing on it. When the tide recedes, it can be observed squirting jets of water out of its siphons, earning it the name sea squirt.

It is the dominant organism in many parts of Australia, forming dense aggregations from mid-tide level into the shallows. The species has also colonised an area in Chile, where it has formed dense populations along the lower rocky shore. Pyura is a new species to New Zealand and forms the characteristic dense aggregations seen in Australia and Chile.

An economic threat

MAF is concerned about Pyura because New Zealand's core environmental, economic and socio-cultural values may be at risk. Pyura could potentially impact on wild green-lipped mussel populations in the far north by competing for rocky habitat to grow on and for the microscopic food living in the seawater. Should Pyura displace the green-lipped mussel, New Zealand's mussel farming industry may be impacted as the supply of mussel spat, much of which comes from the Ninety Mile Beach area, may be affected. Supplies of mussels for traditional and recreational harvesting may also be affected. It's not known what the potential impacts might be on other indigenous species that inhabit the rocky intertidal zone and attach to the substrate, such as barnacles, limpets and algae.

Iwi have expressed concern that spiritually significant areas may be affected by the presence of this species.

MAF initiated a response to the detection of Pyura in 2009 and carried out a survey of the far north coastline

to delimit the extent of the population. The search area included the west coast from Houhora Harbour entrance to Cape Reinga, the northern coast and the eastern coast from North Cape to Henderson Bay (north of the Houhora Harbour). The survey searched nearly 97 km of coastline and found Pyura on the rocks and in rock pools of the mid to low-tide zone at 21 locations on the western and eastern coasts, including an oyster farm in the Parengarenga Harbour. MAF has since received reports of this species at four other locations, three of which were outside the survey area – Mitimiti (north of the Hokianga Harbour on the west coast), on wharf piles at Houhora Harbour and on rocks at Rangiputa. The Mitimiti and Rangiputa finds were made by individuals who had been working with MAF on the pilot treatment programme. The results of the survey show that Pyura was widespread and that eradication of this sea squirt could not be achieved. However, the potential for impact on New Zealand's core values remained and local communities expressed considerable concern about Pyura. MAF decided to explore whether there was potential to control or eliminate

relatively small, geographically isolated populations from sites that were of high value to the local communities of the far north.

Pilot programme

After discussion with scientific experts and consultation with far north iwi, three sites were selected for a one-year pilot treatment programme to explore whether it was feasible to clear Pyura from the rocks. The programme aimed to clear all the Pyura from two sites – the bluff at Ninety Mile Beach and Whareana Bay, on the east coast between North Cape and Parengarenga Harbour entrance. The third site was located in a dense Pyura population at the entrance to Parengarenga Harbour. Here, the site would serve as a scientific reference and a small test area was marked and cleared. The scientific reference serves two purposes – to enable comparison between the two clearance sites and to inform whether new Pyura can establish in the cleared areas from the nearby populations. This may help determine if large populations can be controlled or suppressed.

Local support

A first for MAF was to engage a field team from the local community and to provide on the spot training on the organism, treatment and removal techniques and how to record the data gathered in the field.

Pyura is removed by hand using paint scrapers, dive knives and similar tools. The team has been careful to completely remove all Pyura found, and to bag and dispose of it well away from the sea to avoid any re-infestation. All footwear was sprayed with bleach after each site visit as a



Two members of the field team remove Pyura from the clearance plot at the Bluff. Photo: Roger Grace.

further safeguard. This kills the Pyura larvae and ensures the organism does not inadvertently spread.

The second six-monthly treatment has just been completed. The results are encouraging, with no increase in Pyura density at the sites that were cleared six months ago. Preliminary conclusions are that it may be possible to maintain Pyura populations at semi-isolated localities, such as at the sites selected for this pilot programme. The third and final stage of the programme is planned for late August this year.

The trial has a number of benefits – it tests the efficacy of the removal method, helps build relationships between Northland communities, MAF and other biosecurity agencies that will assist with any future marine biosecurity events, and prepares the communities if they wish to carry out long-term management of Pyura.

Ultimately, it is up to the communities involved to determine if they wish to continue with management of Pyura after the trial.

MAF is also learning a lot about this sea squirt in New Zealand and there is increasing interest among scientists, both nationally and internationally, about its biology and origins.



A member of the field team removes Pyura (in foreground) with a paint scraper. Photo: Roger Grace.

More details about the Pyura response can be found at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/pyura

■ Kathy Walls, Senior Adviser Marine, MAF, katherine.walls@maf.govt.nz.



Bryozoans are a particularly diverse group of organisms often referred to as lace corals or moss animals that most frequently occur as colonial, encrusting growths that form flat sheets. From a biosecurity perspective, non-indigenous bryozoans are a concern because they can have environmental and economic impacts.

Most bryozoans tend to grow low and flat along hard surfaces, often appearing as textured blotches or mats. Other growth forms include domes, mounds of ribbon-like mesh and upright branching structures that resemble algae or coral.

What we see as a single bryozoan structure or growth is actually a colony of numerous individuals. An individual adult bryozoan is known as a zooid and each one is approximately 0.5 mm long and enclosed in a hard casing.

The typical bryozoan life history is comprised of a short planktonic larval phase followed by an attached colonial adult phase. Larvae are brooded in a zooid before being expelled into the water column, where they can spend minutes to hours, before settling on a substrate. The single settled larva encases itself in a tiny calcified tube and transforms into a zooid (the adult life stage). This first settler zooid is called the ancestrula, which then gives rise to other zooids. Through a series of budding, the zooids eventually build up a colony. After a colony is formed, the zooids differentiate into a variety of body types that relate to a division of labour. For example, while the zooids on the edge of the colony continue to bud, others may be dedicated to reproduction or to cleaning the colony surface. Each colony has male and female zooids and, although colonies can self-fertilise, the release of eggs and sperm is usually staggered to promote fertilisation between colonies.

Bryozoans are ecologically important as reef builders. As a result, they can create habitats for a variety of organisms. In energetic environments, such as tidal zones, encrusting bryozoans can quickly dominate the substrate and often smother other organisms. In contrast, colonies in more

sheltered environments overcome competition for space by growing vertically.

Although bryozoans are found worldwide, they are more prevalent in the Southern Hemisphere, with the richest diversity observed at mid to high latitudes. Australasia is regarded as the centre of bryozoan biodiversity, with New Zealand thought to have the richest diversity and the highest percentage of endemic species (60 percent).

While bryozoans can be introduced via a number of pathways, such as on floating debris and other organisms, and in ballast water, hull fouling is probably the most common introduction pathway. Bryozoans are generally one of the first and most rapid colonisers of hull surfaces and one of the more common hull fouling organisms, especially in Australasia. Colonising larvae are known to be attracted to the bare metal of rudder shafts and propellers and grow profusely in pipes. Furthermore, many species can tolerate the high levels of heavy metal compounds used in anti-fouling paints and occurs in waters around ports.

Bryozoans can be introduced by vessels via spawning events, or by the release of larvae or colony fragments. Summer in New Zealand is generally a time of increased bryozoan growth and reproduction and is the period of highest water productivity. This means that the summer period has the highest likelihood of bryozoan establishment. Given the short time that bryozoan larvae spend in the water column and the short distance that viable colony fragments are likely to disperse, opportunities for successful establishment are probably restricted to port and marina environments.

Globally, bryozoans have a history of introductions and impacts. For example, the introduction of *Tricellaria inopinata*

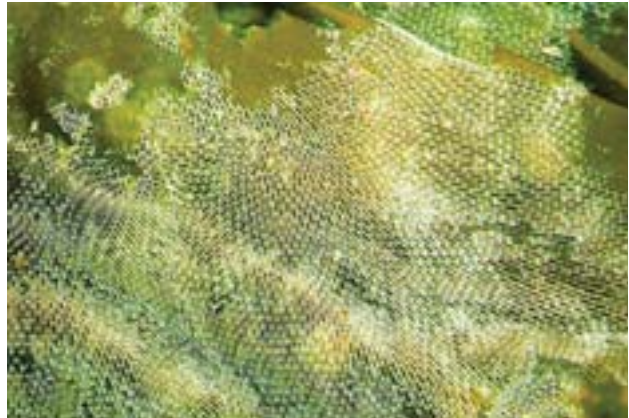
“Australasia is regarded as the centre of bryozoan biodiversity, with New Zealand thought to have the richest diversity and the highest percentage of endemic species.”

to the Venice lagoon in Italy resulted in this species having almost total domination over the local seafloor habitat between 1989 and 1993, and confined the native bryozoan fauna to small marginal habitats. In the Gulf of Maine in the US, colonies of the non-indigenous bryozoan *Membranipora membranacea* have been reported to form on kelp fronds, leaving them brittle and susceptible to breakage. As the kelp forest has receded, the habitat has been taken over by the non-indigenous alga *Codium fragile* subspecies *tomentosoides*.

In some cases, introductions can have both positive and negative consequences. For example, in the soft sediments of San Francisco Bay in the US the introduced bryozoan *Schizoporella variabilis* forms large mineralised structures, which not only result in an overall increase in local biodiversity, but also provide nursery habitats for the commercially destructive Atlantic oyster drill, *Urosalpinx cinera*.

There are several recent records of non-indigenous bryozoans establishing in New Zealand. Of the 23 non-indigenous bryozoan species known to be established in New Zealand waters, five are thought to have established since 2000. Moreover, in a survey of New Zealand ports, 42 percent of bryozoans were identified as non-indigenous. Like elsewhere, the consequences of such species establishing in New Zealand can range from nuisance fouling, to habitat modification and changes in ecosystem function. In Auckland, *Watersipora arcuata* overgrew all of the underwater surfaces in the region following its introduction in 1957. More recently, *Zoobotryon verticillatum* has been introduced into the same region and habitat, where it forms gelatinous masses up to 1m long. A third species, *Membraniporopsis tubigera* has been known to negatively impact fisheries in New Zealand by forming large, drifting mineralised colonies that foul set nets.

It is likely that all of the non-indigenous bryozoans in New Zealand were introduced via hull fouling. MAF-commissioned research on biofouling found bryozoans on 26 percent of vessels entering New Zealand. These included 30



Lacy crust bryozoan (*Conopeum tenuissimum*) [Photo: USGS, non-indigenous aquatic species]



A lacy encrusting bryozoan. © James Watanabe



Bugula neritina, a bryozoan that commonly fouls vessels. © James Watanabe

non-indigenous bryozoan species, 17 of which were not yet established here.

Ensuring that vessels and marine equipment are free of encrusting organisms is an effective approach for preventing the introduction and spread of non-indigenous bryozoans.

- Simon Phillips, Dr Eugene Georgiades, Dr Andrew Bell and, Dr Daniel Kluzka, Marine Risk Analysis Team, MAF.

New border requirement to reduce biofouling risk to New Zealand



The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is making steady progress towards introducing a new border requirement that all vessels arrive in New Zealand with minimal hull biofouling.

The requirement, to be set out in an Import Health Standard (IHS), is due to be finalised by the last quarter of this year, with enforcement measures to be introduced from mid to late 2012. This year-long implementation period will provide time for shipping companies to be well informed about the new requirements and take any actions required.

Paul Hallett, Team Manager, MAF Standards Group is responsible for the

development of the IHS. He says MAF is not going to impose requirements that exceed current international thinking on appropriate hull maintenance as proposed by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

“The IHS will be closely aligned with work already underway by the IMO on voluntary biofouling management guidelines. These guidelines are expected to go to the IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee

(MEPC) in July this year and if adopted by this committee will be released as guidance to all shipping,” Mr Hallett says.

“For most commercial ships, the New Zealand requirements are likely to be no more onerous than the maintenance regime set out in the IMO guideline, which essentially outlines best practice biofouling management already carried out for the purpose of meeting fuel efficiency and speed targets.”

New Zealand is not alone in tightening border controls around biofouling. Australia and the US state of California are also working on developing such requirements.

Mr Hallett says MAF's risk analysis programme undertaken over many years has shown there is a significant risk posed by introduced marine pest species to New Zealand's marine environment and the economies and lifestyles based on it.

"This risk is no longer acceptable and must be addressed. Over the past year, we consulted with marine industries, including both domestic and international shipping industries, on a draft border standard. That consultation backed up our view that the risk demanded some action."

The consultation also prompted some clarification of the requirements and the introduction of some flexibility around meeting these requirements. MAF is continuing to talk to the marine sector about the practicalities of meeting the IHS and to help with planning any changes to operations if required. "We are discussing current practice, the potential for advancements in antifouling regimes, layover periods and other influences on biofouling build up, and the practicalities of meeting the proposed IHS using current best practice." The boating industry has offered to work with MAF to ensure that yacht crews are well informed before they arrive and messages are given within the context that New Zealand has spectacular cruising and yachts coming here should strive to keep our natural environment unspoilt for continued enjoyment of this experience.

■ Liz Jones, Senior Marine Adviser, MAF,
liz.jones@maf.govt.nz.

The proposed vessel biofouling IHS at a glance

- The new standard will stipulate that the hull (below the waterline) of all arriving vessels meet the definition of clean (see below). The standard will not prescribe actions or treatments needed, but rather compliance will be based on the vessel being shown to meet the required hull state on arrival or demonstrating that it has carried out accepted good practice to maintain the hull with a minimum build-up of biofouling (for example, well maintained antifouling coatings and periodic inspection and cleaning of fouled areas).
- Clean will mean arriving vessels are not carrying biofouling over the defined acceptable threshold level. The threshold will allow for a slime layer as well as (for short-stay vessels) a minimal degree of secondary fouling in some areas (for example, a light cover of barnacles, tube worms etc).
- For short-stay vessels, the new requirement will not dramatically change the existing clearance process for arriving in New Zealand. Compliance will be based on documentation providing evidence of measures taken to control biofouling. This evidence will include documents that are normally carried on commercial vessels, such as an international antifouling system certificate. Hulls of arriving ships will not be routinely inspected.
- These requirements are consistent with the pending IMO guidelines on biofouling. They include recommendations for a biofouling management plan to show how a specific vessel will be managed to minimise transfer of harmful organisms, such as biofouling, and record-keeping to show the hull management actions carried out under the plan.
- MAF could utilise a company's hull maintenance regime as ongoing evidence of compliance where this demonstrates the company is setting standards that concur with a best practice approach.
- For vessels arriving for more than a few days – those given full clearance to voyage anywhere in New Zealand – MAF will seek assurance that the hull is free of biofouling other than slime (and possibly some filamentous algae around the waterline). For small vessels in this category, there will be inspections by underwater camera. For larger, long-staying vessels, MAF will work with the industry or sector to explore other approaches that will assure equivalent risk reduction. This may involve in-water inspections by accredited providers before voyaging to New Zealand, or regular monitoring of the hull state and ensuring the hull is maintained in a clean state.
- Options for enforcement of the IHS in the event of a vessel arriving with unacceptable fouling are currently limited. Yachts and smaller commercial craft will be directed to clean in New Zealand at MAF-approved haul-out facilities. For larger ships, the best current option is to direct their departure from New Zealand within 24 hours of arrival – acceptable in-water cleaning methods may become available in the future.
- The IHS is to be finalised by September/October 2011, but the intention is the IHS will not be fully enforced until at least September 2012 (unless a vessel is very seriously fouled). This provides a year-long implementation period for any changes needed to a vessel's operations.

MAF prepares for the Rugby World Cup

The IRB Rugby World Cup is one of the largest sporting events in the world. Held every four years, the inaugural tournament took place in New Zealand and Australia in 1987 and returns to New Zealand in 2011.

The eyes of the world will be on New Zealand as host of the 2011 Rugby World Cup, giving the country an opportunity to raise its profile on the global stage as a holiday and event destination. Around 85,000 international rugby fans and media are expected in New Zealand for the tournament.

Freight volumes will increase leading up to and during the tournament. This will include food, particularly fresh fruit and vegetables, and other items, such as team training gear, sponsor signage and vehicles, prefabricated bars and tents, pavilions and seating, and camera equipment for visiting broadcasters.

The tournament's significant hospitality component will lead to a steep rise in the number of temporary food producing venues (for example, temporary marquees at venues and hotdog stands), as well as increased trade for the 35,000 food businesses operating throughout New Zealand.

Biosecurity and food safety risks

The main biosecurity focus for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) relates to efficient and friendly

clearance of the high volumes of passengers, goods and craft that will arrive at the border, while still managing high standards of biosecurity risk management.

From a food safety point of view, MAF must deliver an enhanced level of food safety assurance in the lead up to, and response during, the tournament. Food safety is inextricably linked with the rugby following the food poisoning rumours associated with the 1995 Rugby World Cup final between the Springboks and the All Blacks, and New Zealand's largest reported outbreak of food-borne illness, which occurred in 2006 at a test match between Ireland and the All Blacks held at Eden Park.

MAF's preparations

MAF is making ongoing preparations for the tournament. We have had extensive and ongoing involvement with Rugby World Cup food safety and biosecurity preparation activities since 2008, both internally and at cross-government level.

Large numbers of MAF staff are working to ensure that processes are

in place to withstand the surge of visitors and cargo that will arrive in New Zealand for the tournament. We have successfully trialled new processes at the border and across the food safety environment with smaller events, including last year's Rowing World Champs, the recent Taekwondo World Champs and teams arriving to participate in the Super Rugby competition. We are also refining our biosecurity and food safety response processes to ensure we are fully prepared for any bioterrorist incidents or deliberate introductions of food-borne illness.

Large numbers of VIPs and Guests of Government will arrive in New Zealand for the semi-final and final matches and we have been working with other border agencies to ensure that VIPs receive friendly and facilitated clearance services on arrival. In addition, we are working closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to ensure hotels within the Guest of Government programme take steps to prevent intentional food contamination.

- Susie Pettigrew, Biosecurity and Food Policy, MAF, susie.pettigrew@maf.govt.nz.





CHINESE KNOTWEED A NEW ASIAN INVADER?

The characteristic pinkish stem of Chinese knotweed.

When an outbreak of the invasive pest plant Chinese knotweed was discovered growing out of control in Auckland, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) stepped in to help the Auckland Council (AC) get rid of the problem.

In September 2009, the AC was called to a site in Glenfield on Auckland's North Shore to investigate an invasive weed growing rampantly along the boundary of several properties. Initially it was thought to be Asiatic knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica* Houtt.). However, closer inspection revealed several differences and Landcare Research, Lincoln, confirmed the plant was Chinese knotweed (*Persicaria chinensis*). This is the first recorded site in New Zealand.

Chinese knotweed is a shrub-like, herbaceous perennial that can grow

rapidly to varying heights, depending on what it is climbing over. It can tolerate a wide range of environmental conditions, including shade, high temperatures, high salinity and drought. The Auckland site was an area of damp wasteland behind several residential properties.

In its native China it grows on grassy slopes, in wet valleys, mixed forest, thickets in valleys and on mountain slopes from sea level up to 3,000 m. It also occurs throughout South-East Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

Within New Zealand, this plant is believed to spread by vegetative

means only. However, because of its suspected invasiveness and with no other naturalised sites known within New Zealand, steps were immediately put in place to eradicate it. MAF initiated a response in partnership with the AC, which took the lead in managing the pest.

How it arrived in New Zealand is unknown, however, it is possible it was introduced to provide medicinal ingredients.

Media articles were published in local papers and a contractor was engaged to carry out control over the eight affected properties, with affected areas initially sprayed with herbicide.

Follow-up treatments were carried out on three further occasions, the last occurring in late January 2010. At this time, only three small plants were found in an area originally mown down and cleared by one of the landowners (before AC's involvement). All other plant material above ground was dead and decaying, and showing no signs of regrowth.

The initial treatments seem to have been very effective in controlling and containing this plant and it appears it has been controlled to zero density. The sites will be monitored over the next few months and any regrowth treated accordingly.

■ Dave Galloway, Biosecurity, Auckland Council.



Chinese knotweed climbing over surrounding vegetation.

MAF Verification Tauranga and Hamilton

Located in the Bay of Plenty, the Port of Tauranga is the largest port in the country and, with the engine room of New Zealand's primary economy on its back doorstep and the bustling Auckland marketplace just up the line, it continues to grow on an annual basis.

The Mount Maunganui office provides the hub for a diverse range of activities undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) Verification Cargo team in this fast growing region, which also includes the Bay of Plenty and the Waikato catchment.

With four places of first arrival – the Port of Tauranga, Waikato Regional Airport, Rotorua Regional Airport, and Port Taharoa – the MAF team works across a wide range of activities. MAF has a team of full-time and part-time (mainly for airport duties) employees who undertake inspections, audits and clearances on a wide range of commodities. The area continues to expand in exports and import commodities, such as imported stock food, which has experienced very rapid growth in this region with a 500 percent increase in the past three years.

Port of Tauranga

Forestry, kiwifruit and dairy exports account for 80 percent of exports through the port. Imports such as petroleum, fertiliser, coal, dry and liquid bulk, stock feed and a range of other products make this an expanding sector of the port's business. Imports of containerised cargo have also grown rapidly over the past decade, through the development of the Port of Tauranga's integrated inland port, via a rail link, to MetroPort in Auckland. The number of cruise ship visits have also increased, with at least 81 confirmed for the next summer season.

Waikato Regional Airport

This is a busy regional airport with four international flights scheduled per week from Brisbane.

Rotorua Regional Airport

This is the newest international airport in New Zealand with two international flights per week from Sydney.

Port Taharoa

The home of the *Taharoa Express* bulk carrier vessel, which transports iron sand to China on a 6–8 week cycle. The bulk carrier anchorage is located around 3 km off the beach at Taharoa (south of Kawhia Harbour) and MAF staff clear the vessel and any departing crew.

- Alan Kirkpatrick, Quarantine Inspection Team Leader, MAF, alan.kirkpatrick@maf.govt.nz.



The *Taharoa Express* transports iron sand to China on a 6–8 week cycle.



The Port of Tauranga.

At a glance – facts and figures from 2010

Tauranga	Hamilton	Rotorua
1,227 vessels 1.8 million tonnes in bulk ships and containers Total TEU ¹ : 511,343	26,000 arriving passengers	12,000 arriving passengers

¹ Twenty-foot equivalent unit – a measure of container volume, for example, a 40 foot container is 2 TEU.



Rotorua Airport

Hamilton Airport



NEW PLANT IMPORT STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Plant Import and Export Group have established two new plant import stakeholder advisory committees to improve and expand engagement with key stakeholders. The new committees will complement the existing advisory export committees.

Fresh Produce Advisory Committee (FreshPAC)

A wide variety of fresh fruit and vegetables is imported into New Zealand every day to provide fresh produce in counter-seasons. These imports also include tropical fruits that are not grown in New Zealand.

Established in 2010, FreshPAC, is a joint industry-government committee that works to open new trade pathways for the importation of produce while protecting New Zealand from the risks associated with the importation of fresh fruit and vegetables.

FreshPAC participates in a consultative

forum between the fresh produce import industry, major stakeholders and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The committee also works collaboratively to foster open communication with industry and stakeholders and to inform and consult with them on:

- the development of national and international standards;
- market access issues and special projects;
- the development of strategy, policy, standards and codes;
- the fresh produce work programme.

The FreshPAC core committee is represented by industry stakeholders and MAF and specifically includes representatives from:

- Horticulture New Zealand;
- Fresh Produce Importers Association;
- Pipfruit New Zealand;
- Major domestic producers;
- Major domestic importers;

as well as MAF's

- Plant Import / Export Group Manager;
- Fresh Produce Imports Team Manager;
- Auckland Cargo Clearance Manager.

The committee meets three times per year and sometimes invites other individuals or groups to observe, contribute to working groups, or address specific issues. Working groups meet as required.

FreshPAC would like to hear from interested fresh produce groups with suggestions on how to improve the importation of fresh produce into New Zealand – all ideas are welcome.

Contact

Leanne Stewart, Advisor, Fresh Produce Imports Team, by email at leanne.stewart@maf.govt.nz or by calling +64 4 894 0611.





Germplasm Advisory Committee (GERMAC)

Plant germplasm has played an important part in the development of New Zealand's primary sector economy and our current export produce is likely to have come from stock imported here to optimise variety, plant health and vitality.

Established in 2010, GERMAC is the consultative forum established between the plant germplasm import industry groups and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).

GERMAC works collaboratively to foster open communication between the industry, MAF and key agencies in the regulatory models for plant germplasm imports. The committee also provides input into strategic direction, policy formulation, setting priorities and the cost-effective delivery of the germplasm import programme.

GERMAC also helps establish industry strategy, policy, standards, specifications and codes of practice based on industry consultation and advice regarding the limits of legislation to decision-making bodies.

The GERMAC core committee includes industry stakeholders and MAF representatives, including:

- Nursery and Garden Industry Association;
 - Crown Research Institutes;
 - Summerfruit New Zealand;
 - Horticulture New Zealand;
 - Pipfruit New Zealand;
 - New Zealand Winegrowers;
 - ZESPRI International Ltd;
 - New Zealand Grain and Seed Trade Association;
- and MAF's

- Plant Import / Export Group Manager;
- Plant and Plant Products Team Manager;
- Virology and Plant Health and Environment Laboratory Manager.

The committee sometimes invites other individuals or groups to observe, contribute to working groups, or address specific issues.

GERMAC is interested in hearing from anyone who has suggestions on how to improve the importation of propagative material into New Zealand – any and all ideas are welcome.

Contact

Catherine (Cat) Jones, MAF Plant and Plant Products Team, by email at catherine.jones@maf.govt.nz or by calling +64 4 894 5514.

JOINT BORDER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CONTRACT SIGNED

A joint border management system (JBMS) designed to improve border processing for New Zealand traders and travellers and to make border agencies more efficient, will be the result of a contract recently signed by New Zealand Customs and IBM.

The JBMS brings together the two border processing systems previously run independently by New Zealand Customs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) – CusMod and Quantum, respectively.

This year's Budget included a \$75 million appropriation to cover the first stage of the system's development. Stage one will include what is called the trade single window, which will enable exporters, importers and others involved in trade to complete all their border compliance requirements online through a single point of electronic contact.

Customs Acting Comptroller, John Secker, says the JBMS is a major strategic asset for New Zealand.

"As well as meeting trade and industry requirements, it also serves our needs across border security, biosecurity,

intelligence related to smuggling, and facilitating legitimate travel," he says.

"We are very pleased to be joined closely with MAF, and the JBMS will ensure we can have more effective and efficient linkages with other government agencies and with industry to the benefit of New Zealand's economy and security."

MAF's Director General, Wayne McNee, says the international border management environment is constantly evolving and agencies involved in border activities need to move with it.

"The JBMS is part of that evolution and MAF is pleased to be working with Customs and IBM to ensure the needs of industry and government are met," he says.

It is anticipated that the JBMS will be built and implemented in two stages over a four-year period.



A quarantine officer at Auckland's air cargo facility provides images and discusses identification with a Plant Health and Environment Laboratory scientist.

REMOTE DIAGNOSTICS: INNOVATION TO FA

To speed identification of pests intercepted at the border, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) Plant Health and Environment Laboratory (PHEL) and the Auckland Air Cargo team have launched a new initiative called remote diagnostics. The new service enables PHEL to remotely identify invertebrates intercepted on imported fresh produce at MAF's air cargo facility and has been available to all Auckland-based importers since May 2011.

Approximately one third of all invertebrates intercepted on imported fresh produce are found during MAF inspections in its air cargo facility in Auckland. The remote diagnostics service reduces turnaround times by enabling faster identification and eliminating the need to send physical specimens to a laboratory. The shorter turnaround time also reduces the number of precautionary fumigations undertaken by importers because identifications can be made quickly enough to make informed decisions.

The implementation of this new service is the outcome of a pilot study over the last two years, which demonstrated the potential of remote diagnostics to speed biosecurity decision making. The study showed that remote diagnostics was best applied to invertebrates that do not require processing prior to identification. Invertebrates that can be placed directly under a microscope, such as caterpillars found on okra or adult beetles on ginger, are ideally suited. Smaller invertebrates such as mites, scale insects, mealybugs and

thrips that require slide mounting and extensive specimen processing still need to be sent to a laboratory for identification. Despite this restriction, it is estimated that 30–40 percent of the invertebrates intercepted in MAF's air cargo facility in Auckland can be identified using remote diagnostics.

MAF's remote diagnostic system creates a virtual, real-time network using web-based cameras mounted on microscopes. Equipment at PHEL provides entomologists in the laboratory with interactive access to real-time images (produced in the air cargo facility) without the need to have access to the physical specimen. There are several components in the remote diagnostics system:

- A stereomicroscope with 10–100 times magnification is used to examine the specimen.
- A web-enabled camera is the heart of the system. The camera captures high-quality specimen images,



A Plant Health and Environment Laboratory scientist in Tamaki views remote images and discusses identification with a quarantine officer.

CILITATE IMPORTATION OF FRESH PRODUCE

which are made available in real-time via the web with minimal delays when changing specimen position or magnification.

- The camera images are accessed via the MAF intranet. Not only can

the image be seen remotely, but the camera can also be remotely controlled by PHEL, for example, to select image size, exposure times and balance, and capture images.

A standard telephone is used with the remote diagnostic system to enable discussion during the diagnosis.

- Dr. Lalith Kumarasinghe, Manager, Entomology, Plant Health and Environment Laboratory, MAF, lalith.kumarasinghe@maf.govt.nz

July biosecurity month

From an emperor penguin on Peka Peka beach to the kiwifruit vine disease PSA and the algae didymo, which congests waterways, it's always possible that a new plant, animal or microbe will arrive in New Zealand.

All New Zealanders have a role to play in biosecurity to protect our natural environment and our economic interests.

The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute (NZBI) designated July as Biosecurity month to mark all the activities that protect our unique biology.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has the lead role in managing the country's biosecurity system and welcomed the opportunity to highlight some of its activities.

Consider this amazing statistic – 175,000 items a day come across our border.

MAF oversees a three-pronged system – working overseas to stop travellers and importers bringing in pests, working at the border to identify and eliminate pests that do arrive, and working in New Zealand to find, manage or eliminate pests that have established here.

For farmers, for example, biosecurity means being careful to only buy disease-free stock. For boaties it means cleaning, checking and drying their gear. For anyone who finds something unusual, it means calling the 0800 number to report it so MAF can follow up.

MAF is a sponsor of the NZBI's annual event, the National Education and Training Seminar, which took place in the North Shore, Auckland from 6–8 July. MAF staff presented on a range of topics including:

- evaluation of the didymo campaign;
- collaborative marine pest management;
- the pest management toolbox supporting the National Plan of Action;
- wilding conifer management.



Ellen Bonekamp joins the Import and Export Standards Directorate as a Senior Adviser in the Animal Imports team. She is a veterinarian who moved to New Zealand two years ago from the Netherlands. She comes from the NZFSA Verification Agency where she worked as a veterinary technical officer. In the Netherlands, she was employed by the Dutch Food Safety Authority to deal with animal imports in the Port of Rotterdam.



Cressida Bywater joins the Plant Exports Group as an Adviser. Cressida has previously worked as a botanist and terrestrial ecologist in the environmental consulting industry. Cressida studied at the University of Otago and holds a BSc and MSc in Botany.



Lucy Johnston joins the Animal Imports and Exports team as a Senior Adviser. Initially, she will work on the Import Health Standard for Avian Hatching Eggs. Lucy previously worked for the New Zealand Food Safety Authority as an advisor in the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Group, assessing veterinary medicines for approval, and in standard development under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act. Prior to this, Lucy worked as a small animal veterinarian in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom.



Catherine Jones joins the Plant Imports Group as a Technical Support Officer. She was previously a research assistant at Victoria University of Wellington, examining the community ecology of insects. Catherine has a BSc in marine biology.



Carwyn Kupa joins the Operational Facilities Group as an Adviser. His role is to develop, design and model the key processes that support the Environmental Risk Management Authority and MAF's memorandum of understanding. This information will provide the foundation blocks for the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms enforcement review to identify how MAF can better support the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act as the sole enforcement agency.



Kate Littin joins the Pest Management Group as Senior Adviser in the National Coordination team. Kate is on secondment from the Animal Welfare Directorate during 2011. Her primary role will be project manager for the toolbox project of the Pest Management National Plan of Action implementation. Kate has been with MAF since 2004, except for a period of postdoctoral study at the University of Bristol. She completed a PhD with

Landcare Research and Massey University and has also worked at the Home Office in the United Kingdom.



Andrew McCulley recently returned to MAF as a Biosecurity Inspector. In his previous role at MAF, he was working as a Quarantine Officer in Auckland. Andrew's new role involves auditing transitional facilities throughout the Auckland region to ensure that they adhere to MAF standards. In his time away, he spent a couple of years working for the Ministry of Fisheries and a couple of years of travelling through parts of South America, Europe and Asia.



Haritina Mogosanu joins the Marine and Information Risk Analysis team as a Senior Adviser for Risk Information. She is a horticultural engineer and has a Master's in environmental management in agriculture. She started with MAF in June 2008 and arrived in New Zealand from Romania in 2005, where she worked in phytosanitary quarantine and agricultural products trade for more than 10 years.

Haritina has a strong interest in space sciences and in her free time is the Education Coordinator for the KiwiSpace Foundation. In January 2011, she was sent by the Romanian Space Agency to the Mars Desert Research Station in Utah, where she researched the biosecurity of space habitats. Before joining the Standards branch, Haritina worked in the Business Services Directorate where she was involved in business processes analysis and information management.



Wendy Newsham joins the Animal Imports Team in the Animal Imports and Exports Directorate as a Senior Adviser. Wendy has spent the last 6.5 years working as an Adviser and Senior Adviser in the Animal Exports area of MAF. During that time she was involved in the review of the *Official Assurance Programme: Requirements for the Export of Live Animals and Germplasm*, the development of the *Export Laboratory Programme: Requirements for Laboratories*

and *Persons Conducting the Testing of Live Animals and Germplasm for Export*, and market access development/issues around the cat and dog, zoo, and small animal portfolios.



Nacanieli Waqa joins the Fresh Produce Imports team as Senior Adviser for Pacific Market Access in the Border Standards Directorate. He previously spent 12 years as a biosecurity officer with the Biosecurity Authority of the Fiji Islands and more recently as the Biosecurity Technical Officer for the Secretariat of the Pacific Community covering the whole of the Pacific islands. Nacanieli assisted in the

establishment and improvement of biosecurity systems for countries in the Pacific, including the implementation and compliance to international standards, coordination of the regional early-detection surveillance programme, particularly for fruit flies, invasive ants and termites, helped countries develop and improve export, risk analysis and diagnostics systems, and has greatly contributed to enhancing capacities in the Pacific.



Ian Watson joins MAF as an Adviser in the Fresh Produce Imports team. Ian has been involved in the horticulture industry, especially cut flower production, and for the past five years has focused on cymbidium orchid breeding for cut flower exporters and pot plant trades.



Grant Weston has been with MAF in various roles for over 15 years and has recently been reassigned as a Senior Adviser in the Border Operational Systems and Standards Group in the New Zealand Standards Directorate. His role in this group is to review operational import health standards, assist stakeholders and the operational directorate in the development of equivalent and co-management systems, and provide advice as required.



Tasha Williams joins the Import and Export Standards Directorate as a Senior Adviser in the Animal Exports team. She is a veterinarian who comes from the New Zealand Food Safety Authority's Verification Agency where she worked as a Veterinary Technical Supervisor in the Canterbury team. Prior to this, she did a variety of work, but has a strong background in sport, spending some time as a full time athlete after graduating from Massey University.

UPDATES

Draft Import Health Standard for Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) must consult with interested parties before issuing or amending (other than of a minor nature) import health standards in accordance with Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) and Biosecurity New Zealand's consultation policy. An import health standard (IHS) specifies zoosanitary requirements that must be carried out, either in the country of origin or of export, during transit, or in quarantine, before biosecurity clearance can be given for the commodity to enter New Zealand. MAF must ensure that these requirements are technically justified and provide an appropriate level of biosecurity protection. The following draft documents have been issued for public consultation and comment:

- Draft Import Health Standard for Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing
 - See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-aniproic-all.pdf for details.
- Draft Guidance Document for Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing
 - See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-guidance-aniproic-all.pdf for details.

Comments on the IHS draft document should be forwarded to MAF by close of business on 29 July 2011.

Draft Import Health Standard for Zoo Primates

- Draft Import Health Standard for Zoo Primates from Australia, Canada, the European Union, USA and Singapore
 - See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/draft-ihs-zoo-primates.pdf for details.
- Draft Risk Management Plan for Zoo Primates from Australia, Canada, the European Union, USA and Singapore
 - See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/draft-rmp-zoo-primates.pdf for details.

This was based on the Risk Analysis for Zoo Primates, which went out for consultation on 21 February 2011. No formal submissions were received to the risk document so there was not a review of submissions and the document was not made final. The risk document will become final at the end of the consultation period for the Import Health Standard for Zoo Primates.

- Risk Analysis for Zoo Primates from Australia, Canada, the European Union, USA and Singapore
 - See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/biosec/consult/import-risk-analysis-zoo-primates-draft-public-consultation.pdf for details.

Comments on the IHS draft document should be forwarded to MAF by close of business on 8 July 2011.

Making a submission

MAF encourages respondents to forward comments electronically to the email address below. However, should you wish to forward submissions in writing, please send them to:

Charlotte Richmond, Team Support Officer, Border Standards Directorate, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
PO Box 2526, Wellington, New Zealand

Fax: +64 4 819 0662, Email: charlotte.richmond@maf.govt.nz

- Please see www.biosecurity.govt.nz/faq/term/915/consultation-2.htm for additional information on making a submission.

Submissions received by the closure date will be considered for the final issue of the import health standard. Submissions received after the closure date may be held on file for consideration when the issued standard is next revised and/or reviewed.

Please note that your submission is public information. Submissions may be the subject of requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA specifies that information is to be made available to requesters unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it, as set out in the OIA. Submitters may wish to indicate grounds for withholding specific information contained in their submission, such as the information is commercially sensitive, or they may wish for personal information to be withheld. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.

UPDATES continued

New Import Health Standard for Horses

The Import Health Standard for Horses dated 30 June 2011 has been issued for trade and is now available from the MAF website at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search. This is the revised version following consultation in May 2011. A copy of the review of submissions may be found at: www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/archive

The standard provides updated measures for horses from all MAF-approved countries. Current MAF-approved countries include: Australia; Canada; Japan; Hong Kong; USA; and member countries of the European Union.

Veterinary certificates with agreed attestations, meeting the new import health standard, must be negotiated with the above countries. Until veterinary certificates are approved the following import health standards continue to enable trade:

- Import Health Standard for Horses from Australia, 6 January 2009 (horaniic.aus)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Horses from Canada, 1 October 2007 (horaniic.can)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Horses from European Union Member Countries, 1 October 2007 (horaniic.eu)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Horses from Hong Kong, 1 October 2007 (horaniic.hk)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Horses from Japan, 1 October 2007 (horaniic.jp)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Horses from the USA, 12 May 2008 (horaniic.usa)

The import health standards listed above will be revoked when new veterinary certificates become available.

- Any questions relating to the issue of this import health standard can be directed to Animal Imports, by emailing animalimports@maf.govt.nz or calling 0800 008 333.

New Import Health Standard for White Rhinoceros from Australia

The Import Health Standard for White Rhinoceros from Australia is entitled ZORHIIC.AUS and was issued on 10 June 2011.

- See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/zoorhiic.aus.htm for details.

Change-over period for dog and cat import health standards

The new import health standard for cats and dogs came into effect on 27 May 2011.

There will be a one month period (from 27 May up to and including 27 June) where you may follow:

- the old import health standard for the country where your pet is exported from
 - www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/previous-catdog.htm

OR

- the new import health standard
 - www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/catdog.gen.htm

Quarantine periods

During this change-over period, your pet may follow the quarantine period from either the old or new import standards, regardless of which tests and treatments (the old or new standard) they have undergone.

For example:

- Pets from United Kingdom, Hawaii, Ireland (Republic of), Norway, Singapore and Sweden who enter NZ before or on 27 June are not required to undergo quarantine.
- Pets from other countries where quarantine is reduced under the new standards (most other countries including the USA and South Africa) who enter NZ before or on 26 June will undergo the reduced 10 day quarantine period.
- Pets from Australia are not required to do quarantine. Note from 28 June all checks at the airport before Australian pets can enter NZ must be done by an official vet and will ONLY be done during certain hours (see the Guidance Document).

This change-over flexibility for quarantine aims to ensure that pet owners are not caught between preparing under the old and new standards.

However, we urge everyone to now:

Prepare pets (all tests and treatments) under the new standards.

From 28 June 2011, any animal not meeting the new requirements relative to the country of origin of the pet may not be eligible for import to New Zealand, or may be required to undergo further testing and treatment in quarantine.

Pets from United Kingdom, Hawaii, Ireland (Republic of), Norway, Singapore and Sweden who enter New Zealand from 28 June require a Permit to Import prior to entry, and a 10-day quarantine period upon arrival.

Amended Import Health Standard for Hides and Skins from all Countries

Issued: 30 June 2011

This standard provides measures for hides and skins that have not been manufactured into finished products to be imported.

This standard replaces the following 10 standards:

- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDCOMIC.AUS – Cattle/sheep/goat/deer/horse hides and skins untanned from Australia, dated 06-May-2000
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDCOMIC.EEC – Cattle, goat, sheep, pig or deer hides and skins from the European Union, dated 11-10-2004
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDCOMIC.NCA – Cattle hides and skins untanned from New Caledonia, dated 25-08-1998
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDCOMIC.SPE – Cattle/sheep/goat/deer hides and skins untanned from specified countries, dated 29-06-2004
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDCOMIC.VAN – Cattle hides and skins untanned from Vanuatu, dated 05-05-1997
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDCUTIC.ALL – Hide Cuttings and Splits Dry Limed from all countries, dated 15-01-1998
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDRECIC.ALL – Cattle/sheep/goat hides and skins untanned of New Zealand origin from all countries, dated 02-11-1998
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDSCAIC.WSA – Cattle hides salted from Western Samoa, dated 15-01-1998
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDSHGIC.ICE – Sheep and goat skins, pickled/salted, wool-on from Iceland, dated 15-01-1998
- MAF Biosecurity Standard HIDSLIIC.AUS – Calf/lamb skin skins untanned from Australia, dated 09-05-2000

- See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/hidcomiic.all.htm for details.

Amended Import Health Standard for Ornamental Products of Animal Origin from all Countries

Issued: 10 June 2011

This standard provides measures for non-viable products made from animals or the parts of animals that are generally used for display or decorative purposes to be imported. This includes products such as shells, blown eggs, rawhide articles, and game trophies.

This standard replaces the following 2 standards:

MAF Biosecurity Standard TROFURIC.AUS- Private consignments of un-tanned trophy fur skins from Australia, dated 19 January 1998

MAF Biosecurity Standard INETROIC.EEC- Mammalian game trophies from the European Community, dated 29 September 2004

This standard is dated 10 June 2011 and replaces the standard dated 7 December 2005

- See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/ihs/inetroic.all-ihs.pdf for details.

Amended Import Health Standard for Specified Animal Products and Biologicals

The Import Health Standard for Specified Animal Products and Biologicals has been amended to allow for bovine horn sheaths from Australia.

This standard is now dated 08 June 2011 and replaces that dated 14 December 2005.

- See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/ineproic.all.htm for details.

UPDATES continued

Amended Import Health Standard for Biological Products (including Samples) from all Countries

Issued: June 2011

This standard provides measures for non-viable biological products (including samples) from all countries to be imported into MAF approved transitional facilities. The scope of the standard includes products for the purposes of: laboratory research, diagnostic and analytical purposes (including equipment calibration and validation), animal product samples for evaluation and/or proficiency testing, environmental use, and use in, or on, humans, animals and/or plants (e.g. medical, veterinary or horticultural use).

This standard replaces the following 11 standards:

- Import Health Standard for the Importation of Raw Milk Samples for Evaluation and Destruction from New Caledonia - DAIRMSIC.NCA (27 July 1998)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Dairy Product Samples for Evaluation - DAISAMIC.ALL (11 May 2004)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Animal Fibre for Testing from All Countries - FIBTESIC.ALL (26 June 2001)
- Import Health Standard for the Importation of Samples of Untanned Cattle/Sheep/Goat Hides and Skins of New Zealand Origin for Evaluation - HIDRESIC.ALL (15 January 1998)

- Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Samples of Untanned Cattle/Sheep/Goat/Deer Hides and Skins from Specified Countries - HIDSAMIC.SPE (28 June 2004)
 - Import Health Standard for the Importation of New Zealand Origin Tallow, Blood Meal, Fish Meal, Bone Meal Samples for Evaluation - INESAMIC.ALL (3 June 1998)
 - Import Health Standard for the Importation of Pig Meat and Poultry Meat Samples into New Zealand for Evaluation and Destruction from Australia - MEASAMIC.AUS (14 October 2002)
 - Import Health Standard for the Importation of Meat Samples for Evaluation and Destruction into New Zealand from Fiji - MEASAMIC.FJ (27 July 1998)
 - Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Meat and Meat Byproduct Samples for Evaluation from Specified Countries - MEASAMIC.SPE (21 October 2004)
 - Import Health Standard for the Importation of Fresh Whole Eggs for Evaluation and Destruction into New Zealand from Fiji - POUEGGIC.FJ (27 July 1998)
 - Import Health Standard for the Importation of Frozen Salmon Offal Samples into New Zealand for Evaluation and Destruction from Australia - SALSAMIC.AUS (19 January 1998)
- See www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/plants/standards/bioprodc.all.htm for details.

Pest watch: 22 March 2011 – 23 May 2011

Biosecurity is about managing risks – protecting the New Zealand environment and economy from exotic pests and diseases. MAF Biosecurity New Zealand devotes much of its time to ensuring that new organism records come to its attention, to follow up as appropriate. The tables here list new organisms that have become established, new hosts for existing pests and extensions to distribution of existing pests. The information was collated between 22 March and 23 May 2011. The plant information is held in the Plant Pest Information Network (PPIN) database. Wherever possible, common names have been included.

ANIMAL KINGDOM RECORDS

Validated new to New Zealand reports

No validated new to New Zealand records during this period.

Significant find reports

No significant find records during this period.

New host reports

No new host records during this period.

New distribution reports

No new distribution records during this period.

- If you have any enquiries regarding this information please contact surveillance@maf.govt.nz.

PLANT KINGDOM RECORDS

Validated new to New Zealand reports

Organism	Host	Location	Submitted by	Comments
<i>Pseudomonas syringae</i> pv. <i>actinidiae</i> (bacterium: bacterial canker of kiwifruit)	<i>Actinidia chinensis</i> (kiwifruit)	Bay of Plenty	IDC (General Surveillance)	A response has been initiated.
<i>Potexvirus Hosta virus X</i> (Hosta virus X)	<i>Hosta</i> sp. (hosta)	Waikato	IDC (General Surveillance)	
<i>Blaste lignicola</i> (insect: booklouse)	<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp. (eucalyptus, gum tree)	Auckland	IDC (General Surveillance)	
<i>Schizoparme straminea</i> (fungus: schizoparme fruit rot)	<i>Acmena</i> sp. (lilly-pilly, monkey apple, acmena)	Auckland	IDC (General Surveillance)	
<i>Stigmia platani</i> (fungus: no common name)	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London plane)	Auckland	Scion (MAF High Risk Site Surveillance)	

Eradicated Organisms

No significant find records during this period.

New host reports

Organism	Host	Location	Submitted by	Comments
<i>Tyrophagus vanheurni</i> (insect: no common name)	<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> (tomato)	Auckland	Export Pre-Clearance	

Extension to distribution reports

Organism	Host	Location	Submitted by	Comments
<i>Coryneum betulinum</i> (fungus: no common name)	<i>Betula pendula</i> (silver birch)	Marlborough Sounds	Scion (MAF High Risk Site Surveillance)	

- If you have any enquiries regarding this information please contact surveillance@maf.govt.nz.

MAF general enquiries: 0800 00 83 33

Exotic disease and pest emergency hotline: 0800 80 99 66

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