



Release of Revised Import Health Standard for Sea Containers

July 2009

The MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) Import Health Standard *SEACO* 'Import Health Standard for Sea Containers' specifies the requirements for supply chain parties to meet when importing sea containers into New Zealand and actions that must be taken by supply chain parties responsible for the movement and management of containers to their final destination.

The aim of revising the import health standard is to ensure it is current, feasible and fair, that will ensure the effective and efficient management of biosecurity pests and contamination associated with sea containers, to provide opportunities for industry parties to develop equivalent systems for managing biosecurity risks and to provide MAFBNZ with appropriate options when non-compliance is found.

The import health standard format is different from the current standard in that it is split into two documents - the standard and an associated guidance document. The standard intends to clearly specify the clearance outcomes that must be met. The guidance document provides information and options about meeting the standard and what actions MAFBNZ will undertake to verify compliance with the standard. The guidance document is not legally binding but provides direction as to the expectations and options about how to meet the standard (as stated in the Biosecurity Act and other supporting legislation). It is intended that the guidance document can be read independently of the sea container standard.

Public consultation on the import health standard and associated guidance document was carried out from 8 May 2009 to 19 June 2009. Submissions received and MAFBNZ responses are included in the submissions document at the following website: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/consult/archive>

The following implementation plan outlines the major changes to the import health standard and has the dates MAFBNZ expect these to be implemented. Consultation with industry to implement these will occur.

For further information about the revised import health standard, please email standards@maf.govt.nz

Implementation Plan for the Import Health Standard for Sea Containers

Short Name: SEACO (Dated July 2009)

The Import Health Standard for Sea Containers (SEACO) comes into force on 1st October 2009. All sections of the standard come into force on 1st October 2009 unless otherwise specified in the table below. The implementation dates for these sections are listed in the right hand column. The interim requirements for the period up until the final date for implementation are also specified in the table. This does not preclude earlier implementation of the new requirements where the required systems have been established:

Clause	Industry Requirements	Interim Requirement	Final date for implementation
4	Information received 12 hours in advance of container arrival	As per <i>bmg-std-seaco</i> (dated 27 th August 2003) section 4	1 March 2010
6	Notification of container directions between importer/ agent and transport operators and transitional facilities able to be tracked		1 March 2010
5	Notification of uncleared transhipped containers between ports		1 March 2010
Clause	MAFBNZ Requirements	Interim Requirement	Final date for implementation
4	Containers where information is not received 12 hours in advance to be classified high regulatory interest and actioned appropriately	As per <i>bmg-std-seaco</i> (dated 27 th August 2003) section 4	1 March 2010
5	All high regulatory interest containers to be processed by MAFBNZ at the first port of discharge	As per <i>bmg-std-seaco</i> (dated 27 th August 2003) section 6	1 March 2010