



Introducing New Zealand's **PRIMARY INDUSTRIES**

An outline of New Zealand's primary production and regulatory system for export





Publisher

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Overview

New Zealand is an island nation with a temperate climate and an economy based largely on its primary industries. We export food and primary products to over 200 markets around the world.

Our comparative isolation means we do not have many of the pests and diseases found elsewhere in the world. Maintaining this pest-free status has always been a priority for the country's growers, government, and people.

Pastoral farming is New Zealand's largest primary industry and there are also significant areas of forestry, horticulture and seafood production areas. From the beginning, science and its application has played an important role in developing these industries. As a result, many New Zealand agronomic and food research and learning institutes are among the world's best.

The importance of New Zealand's primary sector has led to ongoing government regulation, monitoring and assurance programmes. The first was developed for dairy products – around 130 years ago. For more than 100 years the New Zealand government has provided safety and suitability assurance for dairy, meat and processed foods.

The role of MPI

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for establishing and administering the standards and regulations for New Zealand's food safety, biosecurity, primary production and animal welfare systems.

International standards, risk-management and science provide the framework for MPI's regulatory systems and are guiding principles for setting standards.

The standards as applied by MPI are largely outcome-based, providing a high level of reliability and control across all players in New Zealand's primary production and processing sectors. MPI and approved organisations (referred to as 'recognised agencies') routinely audit and monitor aspects of these systems to ensure that standards continue to be met.

MPI employs more than 3000 staff and has strong relationships with other New Zealand government agencies.

Official Assurances for Export

MPI is responsible for confirming the safety and suitability of New Zealand's primary product exports through official assurances (such as export certificates and other documentation). These are provided to foreign governments and are based on verification systems that confirm standards and requirements have been met. See page 21 for more details.



New Zealand's primary production systems

Commercial businesses operating in the primary sector must meet a range of minimum standards set by government around food safety, biosecurity, animal welfare, environmental performance, and wages and working conditions.

Food safety, biosecurity and animal welfare regulations are administered by MPI. MPI also manages and controls the catch limits across a range of inshore, pelagic and deep-water fisheries, to ensure their sustainable use.

Local government agencies (regional councils) manage and monitor the environmental and food safety based performance of businesses involved in farming, horticulture, forestry, and aquaculture. Other central government agencies oversee the health and safety of workers in New Zealand.

Livestock farming

Year-round grass growth means pastoral farming to produce dairy products, red meat and wool can be highly efficient and profitable.

Horticulture

A range of temperate crops are grown, most significantly kiwifruit, apples, avocados, grapes for wine production, and vegetables.

Seafood

New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone supports significant fisheries, while aquaculture products include salmon, mussels, and oysters.

Forestry

Forestry is almost completely based around plantations of farmed trees comprising mainly radiata pine, Douglas fir, and eucalyptus.

Other

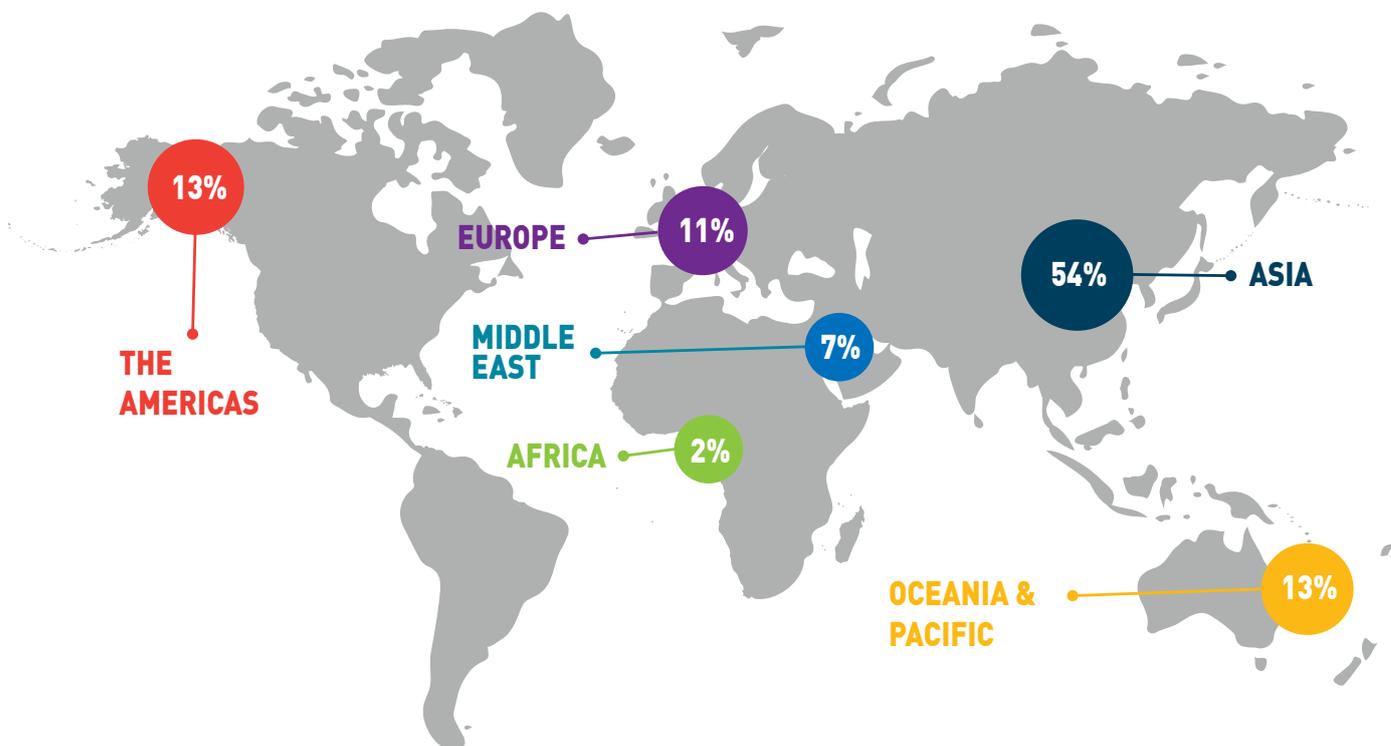
Other production from the primary industries includes arable and seed crops, cut flowers, processed foods, and other animal products such as animal feeds, honey and bee products.



Trade

Primary sector exports account for more than 80 percent of all of New Zealand's exported goods. MPI also regulates the import of ingredients and products from trading partners. An important part of MPI's role is to strengthen trade relations and improve market access opportunities with other countries.

New Zealand is party to international treaties and agreements, facilitating the exchange of goods between countries. Many of these include frameworks for the standards or measures applied to trade in primary products.



International Standards

New Zealand is an active participant in international standard-setting bodies associated with food safety and the protection of human, plant and animal health. As part of this, MPI provides specialised scientific input into the Codex Alimentarius

Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), as well as being involved in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

New Zealand's Regulatory Model

New Zealand's reputation for producing high quality, safe and suitable primary products is based on our ability to maintain a robust regulatory system.

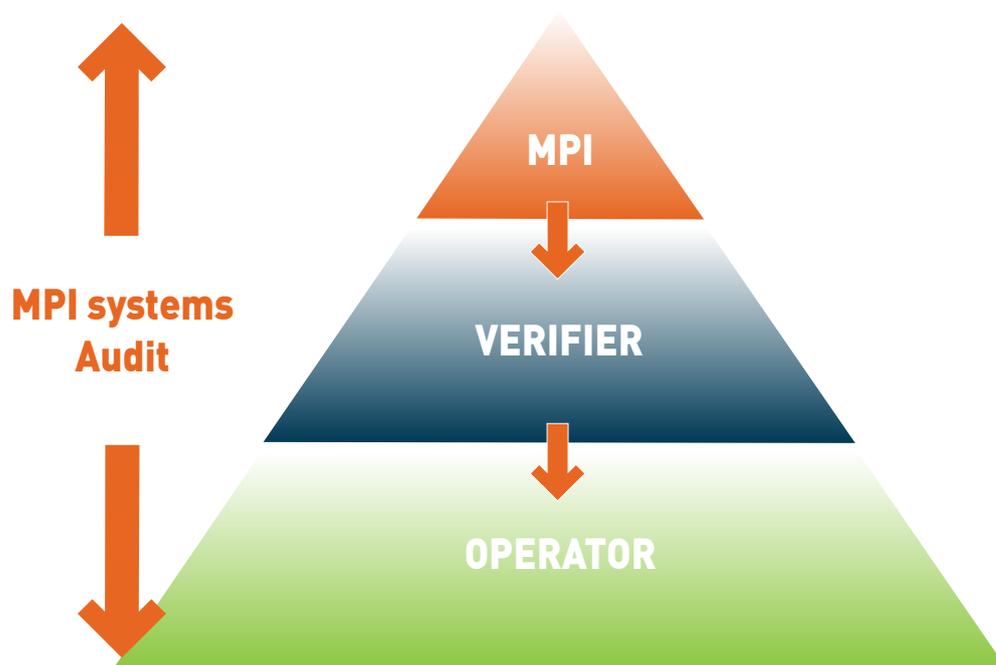
New Zealand's regulatory model (Figure 1) places responsibility on businesses to demonstrate compliance with the standards set by MPI. This encourages businesses to understand the risks associated with their products and production processes and introduce processes to minimise these.

The current regulatory model is a preventative risk and science based system where industry has responsibility for producing safe food or other products. This includes demonstrating they have operating systems and processes in place to meet New Zealand standards and regulations, as well as relevant overseas market requirements.

Role of the Regulator

MPI provides government oversight of businesses, and develops and enforces legislative standards and requirements for food and primary production, as well as the import and export of primary products in New Zealand. For example, MPI puts in place and enforces food safety laws and requires operators to have MPI approved and registered risk-based management programmes that are independently verified. MPI also provides official assurances in the form of export certificates to foreign governments confirming our exports meet both New Zealand's and additional overseas market requirements.

Figure 1: New Zealand's Regulatory Model



Key legislation

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for setting and enforcing standards and regulations for New Zealand's food safety, biosecurity, primary production and animal welfare systems. Key legislation and standards governing the primary sector in New Zealand include the following:

The Biosecurity Act

The Biosecurity Act sets out provisions to protect New Zealand's environment, animal, plant and human health from unwanted pests and diseases, and to avoid damage to our agriculture, forestry and seafood industries. The Act provides MPI with a range of powers and duties to help manage biosecurity risks at the New Zealand border, including the exclusion, eradication and effective management of pests and unwanted organisms in New Zealand. The Act also regulates the import of certain biological veterinary medicines and authorises the establishment of import health standards to manage the risks associated with imported products.

See page 11 for more details on New Zealand's biosecurity system.

The Food Act

All food sold in New Zealand must comply with the Food Act, which sets out standards and requirements to ensure food for sale is safe and suitable. This includes meeting standards for food safety, hygienic practice, labelling, composition, additives, contaminants and residues, and microbiological limits. Any imported ingredients or food products must, in addition, also comply with New Zealand's biosecurity requirements.

The Act requires food producers and retailers to be registered by MPI and implement documented measures and controls such as food control plans or national programmes to ensure food they produce is safe and suitable. Their compliance with the Act

is regularly verified by MPI recognised third-party agencies or local government verifiers.

Australia – New Zealand joint food standards

A Food Standards Treaty which New Zealand signed with Australia in 1995, provides for a joint food standards system. Food that is able to be legally sold in New Zealand may also be sold in Australia, and vice-versa. A bi-national body – Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) – sets requirements of the joint system, especially for composition and labelling. More information on FSANZ can be found at www.foodstandards.govt.nz.

Animal Products Act

The Animal Products Act regulates the production and processing of all animal material and products for sale or consumption in New Zealand. This includes the slaughter, processing and handling of meat, seafood, dairy, bee products, poultry and eggs and non-food products, whether for distribution on the domestic market, or for export.

All animal products businesses undertaking slaughter and dressing of animals for meat, or milking animals for dairy products or harvesting and processing fish, as well as those needing export certification, must implement a documented risk management programme. These are legally binding documents in which operators set out how they will manage their biological, chemical and physical hazards, follow hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) principles, and ensure that food is wholesome and truthfully labelled. The programmes are registered with MPI and independently verified on an ongoing basis – to ensure operators continue to deliver products that are fit for their intended purpose.

Food produced under the Animal Products Act is considered to comply with the Food Act.

Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act

The Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act regulates all agricultural compounds, veterinary medicines and vertebrate toxic agents, which are imported, manufactured, sold or used in New Zealand including fertilisers, pet food, animal feed and medicines used for animal health.

Before any agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines can be sold for use in New Zealand, they must be registered by MPI under the Act.

All compounds and medicines currently registered under the Act are listed on the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz/processing/agricultural-compounds-and-vet-medicines/acvm-registers-and-lists.

Wine Act

The Wine Act sets the standards for all wine operators, including grape and other fruit wines, cider, and mead (honey-based wine).

Wine producers need to have a wine standards management plan. This is a document that demonstrates how the winemaker complies with the requirements of the Wine Act, including wine standards, application of hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) to winemaking, and recall procedures.

Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act sets out obligations on animal owners and those who raise livestock to meet the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals, and to ensure good animal husbandry

and ethical treatment towards all animals. See page 26 for more details on New Zealand's animal welfare system.

Fisheries Act

The Fisheries Act sets out requirements for ensuring the sustainable use of fisheries. It provides commercial, recreational, and customary fishers access to fishing resources, while ensuring our fish stocks are managed by e.g. setting catch limits for harvesting fish.

Māori Fisheries Act

Customary fisheries are the fishing rights of tangata whenua (people of the land with authority in a particular place). The Māori Fisheries Act allows provisions for Māori fishing rights secured by the Treaty of Waitangi.

Forestry Acts

MPI oversees forestry activities under a range of legislation including the Forests Act 1949. The harvesting, milling and exporting of indigenous timber is managed under the Forests Act 1949. Under the Act, native timber can only be taken from forests in a way that maintains forest cover and ecological balance.

Part 3A of the Act discourages unsustainable harvesting and clearance of private indigenous forests and provides for their sustainable management. It gives owners options for managing their forests to harvest and mill timber. It also places controls on the milling and exporting of indigenous timber.

More information about key legislation and standards governing the primary sector is available at www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/legislation/.

Biosecurity

New Zealand's geographic isolation has allowed a unique natural environment of flora and fauna to develop. When farm animals, pasture plants and crops were introduced here by human settlers, they found a place which was absent of many of the pests and diseases that might affect them.

New Zealand places great importance on biosecurity to protect and maintain our unique natural environment and avoid damage to our agriculture, forestry, and seafood industries.

The Biosecurity Act controls all goods that come into New Zealand and gives MPI a range of powers and duties to help manage the risks associated with incoming aircraft or vessels, people and goods. The Act is designed to ensure protection of the economy, environment, animal, plant and human health from unwanted pests and diseases.

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act regulates the deliberate import of new organisms into New Zealand.

Biosecurity in New Zealand is not a single line of defence at the border. It is an end-to-end multi-layer system that begins offshore, is strengthened at the border and continues post-border – where it becomes a joint effort between central government, regional councils, industry, community groups, and the general public.

Pre-border biosecurity

Having pre-border and early risk reduction measures in overseas countries strengthens MPI's ability to address biosecurity risks before they reach the border.

MPI applies risk analysis in a systematic way to identify potential problems associated with any imports. The analysis assesses likelihoods and consequences surrounding risks, and suggests appropriate control measures to manage them.

MPI also participates in international standard-setting to develop measures that will protect human, plant and animal health. MPI also cooperates with other countries on projects to progress biosecurity initiatives.

Import Health Standards

- Import health standards set requirements that must be met before risk goods can be imported into New Zealand. These may include requirements for heat- or cold-treatment of imported foods, disease-testing of animals, and inspection of used vehicles before shipment.
- MPI communicates these standards to exporting countries, who then ensure their products meet New Zealand requirements prior to export.
- MPI's import health standards and guidance for meeting their requirements are available on the MPI website².

Border biosecurity

All goods must have biosecurity clearance before they are allowed access to the country. Clearance is carried out by MPI staff or accredited agents, who check incoming goods against the import health standards. MPI staff also check that passengers, aircraft, vessels (hulls and ballast water), and other items coming into the country are free of the pests and diseases of concern.

Some goods are cleared at their port of arrival or the Auckland international mail centre; other goods are held in secure transitional facilities until cleared. Such facilities are often owned and operated by third parties, and are subject to biosecurity surveillance and audit against MPI standards.

Border inspections by MPI operate on a targeted system based on risk profiles. Risk profiles are

² www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/overview/import-health-standards/

generated on the basis of many criteria including: risk item pathway, the nature of the item, country of origin and previous compliance history of the person or company sending the item. High risk items may be subject to 100 percent inspection while low risk items may receive much lower levels of inspection.

Post-border biosecurity

MPI's biosecurity surveillance programmes assist the early detection of pests and diseases before they can become established in New Zealand – making their management, control and eradication more effective. These programmes also give ongoing assurance of New Zealand's pest and disease free status.

Biosecurity surveillance programmes

A strong primary production economy, along with our freedom from many pests and diseases, means that New Zealanders are well aware of the need for vigilance with unwanted organisms.

MPI's surveillance system involves a range of 'active' programmes that look for specific pests or monitor high risk sites; and 'passive' ones that involve communities of specialists and the wider public in providing early advice to MPI of suspected incursions.

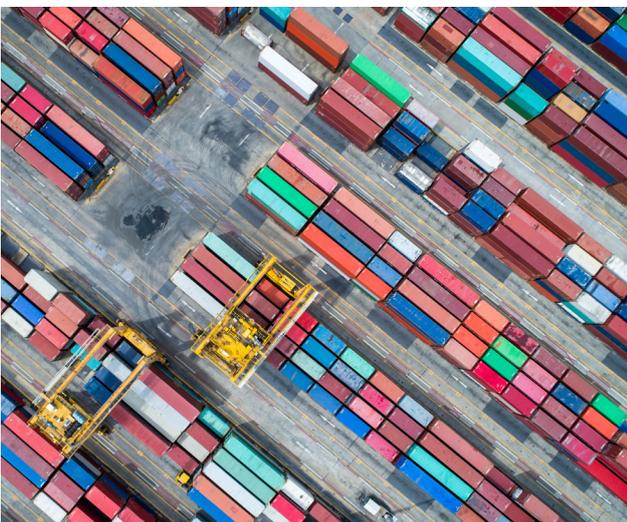
Farming and growing communities are particularly active in this area.

Targeted surveillance programmes – look for specific organisms (eg economically important fruit flies), or sometimes a group of related organisms (eg invasive tramp ants), in specified hosts, habitats or regions (e.g. port environs, marine high-risk surveillance, apiary surveillance).

Pathway surveillance programmes – target high-risk sites for pests, diseases and risk organisms.

High-risk sites such as seaports, airports, transitional cargo facilities and popular tourist spots are visited at a specified frequency and surveillance is conducted for any new pests, diseases or risk organisms present (e.g. fruit fly surveillance traps).

The general surveillance system – (also known as passive surveillance) provides early detection of exotic and emerging pests and diseases across all animals and wildlife in New Zealand. Members of the public, farmers and growers, industry groups, researchers, veterinarians and laboratories are encouraged to report any signs of unusual pests or diseases. A number of reports are made to MPI's exotic pests and diseases hotline, which receives around 12,000 calls a year



with roughly a third requiring further investigation by trained veterinarians and MPI incursion investigators.

Readiness and response to incursions

MPI has developed government-wide biosecurity response plans for major threats not present in New Zealand such as Queensland fruit fly or foot and mouth disease, as part of its biosecurity readiness. These, along with other readiness programmes, ensure MPI is prepared to respond immediately to high-impact incursions should they occur.

MPI's biosecurity response system is focused on effective and efficient decision-making processes, as well as ensuring sufficient capacity and skills are available to manage any incursion of exotic pests or diseases. Biosecurity field responses use a Coordinated Incident Management System and tap into a nationwide network of government and private sector organisations – giving access to the right people and equipment for a swift response.

Biosecurity partnerships with industry

From 2014, partnerships have been developed between government and primary industry sectors

to better prepare for biosecurity responses. These 'Government Industry Agreements' (GIA) involve MPI and sector partners sharing costs and making joint decisions for readiness and response activities.

GIAs foster a common understanding of the biosecurity system between government and industry, through sharing of information, skills, and resources. These agreements also allow MPI to gain a realistic idea of industry priorities and capabilities, and allocate resources accordingly – resulting in a capacity for faster and more efficient responses.

More information on GIAs can be found at: www.gia.org.nz.

Pest management

MPI leads a robust pest management system to prevent or reduce the damage from pests and diseases that have established in New Zealand. The system involves many others – including central and local government agencies, industry groups, landowners and members of the public. As system leader, MPI ensures the system works as intended and that others participate in a meaningful way.



Food Safety

MPI leads New Zealand's food safety system, protecting the health and wellbeing of consumers both in New Zealand and overseas.

Meeting New Zealand standards

All food in New Zealand must comply with New Zealand standards and regulations including under the Food Act and Animal Products Act, before it can be sold or exported. The Food Act ensures all food produced in New Zealand is safe and suitable, including meeting compositional and labelling requirements under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. The Act also gives MPI the power to take enforcement action on non-compliant food businesses, and direct recalls if needed. Some products including animal and plant products may also have specific export requirements to meet in addition to New Zealand standards, depending on the product type and overseas market.

Food businesses in New Zealand are required to operate under MPI registered risk-based programmes, such as food control plans or national programmes

under the Food Act; risk management programmes under the Animal Products Act; and wine standards management plans under the Wine Act. These ensure food businesses implement good operating or manufacturing practices, including the application of Codex HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) principles to identify and manage food safety hazards and ensure the food they produce is safe and suitable.

New Zealand's regulatory model

A key part of MPI's role is to contribute to ensuring safe and suitable food is available for consumers in New Zealand and overseas. MPI's food science and risk assessment team carries out food science, research and risk-assessment projects that enable risk-based standard-setting and the implementation of a robust food safety regulatory model.

New Zealand's food safety regulatory model (page 7) provides the basis for ensuring the safety and suitability of all food sold domestically and for export.



Food Monitoring and Surveillance

MPI's food monitoring and surveillance programmes help confirm the effectiveness of New Zealand chemical residue and microbiological controls and practices, ensuring they do not breach any regulatory thresholds. They also check independently or provide oversight of food businesses' monitoring for biological contaminants in animal products such as pathogens and biotoxins, ensuring food safety requirements are met.

Monitoring programmes

The following monitoring programmes are applied (especially to animal products) – whether for export or domestic distribution:

National Chemical Residues Programme

The National Chemical Residues Programme monitors chemical residues in live animals and animals sent for slaughter, and tests food products from animals, birds, farmed salmon, ocean fish and honey. It tests for registered veterinary medicines and agricultural compounds, deregistered agricultural chemicals that are persistent environmental contaminants, and banned or restricted substances and toxic agents.

National Chemical Contaminants Programme

The National Chemical Contaminants Programme monitors milk and dairy products to confirm that residue or contaminant levels do not exceed acceptable limits for New Zealand and export markets. The programme tests a wide range of agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines for contaminants and ensures product integrity.

Independent Verification Programme

MPI's Independent Verification Programme (IVP) for dairy production collects products from around the country with samples tested at independent laboratories to check their compliance with microbiological limits. This also means MPI can

determine if manufacturers' quality programmes are sound and whether the regulatory framework is effective.

National Microbiological Database

The National Microbiological Database (NMD) exists in a mandatory MPI programme for New Zealand primary processors of meat, poultry, game and ratites. Samples are collected weekly and analysed for pathogens such as salmonella and campylobacter. MPI holds the results of these tests in the National Microbiological Database, and provides industry with feedback on their performance and overall trends.

Food Residue Survey Programme

The Food Residue Survey Programme, (FRSP), previously known as the Food Residue Surveillance Programme, investigates pesticide residues and chemical contaminants in plant-based foods. The FRSP covers plant-based food produced in New Zealand and imported food, including fresh fruit and vegetables as well as those that are processed into food.

The FRSP assists MPI with identifying potential food safety issues, enabling the Ministry to develop new food safety measures or review existing schemes.

The New Zealand Total Diet Study

The New Zealand Total Diet Study (NZTDS) is a nationwide survey of foods sold in New Zealand, both those that are imported and those that are produced domestically. The survey assesses New Zealanders' exposure to certain chemicals, such as agricultural compounds, contaminants, heavy metals and nutrients.

The NZTDS provides MPI with reliable evidence of the safety of New Zealand's food supply and the efficacy of the monitoring systems and programmes.

The latest NZTDS is available on the MPI website at www.mpi.govt.nz/food-safety/food-monitoring-and-surveillance/new-zealand-total-diet-study.

Imported Food Monitoring Programme

The Imported Food Monitoring Programme conducts annual surveys for selected hazards in imported foods to check that imported food controls are working. Monitoring activities in the programme include scanning, surveys, audits and intelligence gathering. Monitoring can be specific to the food, region, manufacturer or hazard, and are underpinned by risk-based principles.

Seafood Monitoring

Monitoring of algal biotoxins contaminants and residues in seafood, is undertaken through the following:

- Shellfish biotoxin monitoring programme for commercial growers and harvesters of bivalve molluscan shellfish (BMS), which is funded by industry;
- shellfish biotoxin monitoring programme for recreational gatherers of BMS, which is funded by the New Zealand government;
- finfish and farmed salmon monitoring, which is funded by industry.

In addition, testing is conducted under the National Chemical Residues Programme for contaminants. If contamination or a risk of contamination is identified, control measures are put in place.

Laboratory Testing

MPI recognised laboratories carry out testing and some regulatory sampling of food products to ensure products meet New Zealand's food safety requirements and any additional overseas market access requirements on exported products. All laboratories testing animal products and material must meet ISO17025 requirements for management systems as applied by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). This ensures that their testing and calibration activities are working properly and achieving the desired results.

Extensive quality controls are in place to ensure the laboratory results are valid. Regular audits of the laboratories are conducted by IANZ taking part in proficiency studies, as well as extensive internal quality control to ensure that reported results are accurate.



Fisheries and Aquaculture

New Zealand has the 4th largest exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the world and places great importance on the sustainable management of our fisheries and aquatic environment. MPI works to ensure that all New Zealand seafood sold domestically and internationally is safe, suitable and sustainably sourced.

Managing our fisheries resources sustainably

MPI maintains a sustainable fisheries management system called the **Quota Management System** (QMS). The QMS was established in 1986 under the Fisheries Act 1983 to prevent overfishing of our fish stocks and to ensure their long-term sustainability for future generations. Today, the QMS continues to uphold these standards by using science, technology and best available information to inform and monitor the management of New Zealand's marine resources. A key aspect that enables this is the ability to review and annually set sustainable catch limits for every species of fish, shellfish and seaweed that are provided for under the QMS.

Commercial fishing management

The QMS plays a central role in the management of New Zealand's commercial fisheries. A key aspect of this includes the setting of annual total allowable commercial catch (TACC) limits for all commercially harvested species, to manage the amount of fish harvested every year by the commercial sector. In addition, all commercial fishing operators and vessels must comply with New Zealand regulations and standards, many of which are provided for under the Fisheries Act 1996, including:

- requirements to have a valid commercial fishing permit;
- registration of commercial fishing vessels;

- the requirement to keep accurate records of all fishing activity; and
- regular reporting requirements to MPI.

Recreational fishing management

MPI works to ensure all fishers act responsibly to help conserve our precious marine resources. MPI sets out specific rules for recreational fishers including the daily catch limit, minimum legal sizes, areas closed to fishing, and accumulation limits (the amount of daily catch you can store at any one time). MPI also runs education and outreach programmes, public consultation sessions, and attends large boating and fishing shows across the country to ensure the general public understands our fishing rules and why they are in place.

MPI has developed a user friendly mobile app which provides people with all the necessary information, including relevant rules and regulations, related to recreational fishing. MPI also has compliance fishery officers and voluntary fishery officers across the country who regularly monitor local fishing spots and ensure recreational fishing rules are being followed.

Fisheries monitoring and reporting

New Zealand has more than four million square kilometres of ocean within its Exclusive Economic Zone. In order to ensure our fisheries are effectively monitored, MPI utilises satellite technology, digital monitoring, aircrafts, patrol boats, fishery compliance officers, and fishery observers to cover all types of fishing activity in New Zealand waters. This helps to obtain necessary information on the type and quantity of fish being caught compared to catch limits, the by-catch impact on seabirds and marine mammals, and whether fishing regulations are being adhered to.

Fishery Observers

MPI deploys a number of fishery observers on board commercial fishing vessels to monitor and record the activities on board, including what is being caught, the amount and how the catch is handled. This helps to ensure strict adherence to New Zealand's fishing regulations. Those who deliberately break the law can face serious consequences, including the confiscation of fishing vessels and jail.

Maintaining the fishing rights of local indigenous people

MPI oversees the management of traditional or customary fishing by Māori in New Zealand, who regard fisheries and aquaculture as a taonga (treasure). New Zealand law provides the ability for local marine areas to be approved as special customary management areas, which enable local Māori and tangata whenua (people of the land) to manage fishing in a way that best suits their local needs and practices.

Special customary management areas

Customary fishing in New Zealand is managed in various ways, including the establishment of:

- **Mātaitai reserves** – areas protected from commercial fishing, and specifically managed by local authorities to allow for customary and recreational fishing only.
- **Kaitiakitanga (local guardianship)** – people appointed by local authorities to a mātaitai reserve who have the authority to issue customary fishing rights for cultural purposes, as well as recommend necessary bylaws and changes to fishing rules within the reserve.

- **Taiāpure (local fisheries)** – estuarine or coastal areas that have special significance for indigenous communities as a source of food, or for spiritual or cultural reasons and are managed by local communities for all types of fishing.
- **Rahui (temporary closures)** – areas which are closed for fishing in recognition of customary rights to the protection and management of fishing areas.

Aquaculture management

Aquaculture is the farming of aquatic plants and animals, which can be marine or land-based. MPI plays a key role in developing regulations and standards relating to sustainable aquaculture development, and oversees the management of marine farms for their effect on recreational, customary and commercial fishing, including the prevention of unwanted pests and diseases in aquatic environments.

Food safety monitoring and surveillance

New Zealand also has a range of commercial and non-commercial programmes that regularly monitor for algal biotoxins, contaminants and residues in seafood, including shellfish, finfish and farmed salmon. This includes sampling and surveillance of seafood and seawater around New Zealand to ensure they are not contaminated with biotoxins from toxic algal blooms. If toxins are detected in recreational harvest areas, MPI issues warnings and the information is provided to district health boards. Our seafood monitoring programmes help to ensure the safety and suitability of New Zealand's seafood. For more information on New Zealand's food safety monitoring and surveillance activities refer to page 15.

Forestry

Forestry is an important part of New Zealand's primary industries, and is our third largest export earner behind dairy and meat. New Zealand forests also hold significant environmental and social values and are at the centre of national efforts to address climate change. MPI plays a key role in developing policies that protect and grow our forestry sector, and ensure sustainable forestry activities. Our regulatory oversight is supported by a robust legislative regime, and a highly professional forestry industry.

Sustainable forest management

Sustainable forest management is key to meeting the growing demand for sustainably produced timber in our markets. MPI's role is to ensure timber, log and other wood producers comply with New Zealand standards and regulations, as well as relevant importing country requirements and international obligations.

One Billion Trees Programme

The New Zealand Government has set a goal to plant one billion trees by 2028, to help deliver improved social, environmental and economic outcomes. More information on the One Billion Trees Programme is available on our website at www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-and-programmes/forestry/planting-one-billion-trees.

Plantation forests

In particular, most of New Zealand's forestry production and exports come from sustainably managed exotic plantation forests. These forests have been grown specifically for harvesting, covering about 7 percent of New Zealand's total land area. Radiata pine (*Pinus radiata*) makes up 90 percent of the exotic plantation area, with Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) accounting for 6 percent, and the rest made up of eucalyptus and other species.

All forestry activities, including harvesting, must comply with the Resource Management Act 1991 (administered by the Ministry for the Environment) which ensures they are environmentally sustainable. Industry is also required to comply with the National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry, a set of nationally consistent rules and conditions for plantation forestry activities, developed to better protect the environment and improve operational certainty for the forestry sector. Industry codes and standards also promote sustainable and legal forest management.

Indigenous forest management

A large majority of New Zealand's indigenous forests are set aside for conservation and are protected. Some privately owned indigenous forests are permitted to be harvested under strict conditions and monitoring by MPI to ensure forest sustainability. To harvest or mill indigenous forest, owners usually need to have a Sustainable Forest Management Plan or Permit.

MPI is responsible for setting harvest rates at sustainable levels, as well as regulating, monitoring and auditing harvesting activity in indigenous forests under sustainable management guidelines. This helps to ensure forests can continue to provide a full range of products and amenities while retaining their natural values.

Managing Government forest assets

Crown Forestry is a commercial trading organisation responsible for managing the New Zealand Government's commercial forestry assets. It includes the administration of forestry leases on land not owned by the Crown (the New Zealand Government), and ensures legal and contractual obligations are met. Crown Forestry is focused on divesting Government forestry assets where possible, particularly to support Māori economic development. Crown Forestry is a direct participant in the commercial aspects of

the New Zealand forest industry, and a stand-alone business unit within MPI, with separate functions from the policy, regulatory, and service delivery roles of MPI.

Forests and the Emissions Trading Scheme

Forestry is a key part of New Zealand's response to international climate change commitments. MPI manages forestry in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) along with the Ministry for the Environment and the Environmental Protection Authority under the Climate Change Response Act 2002.



Official Assurances for Export

MPI is responsible for providing official assurances (including export certificates and other documents) to foreign governments for agricultural, horticultural, fisheries, forestry and food exports, which meet New Zealand's standards and regulations, as well as specified importing country requirements.

Official assurances provided by MPI for exported products may include certifying that products:

- are free of pests and diseases;
- meet domestic regulations and standards stipulated under New Zealand's law.
- meet relevant requirements of countries importing New Zealand products.

Official assurances issued by MPI are based on verification systems that confirm standards and requirements have been met, and ensures the safety and suitability of New Zealand exports.

The type of official assurance provided by MPI depends on the type of product being exported and whether it is required by foreign governments. Below are some key export assurances MPI issues.

Animal Products

MPI issues certificates for a range of animal products for export, including meat, seafood, dairy and bee products. These are known as official assurances under the Animal Products Act. Operators are required to demonstrate compliance with New Zealand regulations and standards, including their risk management programmes, as well as specified importing country requirements, to be able to obtain official assurances for animal products.

Plant Products

Where required by the importing country, MPI issues a phytosanitary certificate stating that the product

is free from the pests and diseases specified by the importing country. This certification is in accordance with internationally agreed standards set under the International Plant Protection Convention.

In some instances MPI develops Official Assurance Programmes (OAPs) in consultation with industry to manage compliance with complex importing country requirements, particularly those where importing country requirements span the entire export pathway.

MPI also offers voluntary official assurances for exporters, such as Grade Certification and Seed Varietal Certification. The scope of the Grade Certification programme is limited to apples, pears and kiwifruit exported to specific markets, and confirms the fruit is compliant with the grade standards of those markets. Seed Varietal Certification offers a "trueness to type" certification, and confirms the product has been produced in accordance with the OECD Schemes for the Varietal Certification of Seed.

Food Products

MPI also provides free sale certificates (FSC) or free sale statements (FSS) for food products (including processed food and beverages) produced under the Food Act, and which do not require animal product official assurances or phytosanitary certification. These are provided on the basis that manufacturers of the food or beverage are registered to operate under a risk based programme by MPI.

Organics

MPI issues official assurances for New Zealand's organic products exported to specific markets and produced under the Official Organic Assurance Programme. Organic products exported under this programme must also be produced in accordance with general regulatory requirements for their product type, as well as any relevant overseas market requirements.

Halal Animal Products

Halal animal products are an important part of New Zealand's primary production and exports. New Zealand is a long-standing producer and supplier of halal meat, currently exporting to more than 70 halal markets around the world, particularly the Middle East and South East Asia.

The Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Halal Animal Material and Halal Animal Products, and a similar Notice applying to halal dairy products, set out the standards and performance criteria for processing establishments producing halal animal products for export, as well as the competencies required for anyone performing halal slaughter or certifying the halal status of the exported products.

Establishments undertaking halal slaughter in New Zealand and their products must be certified by an Approved Halal Organisation listed by MPI. These organisations are authorised by MPI to supervise halal operations at establishments. They assess and approve halal programmes, processing establishments and slaughter personnel, and provide certification for halal meat products.

MPI has the authority to audit Approved Halal Organisations, and maintains a list of these on the MPI website³.

Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines

MPI provides certificates of compliance for exported agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines (ACVM) that are within the scope of the ACVM legislation, and are registered or exempt from registration by MPI.



² www.mpi.govt.nz/food-safety/food-safety-registers-and-lists/

Electronic Certification (E-Cert)

MPI has developed electronic certification systems (e-cert) to provide appropriate certification and government-to-government assurances for animal, wine and plant products exported from New Zealand.

MPI is working to expand the use of electronic certification to additional markets and commodities, as exchange of assurance information electronically has significant advantages over a paper-based system. These include:

- tracking the market eligibility and status of products from the time they are produced until they are exported, which helps facilitate traceability of all products;
- increasing the robustness of pre-certification verification checks, by keeping product information in one secure place (MPI's firewalled computer systems);
- speed and accuracy in conveying official assurances;
- providing reliable export information to importing country authorities as the products are verified by MPI, sometimes long before the products arrive for border clearance;
- enhancing the integrity of certification by allowing overseas border authorities secure access to e-cert (in MPI's computer system) to validate certificates on-line, which significantly reduces the opportunities for fraudulent paper certificates to be created;
- allowing overseas authorities to down-load consignment details securely and accurately into their own databases.
- providing a secure system in which certificate information can be presented entirely electronically, eventually obviating the need for paper-based certificates.

Animal products e-cert

The animal products e-cert is used for issuing export certificates (in both paper and electronic format) for animal products including dairy, meat, seafood, game, poultry, eggs, pet food, bee products, hides, wool and skins. The system has been adopted widely and is now considered international best practice.

ePhyto

ePhyto is designed to provide phytosanitary assurances to overseas governments. In addition to being able to generate paper phytosanitary certificates the system can produce electronic certificates which can be exchanged bilaterally or via the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Hub, a centralised system for exchange of electronic information for the 183 parties contracted to the IPPC.

Wine e-cert

The wine e-cert system has been established to enable MPI to assess the export eligibility of grape wine produced in New Zealand. It is an online system, based on information supplied by winemakers and exporters. It helps MPI establish whether wine is eligible for export from New Zealand, to track wine batches for export, and enables the provision of assurances (in paper format) where required by overseas markets.

Animal Welfare

New Zealanders strongly value good animal husbandry and ethical treatment towards all animals.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 recognises animals are sentient and require owners and persons in charge of animals to attend properly to their welfare. Animals covered by the Act include all vertebrates (and some of their foetal or early life stages), such as livestock, pets, other mammals, fish and aquatic animal species (including octopus, squid, crab, lobster and crayfish).

The Act places much emphasis on prevention, and clearly establishes the obligations on animal owners and persons in charge of animals to meet the physical, health and behavioural needs of animals, as appropriate to the animal species, circumstances and environment. The needs include:

- proper and sufficient food and water;
- adequate shelter;
- the opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour;
- physical handling in a way which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress;
- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of injury or disease.

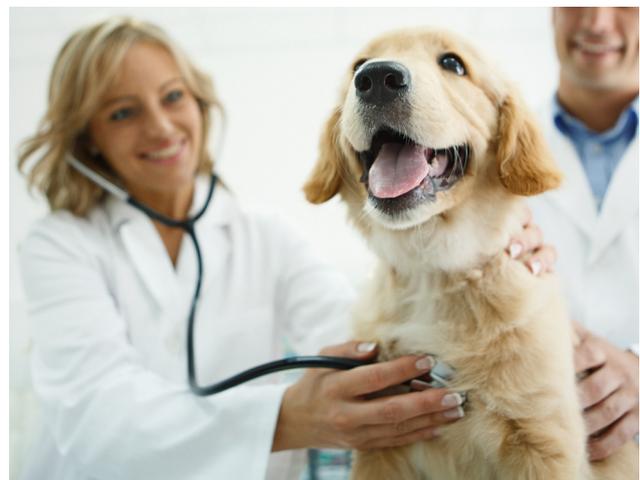
The Act provides Government powers to issue regulations that set out mandatory and directly enforceable animal welfare standards. Detailed codes of welfare have been developed by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), the independent expert group that advises the Government on animal welfare matters. These codes include transport, commercial slaughter, and a range of farmed and other animal species.

Codes of welfare set minimum standards, which are used to support enforcement of the Act, as well as recommended best practices which encourage higher standards of animal welfare.

Education and Enforcement

MPI jointly enforces the Animal Welfare Act and regulations with the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Farmers, veterinarians and the general public are encouraged to report poor animal husbandry or animal abuse and complaints are investigated, and prosecuted or penalties applied as appropriate.

In addition, MPI works with industry, the veterinary profession and others to promote regulations and codes of welfare so that everyone working with animals understands their obligation.





Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

