



Import Health Standard for Hides and Skins

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MAF Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
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Issuing Authority

This standard is issued under section 22 of the [Biosecurity Act 1993](#) (the Act).

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Director General Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
(Issued under delegated authority)

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Part A. Introduction

Background

1. Under section 22 of the Act, this document is the Import Health Standard for Hides and Skins.
2. A Guidance Document will be issued by MAF to accompany this Import Health Standard. This document will provide guidance information relevant to how the requirements may be met.

Scope

3. This standard specifies the requirements that must be met to import hides and skins into New Zealand from all countries.
4. For the purposes of this standard, hides and skins mean the untanned natural external covering of an animal removed from the body. The covering may or may not have fibre attached and does not have to be whole. This includes:
 - a. Fully tanned hides and skins
 - b. Processed hides and skins
 - c. Salted or dried hides and skins
 - d. Casualty skins
 - e. Macropod hides and skins
5. The following products are excluded under this standard:
 - a. Manufactured products containing fully tanned hides and skins (see [ornamental products of animal origin](#))
 - b. Rawhide articles and handicrafts (see [ornamental products of animal origin](#))
 - c. Fibres such as wool or fur (see <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihsearch>)
6. All imported consignments of hides and skins must meet the requirements specified in this standard, including the general requirements contained in Part B of this standard, and any commodity-specific requirements contained in Parts C and D of this standard.

Outcomes

7. Imported hides and skins must be subjected to risk management measures for specified risk organisms appropriate to the status of the risk organism, their likelihood of entry and/or establishment in New Zealand and consequent impacts.
8. The risk organisms associated with hides and skins requiring specific risk management measures are:
 - a. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)
 - b. *Bacillus anthracis* (anthrax)
 - c. Swine vesicular disease
 - d. Lumpy skin disease and sheep and goat pox
 - e. African swine fever
 - f. Classical swine fever
 - g. Bovine viral diarrhoea (type 2)
 - h. Highly pathogenic avian influenza
 - i. Newcastle disease

- j. *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)
- k. *Brucella spp.* (Brucellosis)
- l. *Chlamydophila abortus* (Enzootic abortion of ewes)
- m. Enterobacteriaceae
- n. *Burkholderia mallei* (glanders)
- o. Enterovirus encephalomyelitis (porcine enteroviruses)

Definitions

The definitions below relate to terms used in this standard. Words used but not defined in this standard have the same meaning as words defined in the Biosecurity Act, 1993.

Casualty skin

A skin derived from a lamb or calf up to the age of 6 months that has died of natural causes, also known as a slink skin.

Fully tanned hides and skins

Hides and skins that have undergone a full tanning process so that they are preserved from putrescence and are thermally stable and are ready for use in a manufactured product.

Macropod

A species from the marsupial family Macropodidae; this includes kangaroos, wallabies and wallaroos.

Manufacturer's declaration

A document prepared by the manufacturer on letterhead paper and signed by the quality manager or equivalent of the manufacturing premises and containing the correct statement/s as required by the import conditions specific to the product and consignment. *See Guidance Document for a model manufacturer's declaration.*

Official veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the Section 5.2 of the [OIE Code](#) pertaining to principles of certification.

OIE Code

The World Organisation for Animal Health's Terrestrial Animal Health Code – available online at <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>.

Permit to Import

A permit issued by the Director General of MAF under section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. *See Guidance Document for how to apply for a permit.*

Processed hides and skins

Hides and skins that have been pickled and/or limed, this includes wet whites, wet blues, and wet browns. *See guidance document for explanation of these terms.*

Salted or dried hides and skins

Hides and skins that have been air dried or dry/wet salted derived from the following farmed animals: alpacas, buffalo, cattle, deer, emus, goats, horses, llamas, ostriches, pigs, and sheep.

Veterinary certificate

A certificate, signed by an official veterinarian of the exporting country's veterinary authority, issued in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 5.2 of the [OIE Code](#). See *Guidance Document for model veterinary certificates*.

Part B. General Requirements

Documentation

9. All hides and skins imported under this standard must be accompanied by information that identifies the origin of the product (i.e. country or zone), the destination in New Zealand, and adequately describes the nature of the product.
10. Documentation accompanying imported hides and skins as specified in Part C below, must be:
 - a. original, unless otherwise specified; and
 - b. in English or have an English translation available.

Packaging

11. The packaging of an imported consignment of hides and skins must be:
 - a. clean and new; and
 - b. secure and free of any extraneous organic contaminants.

Part C. Commodity Specific Requirements

Fully tanned hides and skins

12. Consignments of fully tanned hides and skins from any species may be imported from any country without any specific requirements.

Processed hides and skins

13. Consignments of processed hides and skins from any species may be imported from any country.

14. Consignments of processed hides and skins must be accompanied by either a [manufacturer's declaration](#) or a [veterinary certificate](#) stating that:

- a. the hides and skins have been subjected to a liming process at a pH equal to or greater than 12.5; and/or
- b. the hides and skins have been subjected to a pickling process in a solution of salt and mineral acid at a pH equal to or less than 4.

Salted or dried hides and skins

15. Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins may be imported from any country.

16. Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins must be accompanied by a [manufacturer's declaration](#) stating that the hides and skins have been packaged in new, clean, and secure packaging that is free of any extraneous contamination.

17. Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins must be accompanied by a copy of a [Permit to Import](#) issued by MAF.

18. Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins must be accompanied by a [veterinary certificate](#) verifying that they originate from animals that have been slaughtered in a government licensed processing establishment.

19. Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins of ruminants, lamoids, and pigs must be accompanied by a [veterinary certificate](#) verifying that they:

- a. originate from a country or zone that is officially free from Foot and Mouth Disease in accordance with the OIE Code; OR
- b. have been treated for 28 days with salt containing 2% sodium carbonate.

20. Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins of ruminants, lamoids, horses, and pigs must be accompanied by a [veterinary certificate](#) verifying that they:

- a. originate from a country or zone officially free from anthrax; OR
- b. originate from establishments that were not subject to restrictions imposed for the control of anthrax; OR
- c. originate from animals that have been slaughtered in a government-licensed processing establishment under the direct supervision of an official veterinarian,

subjected to ante- and post-mortem inspection, and certified as fit for human consumption.

21. Imported consignments of salted or dried hides and skins must be directed on arrival by an inspector to the transitional facility listed on their permit to import. While in the transitional facility the hides and skins must be processed as per Part D of this standard.

Casualty skins

22. Consignments of casualty skins may be imported from any country.
23. Consignments of casualty skins must be accompanied by a [manufacturer's declaration](#) stating that the skins have been packaged in new, clean, and secure packaging that is free of any extraneous contamination.
24. Consignments of casualty skins must be accompanied by a copy of a [permit to import](#) issued by MAF.
25. Consignments of casualty skins must be accompanied by a [veterinary certificate](#) verifying that they:
- a. originate from a country or zone that is officially free from Foot and Mouth Disease in accordance with the OIE Code; OR
 - b. have been treated for 28 days with salt containing 2% sodium carbonate.
26. Consignments of casualty skins must be accompanied by a [veterinary certificate](#) verifying that they:
- a. originate from a country or zone officially free from anthrax; OR
 - b. originate from establishments that were not subject to restrictions imposed for the control of anthrax.
27. Imported consignments of casualty skins must be directed on arrival by an inspector to the transitional facility listed on their permit to import. While in the transitional facility the skins must be processed as per Part D of this standard.

Macropod hides and skins

28. Consignments of macropod hides and skins may only be imported from Australia.
29. Consignments of macropod hides and skins imported under this standard may be dried, salted, fresh, frozen or chilled.
30. Consignments of macropod hides and skins must be accompanied by a [manufacturer's declaration](#) stating that the hides and skins have been packaged in new, clean, and secure packaging that is free of any extraneous contamination.
31. Consignments of macropod hides and skins must be accompanied by a copy of a [permit to import](#) issued by MAF.
32. Consignments of macropod hides and skins must be accompanied by a [veterinary certificate](#) verifying that they:

- a. originate from animals that have been processed under the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Game Meat for Human Consumption, and have passed a post-mortem inspection in a government-licensed processing establishment; OR
 - b. originate from a zone officially free from anthrax; OR
 - c. originate from establishments that were not subject to restrictions imposed for the control of anthrax.
33. Imported consignments of macropod hides and skins must be directed on arrival by an inspector to the transitional facility listed on their permit to import. While in the transitional facility the skins must be processed as per Part D of this standard.

Part D. Post Entry requirements

34. Where required under this standard, imported hides and skins must be directed to a transitional facility on arrival in New Zealand for completion of processing.
- a. While in the transitional facility, and prior to processing, imported hides and skins shall be clearly marked, stored, and handled in accordance with the [MAF Standard for General Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Goods](#), and any associated requirements listed in Annex F of the Guidance Document to that standard.
 - b. While in the transitional facility, the hides and skins must be processed in accordance with part 13 of this standard (i.e. pickled or limed).
 - c. All trimmings and solid waste removed from the hides and skins during processing at a transitional facility must be collected and disposed of by either:
 - i. rendering; OR
 - ii. incineration; OR
 - iii. any other method provided it has first been approved by MAF in writing.
 - d. All packaging associated with imported hides and skins must be destroyed or disposed of by either:
 - i. incineration; OR
 - ii. any other method provided it has first been approved by MAF in writing.
 - e. All effluent generated during processing must be either:
 - i. discharged into a municipal sewage system; OR
 - ii. discharged into a securely fenced and isolated soak-pit or another method approved by MAF; OR
 - iii. treated with a MAF-approved biocide.

Part E. Clearance

35. A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act, will be issued when imported consignments of hides and skins meet all the requirements of this standard.

Part F. Equivalence

36. The requirements for hides and skins are met if, in the opinion of the Director-General, the measures taken for managing the risks associated with the importation of those goods are equally effective at managing those risks as the requirements specified in (1) to (34) above. If an equivalence measure(s) is approved MAF will issue a [permit to import](#).

Part G. New Zealand returning product

37. All consignments of hides and skins of New Zealand origin may be permitted entry from any country provided that the product is:

- a. identifiable as being of New Zealand origin; AND
- b. packed in the original packaging; AND
- c. free of extraneous organic contamination.