

## Palm Kernel Extract (PKE) Information

### What countries do we import PKE from?

PKE (or Palm Kernel Meal) has been imported as a stock feed for more than 10 years, particularly for dairy cows. In the last few years quantities have increased in line with the increase in dairying activity to the current situation where it is quite common for single consignments to be shipped in bulk carriers or in up to 25 containers.

PKE is currently imported under Section 7.3 of the Import Health Standard BNZ-PAFP-IMPRT Importation of processed animal feeds of plant origin:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/plants/standards/bnz-pafp-impri>.

A permit to import is not required, but the products must be clean and accompanied by required documentation. Fumigation with phosphine is mandatory and all consignments are inspected on arrival before being given clearance. Bulk consignments in ship holds and containers are inspected by MAF on arrival. If no pests are present, the remaining containers are sent to a transitional facility approved to hold this type of product before clearance. These containers are then inspected on unloading by a MAF accredited person.

Palm kernel meal is a pure homogenous processed material produced under high temperatures required for the extraction of palm kernel oil. Consequently, minimal biosecurity risk exists in the palm kernel meal by-product by the finish of production. The import requirements are in place to ensure measures are in place to protect product from sources of contamination.

The general requirements are:

- Consignments must be free from pre-processing and post processing contamination with any animal protein, animal products, regulated pests, viable seeds and unprocessed plant material.
- Official documentation with specific statements from the exporting country attesting to handling, storage and inspection of the product post production and inspection of the product prior to export are required.
- Certification of fumigation given prior to or during shipment for all consignments.
- On arrival in New Zealand all consignments are inspected by MAF Biosecurity New Zealand. If biosecurity risk material is found in the product an appropriate treatment is undertaken where possible, or the consignment can be reshipped or destroyed.

Information on PKE imports from the past year covering the period from April 2008 to March 2009 has been collated. During this period, there have been over 200 consignments of PKE imported into New Zealand. PKE is imported from several countries with the greatest volumes coming from Malaysia and Indonesia (>97% in total).

Exporting Country	Volume: April 2008 to March 2009 (Tonnes)	Percentage (%)
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Indonesia	392,233	47.5
Malaysia	412,776	50.0
Papua New Guinea	4,160	0.5
Singapore	14,118	1.7
Solomon Islands	2,391	0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>825,677</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of the consignments imported between April 2008 and March 2009, 17 consignments were found with insects or other forms of contamination, and required fumigation which was carried out at the importers cost. If consignments are found to be infested the importer is asked to consider re-shipping to port of origin, fumigation or destroying the consignment. All three options are carried out by MAFBNZ at the importers cost. Consignments can be sent for fumigation without the identification of the pest being undertaken – identifying the pest takes time and money and importers usually opt for fumigating the consignment so they can gain access to, and move the consignment to their facilities. No regulated pests have been found on PKM consignments approved for entry into New Zealand.

Records kept by MAFBNZ support the opinion that PKM is a product of low biosecurity risk with few known contaminants of concern and biosecurity measures taken with the low level of contaminated consignments have been considered appropriate. Despite this urban legends circulating appear to have become fact in a number of instances involving Palm kernel extract.

Reports of a severely infested Palm kernel consignment arriving at Bluff which had to be destroyed is untrue. No consignment entering Bluff has been destroyed, but a few containerised consignments last year were cleaned and fumigated on arrival. The only material buried was maize contaminated copra in bags used as a bulk head (a barrier behind the container door). These are not common occurrences.

The infamous case of the 54 insects (originally reported as a 110) identified in PKE in nine storage facilities in New Zealand is a beat up. We have collated information on the pests found in PKM bulk stores and none of the insects found (associated with bulk PKM stores) were regulated, that is they are most likely to have come from within New Zealand. In one particular case, it appears the storage facility had not been properly cleaned prior to the arrival of the consignment and the PKE had then been kept in storage there for some time. There were insects identified in the facility, but these were local, not newly introduced.

A dead monkey has also been variously reported as being found in a Palm kernel consignment and again this is not true.

We have, without question, the best biosecurity protection of any country in the world, and that is as it should be but our borders will never be hermetically sealed. Constant surveillance and the active partnership of farmers and the rest of our community are vital if we are to maintain our high biosecurity standards.

**Ends**