



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Te Manatu Ahuwhenua, Ngaherehere

September 2010

MANDATORY DECLARATION OF THE ATF CODE AND THE ESCRIP PROCESS

The Rule: For all Import Entries where FCL containers are involved (the MAF Container Declaration MCD is used) the Declarant must nominate the destination transitional facility where the container will be unpacked.

There are no exceptions allowed. If the MCD code is used without a corresponding ATF (MAF Approved Transitional Facility) code the entry will be rejected by New Zealand Customs.

The ESCRIP process where import entries are sent to MAF electronically via NZ Customs only allows the declaration of a single destination facility for each entry.

MAF uses certain “dummy” transitional facilities for operational purposes. MAF will be placing alerts on the ATF codes associated with these facilities that will result in consignments being held. MAF will then be requiring an explanation from declarants about the use of these codes.

POTENTIAL SCENARIOS:

SCENARIO 1

The Declarant does not know where the container is to be unpacked at the time they wish to make their entry.

Options:

1. Delay making the declaration until the destination facility is nominated by the importer.
2. Use the ATF code for “ATF Not Known” which will result in the CUSMOD response “MAF HOLD”. The container cannot be removed until MAF has been contacted. The Declarant will then be required to obtain a biosecurity direction (BACC) from MAF before the container can be removed from the port of arrival. **(MAF FEE CHARGED FOR THIS OPTION)**

SCENARIO 2

The consignment has multiple containers that are to be unpacked at more than one transitional facility.

Options:

1. Split the consignment into distinct “units” based on single destination transitional facilities and make one import entry per unit. (Note: This will work for MAF but may have implications with respect to GST and duty.)
2. Make the entry nominating a primary ATF code (the ATF at which the importer considers most of the containers will be unpacked at) and then send a NOTICE OF ATF CHANGE (see attachment) informing MAF of the actual destination facility codes. MAF will not need to issue a BACC in this instance but will be able to alter the authorities within the MAF system to note the actual destination ATFs.

Note: Where a BACC is issued because of some other requirement (Risk goods, Audit etc) this process (nominating the destination facilities) can occur during the normal BACC application process.

SCENARIO 3

The importer decides to change the transitional facility that the container is to be unpacked at. (After the import entry has been made.)

Options:

1. For containers where a BACC has been issued an application for an alteration to the BACC must be made to MAF prior to the movement of the container. A new BACC application should be submitted. **(MAF FEE CHARGED FOR THIS OPTION)**
2. For containers where clearance has been given to move from the wharf to an ATF (low risk container) MAF must be informed of the new delivery ATF. This can be done by either:
 - Making a change to the ATF code in the import entry and resubmitting it to NZ Customs. (This automatically updates the MAF system) or;
 - Send a NOTICE OF CHANGE (see attachment) informing MAF of the new destination facility. **(MAF FEE CHARGED FOR THIS OPTION)**

SCENARIO 4

The importer wishes to have the container delivered to a site that is not a transitional facility.

Options:

1. Contact MAF Quarantine Service prior to making the entry to determine if a temporary approval will be granted. **(MAF FEES WILL APPLY)**

SCENARIO 5

The container carries personal effects that are to be unloaded at residence.

Note: This only affects containers cleared via an Import Entry; ECI entries do not have the capability of ATF nomination.

Options:

1. Nominate the ATF at which the moving company would have unloaded the container if it was not going to residence. Prior to delivery a BACC application should be made to MAF informing them of the delivery address.

