



Sea Containers

25 April 2013

EXAMPLE ONLY

TITLE

Import Health Standard for Sea Containers

PURPOSE

This import health standard (IHS) specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing sea containers and associated packaging material into New Zealand.

COMMENCEMENT

This IHS comes into force on 25th of April 2013.

REVOCATION

This IHS revokes and replaces BMG-STD-SEACO: Import Health Standard for Sea Containers from All Countries (September 2003).

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Import Health Standard is issued under section 24A of the Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act).

Dated at Wellington this 25th day of April 2013

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(Acting under delegated authority)

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For all matters relating to the operation of this IHS, including inspections, audits and treatments, please contact your local MPI office.

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Part 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

- (1) The Biosecurity Act 1993 provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.
- (2) Import Health Standards (IHSs) issued under the Act specify requirements to be met for the effective management of risks associated with importing goods that pose a biosecurity threat to New Zealand. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit and during importation, before biosecurity clearance can be given.
- (3) This particular IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing sea containers and associated packaging material into New Zealand.
- (4) A guidance document accompanies this standard providing information on how the requirements may be met.

1.2 What and whom this IHS applies to

- (1) This standard applies to those involved in the importation (including shipping, exporting, importing, moving, unpacking and cleaning) of sea containers.

1.3 The outcome this IHS is seeking to achieve

- (1) The desired outcomes of the requirements in this standard are to effectively and efficiently manage biosecurity pests and contamination associated with imported sea containers and packaging.
- (2) A biosecurity clearance, (pursuant to section 26 of the Act), may only be issued when a container meets the requirements of this import health standard.

1.4 Consequences of not complying with this IHS

- (1) Operating other than in accordance with this standard is an offence under Part 3 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- (2) A container that does not meet the requirements of this standard will not be given biosecurity clearance under the Act and will be directed by a MPI Inspector for further action as considered appropriate to manage the biosecurity risk.

1.5 Change history

| No. | Version Date | Section Changed | Change(s) Description |
|-----|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 25 April 2013 | N/A | N/A |

1.6 Definitions and acronyms

- (1) Refer to Appendix 1.

Part 2: Requirements

2.1 Biosecurity Requirements

- (1) All sea containers imported into New Zealand must be clean and free of pests and biosecurity contamination.

2.2 Information

- (1) The information stated below is required for all containers arriving in New Zealand and must be sent to and received by MPI at least 12 hours prior to container arrival:

- Container number
- Container type
- Country of origin
- Port of loading
- NZ port of discharge
- Importer details
- Exporter details
- NZ transitional facility destination
- Quarantine declaration
- Complete and accurate description of the cargo or tariff code, including all packaging.

The information will be assessed by MAFBNZ to determine the regulatory interest of a container and subsequent actions to be taken. Containers with absent or incomplete information will be deemed of high regulatory interest.

2.3 Ports

- (1) A container must not be removed from the first port of discharge – including movement to transitional facilities, inland depots or for transshipment by road or rail, until all container information is received and assessed by MPI and directions actioned by MPI or relevant parties.

2.3.1 Transhipped Containers

- (1) Containers for transshipment by sea must be inspected or checked at the first port of discharge where they will remain on that port for longer than 12 hours.

2.4 Transportation

- (1) For all uncleared containers being transported from a port to a transitional facility or between transitional facilities for devanning, treatment or other action, the importer or importer's agent must provide all relevant information and MPI directions about the container to the transport operator and the transitional facility.

2.5 Transitional Facilities

- (1) No person is permitted to open or devan a container until notification of MPI requirements has been received at the transitional facility.

2.5.1 Devanning Containers

- (1) Containers must be devanned at the transitional facility in the presence of a MPI Inspector or an accredited person (as directed by MPI).

2.6 Inspection Requirements

2.6.1 Wood packaging and other restricted packaging material

- (1) All wood packaging must be actioned as per the MPI Standard Wood Packaging Material from All Countries. Restricted or other contaminated packaging must be segregated, secured and treated as per this standard.

2.6.2 Detection and management of biosecurity pests and contamination

- (1) Biosecurity contamination, e.g. soil, plant products and restricted packaging material etc., found on or in a container during routine checks must be secured in a quarantine bin or other approved receptacle and MPI notified (as per the accredited person's training).
- (2) When live organisms , e.g. insects, mobile animals or egg masses etc., are found they must be secured and MPI must be notified immediately on 0800 809 966.

Appendix 1 – Definitions and Acronyms

- (1) For the purposes of this standard and the attached guidance document, terms used that are defined in the Biosecurity Act 1993 have the meanings set out there. The following specific definitions also apply:

BACC

Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate issued by MPI that provides either biosecurity clearance or direction for further action.

Biosecurity pests and contamination

Animals, insects or other invertebrates (alive or dead, in any life cycle stage, including egg casings), organic material of animal origin (including blood, bones, hair, flesh, secretions, excretions), viable or non-viable plants or plant products (including fruit, seeds, leaves, twigs, roots, bark), other organic material (including fungi), soil or water where these are not the manifested cargo being imported.

Check

A visual examination by an accredited person to detect the presence of biosecurity pests and contamination. Such a check is to be carried out during the routine handling and movement of containers and as per the accredited person's training.

Clean

Free from biosecurity risk organisms, and organic material and other contaminating substance that, if present, would by reason of its nature, origin, or other factors, it would be reasonable to suspect constitutes, harbours or contains a biosecurity risk organism.

Customs delivery order (COD)

Direction issued by the New Zealand Custom Service that allows for a container to be transported to another location.

Equivalent system

Any system of interventions approved by a CTO that is equivalent to a specific requirement(s) of this IHS.

High regulatory interest

Containers that are considered by MPI profiling to have a higher than average chance of being contaminated with biosecurity pests or material; OR with absent or incomplete information; OR are sourced from countries with 'high risk status'. Containers of high regulatory interest require further MPI intervention before a biosecurity clearance is issued.

Inspection

A visual examination by an MPI Inspector to detect the presence of biosecurity pests and contamination. An inspection does not require magnification but may require additional lighting if the inspection is carried out at night or within a building.

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries

MPI Inspector

A person appointed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 to enforce the provisions of the Act.

Packaging material

Material used to brace or hold cargo within a container such as pallets, cases, crates, boxes, drums, and cartons, dunnage and wedges.

Restricted packaging material

Packaging that includes soil, peat, moss, used sacking material, hay, straw, chaff and any material contaminated with the above. **Wood packaging is also included – materials such as cases, crates and pallets and wood used to separate, brace, protect or secure cargo in transit.**

Sea Container Hygiene System (SCHS)

An MPI approved Sea Container Hygiene System for importing empty containers to New Zealand.

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