



Import Health Standard

Hides and Skins

HIDESKIN.ALL

16 December 2020

TITLE

Import Health Standard: Hides and Skins IHS

COMMENCEMENT

This Import Health Standard comes into force on 16 December 2020

REVOCATION

This Import Health Standard revokes and replaces:

- *Hides and Skins, HIDESKIN.ALL, dated 7 August 2015*

ISSUING AUTHORITY

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

Dated at Wellington, 16 December 2020

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Import Health Standard (IHS), but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing hides and skins into New Zealand.

The identified risk organisms associated with commodity that are managed by this IHS are:

- Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) virus
- Swine vesicular disease (SVD) virus
- Lumpy Skin Disease (LSD) virus
- Sheep and goat pox virus
- African Swine Fever (ASF) virus
- Classical Swine Fever (CSF) virus
- Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) virus (type 2)
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) virus
- Newcastle disease virus
- *Bacillus anthracis* (anthrax)
- *Coxiella burnetii* (Q fever)
- *Brucella abortus*, *Brucella melitensis* and *Brucella suis* (Brucellosis)
- *Chlamydia abortus*
- Enterobacteriaceae including exotic Salmonella spp.
- *Burkholderia mallei* (glanders)
- *Enterovirus encephalomyelitis*
- Hitch-hiker pests
- Weed seeds

Background

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.

Import health standards issued under the Act set out requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with importing goods. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit, and before biosecurity clearance can be given.

Guidance boxes are included within this IHS for explanatory purposes. The guidance included in these boxes is for information only and has no legal effect.

A guidance document also accompanies this IHS providing information on how requirements may be met.

Who should read this import health standard?

This IHS should be read by importers of hides and skins.

Why is this important?

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of this IHS are met. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may not be cleared for entry into New Zealand and/or further information may be sought from importers. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may be re-shipped or destroyed under the Act or tested/treated in accordance with this IHS prior to release or equivalence determined. Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

The costs to MPI in performing functions relating to the importation of hides and skins will be recovered in accordance with the Act and any regulations made under the Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity clearance must be covered by the importer or agent.

See Guidance Document for more information about importer responsibilities.

Equivalence

The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may issue a direction under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that measures different from those set out in this IHS may be applied to effectively manage risks associated with the importation of these goods.

If an equivalent measure is approved, an import permit may be issued under section 24D(2) of the Act if the Director-General considers it appropriate to do so. The details of the CTO direction on equivalence will be included as notes in the special conditions section of the permit to inform the inspector's assessment of the commodity.

MPI's preference is that the exporting country's Competent Authority makes equivalence requests. Equivalence requests can be lodged with animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

See Guidance Document for more information about equivalence and permits.

Transitional facility

Any containers not intact on arrival will be required to be made secure before the consignment is moved to the transitional or containment facility. Any material which has leaked from the container will be destroyed at the port of entry.

Following biosecurity authorisation being given, the hides and skins (where applicable) will proceed directly to the transitional facility named on the import permit. The facility must be approved to MPI's [Transitional Facility Standard for Animal Products](#).

The consignment must meet all the requirements noted in the general requirements in *Part 1: Requirements*, and must be processed to the requirements in *Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms* and in *Schedule 3: Processing Requirements at the Transitional Facility*, of this IHS in order to be eligible for biosecurity clearance.

Biosecurity clearance

A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act, may be issued when the hides and skins meet all the requirements of this IHS, provided the applicable requirements of section 27 in the Act are met.

Inspection and verification

On arrival, all documentation accompanying the consignment will be verified by an inspector.

See *Guidance Document* for more information about inspection and verification.

Document history

Refer to Schedule 1.

Other information

This is not an exhaustive list of compliance requirements and it is the importer's responsibility to be familiar with and comply with all New Zealand laws.

CITES

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that the consignment is accompanied by any permit(s) required to meet the legislation of the country of origin and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) <http://www.cites.org> . See the Department of Conservation for further details <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/international/endangered-species/>.

The importer is advised to clarify the status of the species of animal in relation to international agreements on their trade, prior to export. Material arriving in New Zealand without the relevant CITES permits may be subject to seizure by the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

Any requirement for CITES or other conservation-related documentation must be met by the exporter/importer.

Trade Single Window (TSW)

All goods imported into New Zealand need to be cleared by the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). This is achieved by lodging required documentation in through the Trade Single Window (TSW) portal.

For more information about TSW please visit <https://www.customs.govt.nz/business/trade-single-window/>

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This import health standard (IHS) applies to:
 - a) Fully tanned hides and skins from all species.
 - b) Processed hides and skins from all species.
 - c) Salted or dried hides and skins from deer, llamas, alpacas, emus, ostriches, sheep, cattle, buffalo, goats, pigs, horses and donkeys.
 - d) Casualty skins.
 - e) Hides and skins from macropods.
- (2) The following products are not eligible for importation under this IHS:
 - a) Manufactured products containing fully tanned hides and skins (see [IHS: Ornamental Products of Animal Origin](#)).
 - b) Rawhide articles and handicrafts (see [IHS: Ornamental Products of Animal Origin](#)).
 - c) Animal fibre (see [IHS: Animal Fibre](#)).

Guidance

- Samples of hides and skins for research or evaluation purposes can be imported with a permit either under this IHS or the MPI, [IHS: Biological Products \(Including Samples\) from All Countries, BIOPRODIC.ALL](#).

1.2 Incorporation of material by reference

- (1) The following international standard is incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
 - a) The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*), available at the OIE website: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
- (2) The following material is incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
 - a) MPI [Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards, MPI-STD-TVTL](#).
 - b) OIE list of FMD-free countries: [Foot and mouth disease - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
 - c) OIE list of CSF-free countries: [Classical swine fever - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
 - d) [Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production of Game Meat for Human Consumption](#)
- (3) Under section 142O(3) of the Act it is declared that section 142O(1) does not apply, that is, a notice under section 142O(2) of the Act is not required to be published before material that amends or replaces the above listed standards, guideline or lists has legal effect as part of these documents.

See *Guidance Document* for more information about incorporation by reference and section 142O(1).

1.3 Definitions

- (1) For the purposes of this standard, terms used that are defined in the Act have the meanings set out there. The Act is available at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>.
- (2) See Schedule 2 for additional definitions that apply.

1.4 Requirements for clearance

- (1) In order to obtain biosecurity clearance, hides and skins from all countries must:
 - a) Be free from soil, dirt, plant/seed material and arthropod pests.
 - b) Meet the requirements of clauses 1.5-1.6 of *Part 1* where applicable, and the requirements in *Part 2* specific to the commodity.
 - c) Be accompanied by documentation that meets the requirements of clause 1.7 and details the measures in *Part 2* that the exporting country will meet.

1.5 Packaging

- (1) The consignment must be clearly identified and (where applicable) the identifier must be stated on the veterinary certificate.
- (2) The packaging of all consignments of hides and skins must be clean and secure.
- (3) The criteria to be applied to determine whether the outcome in clause (2) has been achieved are as follows:
 - a) The exterior of the package is free from any organic contaminants.
 - b) The hides and skins are adequately contained.

1.6 Import permit information

- (1) An import permit under section 24D of the Act is required if:
 - a) Specified in this IHS.
 - b) Prior to import, a CTO has approved an equivalent measure under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that is different from those in this IHS that may be applied to effectively manage risks.
- (2) A permit is not required if, prior to import, a CTO has approved an equivalent measure under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that is different from those in this IHS in the form of a negotiated veterinary certificate.

Guidance

- Completed applications can be submitted to Animal Imports animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz
- Application forms can be found on the MPI website at: [Application for Permit to Import Animal Products](#).
- The application form should specify the name and address of the transitional facility in New Zealand to which the consignment is to proceed following importation.

1.7 The documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) When applicable, the consignment must arrive in New Zealand with the documentation that is specified in, and meets the requirements of, clauses 1.7.1 to 1.7.2 below.
- (2) All documentation that is required by this clause 1.7 to accompany consignments of hides and skins must, unless otherwise stated:
 - a) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible.
 - b) Be original.

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- (3) Documentation that is in a paper format must, unless otherwise stated, be endorsed on every page by the Official Veterinarian with their original stamp, signature and date or be endorsed in the space allocated and all pages have paper based alternative security features.
 - (4) Documentation that is in an electronic format must, unless otherwise stated, be transmitted directly from the Competent Authority of the exporting country to MPI, using an electronic system approved by MPI for that purpose.

1.7.1 Import permit

- (1) An import permit (copy acceptable) as required by clause 1.6 (1).

1.7.2 Veterinary certificate

- (1) A veterinary certificate from the exporting country's Official Veterinarian. The veterinary certificate must include the following:
 - a) A unique consignment identifier.
 - b) The description, source species, and amount of product.
 - c) Name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).
 - d) Name, signature and contact details of the Official Veterinarian.
 - e) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the general requirements outlined in *Part 1: Requirements* of this IHS have been met.
 - f) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the relevant requirements outlined in *Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms* of this IHS have been met.

Guidance

- Where equivalent measures have been negotiated and agreed with MPI, and a CTO has, prior to import, issued a direction under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that is different from those in this standard in the form of a negotiated veterinary certificate, a country-specific veterinary certificate must accompany the consignment.
- See *Guidance Document* for more information about equivalence and country-specific veterinary certificates.

Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms

2.1 Fully tanned hides and skins

2.1.1 Documentation

- (1) No documentation is required for fully tanned hides and skins.

2.1.2 Requirements

- (1) Consignments of fully tanned hides and skins from any species may be imported from any country without specific requirements.

2.2 Processed hides and skins

2.2.1 Documentation

- (1) Consignments of processed hides and skins must be accompanied by the following documentation:
- a) A veterinary certificate certifying that the processed hides and skins meet the requirements in clause 2.2.2 of this IHS.

2.2.2 Requirements

- (1) Consignments of processed hides and skins must be treated according to species as follows:
- a) Pigs:
 - i) A liming process at a pH equal to or greater than 12.5; and/or
 - ii) A pickling process in a solution of salt and mineral acid at a pH less than 3.
 - b) All other species:
 - i) A liming process at a pH equal to or greater than 12.5; and/or
 - ii) A pickling process in a solution of salt and mineral acid at a pH equal to or less than 4.

2.3 Salted or dried hides and skins from specified animals

2.3.1 Documentation

- (1) Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins from specified animals (*see Schedule 2 for definition*) must be accompanied by the following documentation:
- a) A valid import permit.
 - b) A veterinary certificate certifying that the salted or dried hides and skins meet the requirements in clauses 2.3.2(1) and (2) of this IHS.

2.3.2 Requirements

- (1) Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins must originate from animals that have been slaughtered in a government licensed processing establishment.
- (2) Consignments of salted or dried hides and skins from specified animals must meet the following requirements for the specified risk organisms:
- a) Anthrax requirements (for ruminants, alpacas, llamas, horses, donkeys and pigs):
 - i) Salted or dried hides and skins must:

- 1) Originate from establishments that were not subject to restrictions imposed for the control of anthrax; and
 - 2) Originate from animals that have been slaughtered in a government-licensed processing establishment under the direct supervision of an official veterinarian, subjected to ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection, and certified as fit for human consumption.
- b) Foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus requirements (for ruminants, alpacas, llamas, and pigs):
- i) Salted or dried hides and skins must originate from a country that is officially free from FMD in accordance with the *Code*; or
 - ii) Be treated for 28 days with salt containing 2% sodium carbonate.

Guidance for importing hides and skins

- For the purposes of this IHS, the following applies:
 - OIE list of FMD-free countries: <https://www.oie.int/en/animal-health-in-the-world/official-disease-status/fmd/list-of-fmd-free-members/>

- (3) Salted or dried hides and skins must be directed on arrival by an inspector to the transitional facility listed on the import permit. While in the transitional facility the hides and skins must be processed in accordance with Schedule 3 of this IHS.

2.4 Casualty (slink) skins

2.4.1 Documentation

- (1) Consignments of casualty (slink) skins (*see Schedule 2 for definition*) must be accompanied by the following documentation:
- a) A valid import permit.
 - b) A veterinary certificate certifying that the casualty skins meet the requirements in clause 2.4.2(1) of this IHS.

2.4.2 Requirements

- (1) Consignments of casualty (slink) skins must meet the following requirements for the specified risk organisms:
- a) Anthrax requirements:
 - i) Originate from establishments that were not subject to restrictions imposed for the control of anthrax.
 - b) FMD requirements:
 - i) Originate from a country that is officially free from FMD in accordance with the *Code*; or
 - ii) Treated for 28 days with salt containing 2% sodium carbonate.
- (2) Casualty skins must be directed on arrival by an inspector to the transitional facility listed on the import permit. While in the transitional facility the skins must be processed in accordance with Schedule 3 of this IHS.

2.5 Macropod hides and skins

2.5.1 Documentation

- (1) Consignments of macropod (*see Schedule 2 for definition*) hides and skins must be accompanied by the following documentation:

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- a) A valid import permit.
 - b) A veterinary certificate certifying that the macropod hides and skins meet the requirements in clause 2.5.2(3) of this IHS.

2.5.2 Requirements

- (1) Consignments of macropod hides and skins must only be imported from Australia.
- (2) Consignments of macropod hides and skins must be salted, dried, fresh, frozen or chilled.
- (3) Consignments of macropod hides and skins must meet the following requirements for the specified risk organism:
 - a) Anthrax requirements:
 - i) Originate from establishments that were not subject to restrictions imposed for the control of anthrax; or
 - ii) 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.
- (4) Macropod hides and skins must be directed on arrival by an inspector to the transitional facility listed on their import permit. While in the transitional facility the skins must be processed in accordance with Schedule 3 of this IHS.

Schedule 1 – Document History

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
30 June 2011	Import Health Standard: Hides and Skins	HIDCOMIC.ALL
Date of Issued Amendments	Title	Shortcode
7 August 2015	Import Health Standard: Hides and Skins	HIDESKIN.ALL
16 December 2020	Import Health Standard: Hides and Skins	HIDESKIN.ALL

Schedule 2 – Definitions

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.

Competent Authority

The Veterinary or other Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, that has the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Code in the whole territory.

CTO Direction

Chief Technical Officer (CTO) Direction - equivalent measures recorded by number under section 27(1)d(iii) of the Act, to enable border staff to clear the goods and record the number in the MPI database.

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.

Hides and skins can be tanned using a variety of methods. The many processes involved in tanning are explained in MPI's risk analysis document for hides and skins. See also wet blue, brown and white below.

Import Permit

A permit issued by the Director-General of MPI pursuant to section 24D(2) of the Act.

Liming

The process of soaking hides and skins in alkali solution in order to loosen hair/wool, fat, flesh, etc., removing interfibrillary material and "plumping up" the skin ready for tanning.

Macropod

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

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries.

Official Veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Competent 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 OIE Code Chapter for certification procedures.

OIE

The World Organisation for Animal Health.

Pickling

The process of soaking a hide or skin in an acid based solution in preparation for tanning.

Processed Hides and Skins

Hides and skins that have been pickled or limed. This includes wet whites, wet blues, and wet browns.

Salted or Dried Hides and Skins from Specified Animals

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, donkeys, llamas, ostriches, pigs, and sheep.

The Code

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code as found on the OIE website.

Veterinary Certificate

A certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the Code Chapter for certification procedures, describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

Wet Blue

Hides that have been tanned with a chromium salt, which imparts its characteristic colour. Hides are thermally stable but not usable in this form, requiring further tanning (retanning) before being suitable for end-use.

Wet Brown

Hides that have been tanned with a vegetable tanning agent or agents, which imparts its characteristic colour. Hides are thermally stable but not usable in this form, requiring further tanning (retanning) before being suitable for end-use.

Wet White

Hides that have been tanned with various organic and/or inorganic agents, which leave it white in colour. Hides are thermally stable but not usable in this form, requiring further tanning (retanning) before being suitable for end-use.

Schedule 3 – Processing Requirements at the Transitional Facility

- (1) This schedule applies to consignments of hides and skins imported to New Zealand that have been authorised to be moved for further processing at the transitional facility listed on the import permit.
- (2) While in the transitional facility, and prior to processing, imported hides and skins must be clearly marked, stored, and handled in accordance with the MPI [Transitional Facility Standard for Animal Products](#), issued under section 39(1) of the Act (or any standard that replaces that standard).
- (3) While in the transitional facility, the facility operator must ensure that the hides and skins are processed (limed and/or pickled) in accordance with clause 2.2.2 of this IHS.
- (4) The facility operator must ensure that all trimmings and solid waste associated with hides and skins are treated, destroyed or disposed of at an approved transitional facility by:
 - a) Rendering; or
 - b) Incineration; or
 - c) Deep burial.
- (5) The facility operator must ensure that all packaging that has been in contact with hides and skins is destroyed or disposed of at an approved transitional facility by:
 - a) Incineration.
- (6) The facility operator must ensure that all effluent generated during processing is:
 - a) Discharged into a municipal sewage system; or
 - b) Discharged into a securely fenced and isolated soak-pit; or
 - c) Treated with a biocide that is listed in the standard known as *MPI Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-Arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards* (MPI-STD-TVTL).