



Guidance Document

Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing

THIRDCOP.GEN

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Title

Guidance Document: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing.

About this document

This guidance document contains information about acceptable ways of ensuring compliance with the requirements in the *Import Health Standard (IHS): Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing*.

Any guidance on how to comply with the applicable requirements may not be the only way to achieve compliance. Stakeholders are encouraged to discuss departures from the approaches outlined in this guidance document with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to avoid expending resources on the development of alternative approaches which may later be considered unsuitable.

The term “must” is not typically used in guidance. In this particular document if the term “must” is used, it is used in the context of quoting or paraphrasing the requirements set out in the related *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing*.

Related Requirements

Import Health Standard: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing

Document history

Refer to Appendix 1.

Contact Details

For further information and questions about this guidance document, please contact:

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Disclaimer

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1 Purpose

- (1) This guidance document has been issued to accompany the *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing*. This guidance document should be read in conjunction with that IHS.
- (2) This document includes:
 - a) Countries with MPI-approved exporting systems to import animal products that have undergone third country processing into New Zealand.
 - b) A model export certificate.
 - c) Negotiated export certificates.

2 Background

- (1) The *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing* which this guidance document accompanies, contains generic import requirements. These are the rules to manage the biosecurity risk of importing third country processed animal products from all countries that can meet the requirements of the IHS and in doing so meet New Zealand's appropriate level of protection. The generic IHS serves as the basis for country-to-country (bilateral) negotiations. This guidance document contains the bilaterally-agreed export certification for trade in third country processed animal products. Agreed export certificates represent what will be certified prior to exporting consignments of third country processed animal products from the country specified.
- (2) General information about importing animal products can be found at <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/food/>

3 Definitions

- (1) Refer to Schedule 2 of the *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing*.

4 Guidance

4.1 Application

- (1) If a specific IHS exists for an animal product, importers may choose to apply the specific IHS or the *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing* to import that animal product into New Zealand.
- (2) Where there is no specific IHS for a third country processed animal product the *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing* applies. For example, if an animal product originated from New Zealand or a country that could import the animal product under an existing IHS (and the IHS does not contain requirements about third country processing of animal products), which then undergoes third country processing in a country that does not have a relevant IHS specific to the third country processed animal products. In this case the *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing* applies.

4.2 Equivalence

- (1) MPI may accept an alternative method, system or process that can be shown to achieve the biosecurity requirements of the IHS (i.e. equivalence).
- (2) 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.

- (3) An import permit is not required to import animal products that have undergone third country processing into New Zealand if the requirements of the IHS are met.
- (4) An import permit may be required where specific equivalence measures are approved by MPI. An import permit serves as evidence of equivalence decisions and will be written as specific notes in the special conditions section of the permit.
- (5) Apply for an import permit if required at the following weblink
<https://animalplantimportpermit.mpi.govt.nz/>

4.3 Food Act 2014 and Animal Products Act 1999

- (1) Importers of food intended for sale for human consumption must be registered with MPI. These requirements are independent of the IHS requirements. Importers are advised to consult MPI's website: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing>.
- (2) Some imported foods will also require food safety clearance on arrival. These foods include some meat, fish, seafood and cheese products. Food safety clearance will include a documentation check and may include sampling and testing at the importers cost. Importers are advised to consult MPI's website for information about food safety clearance: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/import/food/>.
- (3) The importation of the following animal material or product must comply with the requirements issued in Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMAR) 01/172 under the Animal Products Act 1999:
 - a) Imported animal material or product, or product containing animal material or product, that is of New Zealand origin and has been returned to New Zealand for re-export where official assurance is required, and
 - b) Imported animal material or product of foreign origin intended for export or further processing for export where official assurance is required.
- (4) Under the Food Act 2014, countries eligible to export bovine meat and bovine meat products to New Zealand must have a pre-clearance agreement with New Zealand, stating that the food safety requirements in that Act can be met by the exporting country.

4.4 Harmonised system (HS) codes

- (1) The harmonised system is an international product numbering classification developed by the World Customs Organisation (WCO). The New Zealand harmonised system is found here:
<http://aria.stats.govt.nz/aria/#ClassificationView:uri=http://stats.govt.nz/cms/ClassificationVersion/ZSwZWiknoDQ22Owg>
- (2) Animal products imported using the IHS will be using the codes in the harmonised system.

4.5 Exporting country systems and certification

4.5.1 Approval for exporting systems

- (1) All animal products that have undergone third country processing must be imported from countries where the Competent Authority has met the requirements of Part 1.5 of the IHS to the satisfaction of an MPI Chief Technical Officer (CTO). This also applies to the country of origin of the animal product.
- (2) MPI recommends Competent Authorities that request the approval of their exporting systems refer to Section 3 of the Code titled [*Quality of Veterinary Services*](#) and the MPI document [*Recognition of Export Controls and Certification Systems for Animals and Animal Products*](#), to prepare evidence for MPI to assess the Veterinary Services of the exporting country where third country processing occurs.
- (3) The table below lists those exporting countries that meet the requirements set out in the *IHS: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing*.

Exporting countries with approved exporting systems	Eligible countries ¹ with approved exporting systems	Animal Product
Australia	New Zealand	Chicken meat
Canada	New Zealand	Honey and other apiculture products intended for human consumption
Fiji	Australia, New Zealand	Canned beef for human consumption
Philippines	Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, USA	Salmon products
Thailand	Australia, Canada, EU, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, USA	Salmon products
	New Zealand	Canned beef for human consumption
	Australia, Canada, EU, Japan, New Zealand, USA, Vanuatu	Dried or retorted petfood containing bovine meat

- (4) The table below lists those processing facilities in exporting countries with approved Official Biosecurity Programmes, where applicable.

Country	Animal Product	Processing facilities with approved Official Biosecurity Programme	Date agreed
Australia	New Zealand origin chicken meat	Vesco Foods Ltd.	30 May 2017
Fiji	Canned beef of Australia and/or New Zealand origin	Food Pacific Ltd.	15 February 2019

4.5.2 Agreed export certificates

- (1) Requests from exporting countries to negotiate export certificates for the import of third country processed animal products into New Zealand will be prioritised according to MPI resources available at the time of application.
- (2) All export certificates agreed between the Competent Authority of the exporting country and MPI are included in the table below:

Country	Link to certificate	S27 CTO direction # (if applicable)	Date applicable for use
Australia	New Zealand origin chicken meat products for human consumption		7 February 2022

¹ Eligible countries with approved exporting systems are those countries that can directly export to New Zealand under an existing IHS.

Canada	New Zealand origin honey and other apiculture products		24 November 2014
Fiji	Canned beef of Australia and/or New Zealand origin		15 February 2019
Philippines	Approved source country salmonid products		4 November 2013
Thailand	Fresh, chilled and frozen salmonid products		13 November 2023
	Canned New Zealand beef		1 June 2014
	Dried or retorted petfood containing bovine meat		2 March 2020

- (3) Export certificates with equivalent measures will be recorded with a number relevant to a Chief Technical Officer (CTO) direction 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.

4.6 Official Biosecurity Programme (OBP)

- (1) An approved Official Biosecurity Programme gives MPI the assurance that the sanitary status of the animal product is maintained from the eligible country or New Zealand, subsequent processing in the exporting country where third country processing occurs, to eventual importation into New Zealand.
- (2) MPI will assess the Official Biosecurity Programme submitted by the exporting country where third country processing occurs. This assessment is usually done in conjunction with the assessment of the exporting country's national export and certification systems.
- (3) The Competent Authority of the exporting country where third country processing occurs is responsible for approving and overseeing processing facilities under the Official Biosecurity Programme.
- (4) The Official Biosecurity Programme should include a detailed description of:
 - a) The quality management systems [e.g. documented procedures such as Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP)] of the processing facility that ensure the animal products are processed, packaged, stored and transported in such a way that cross-contamination is prevented. The quality management systems should:
 - i) Identify all of the processing steps that the animal product undergoes in the exporting country, and the potential pathways by which cross-contamination occurs in the processing facility;
 - ii) Identify the control points for each identified pathway, and measures that mitigate risk of cross-contamination at each control point (*Note* processing facility may use a HACCP approach to make these determinations);
 - iii) Contain a contingency plan in the event of a change in the risk of cross-contamination (e.g. introduction of animal products that are not of an equivalent health status into the processing facility).
 - b) Integrity of product separation to prevent cross-contamination between the animal product intended to be exported to New Zealand and other animal products not intended to be exported to New Zealand;
 - c) Prevention of product substitution;
 - d) Traceability of product from the eligible country or New Zealand through all processing steps in the exporting country until importation of the third country processed animal product into New Zealand;
 - e) If applicable, the further processing that is required to meet disease-specific requirements as specified in an existing IHS. Guidance information for further processing is as follow:


- i) Certain animal product commodities are eligible for import into a transitional facility in New Zealand for further processing (e.g. cooking). The animal products are eligible for biosecurity clearance only when they have undergone further processing at the transitional facility in New Zealand in accordance with the IHSs for those commodities.
- ii) When an exporting country (where third country processing occurs) further processes an animal product commodity for which an existing IHS has provisions for further processing, further processing complying with the specified requirements of that IHS may occur in the exporting country.
- iii) Once such further processing has been agreed between the Competent Authority of the exporting country and MPI, the processing requirements will be incorporated into the Official Biosecurity Programme, and also the agreed export certificate.
- f) The reporting procedures of the processing facility to the Competent Authority, or agency recognised by the Competent Authority;
- g) The programme for educating and training all persons involved in the operation of the processing facility;
- h) How processing facilities are audited, inspected or supervised by the Competent Authority, or agency recognised by the Competent Authority.

5 Model export certificate

(1) Below is a model certificate for trade in animal products that have undergone third country processing.

Part 1: Details of dispatched consignment	1.1. Consignor (Exporter): Name: Address:		1.2. Certificate reference number:																							
			1.3. Competent Authority:																							
	1.4. Consignee (Importer): Name: Address:																									
	1.5. Country of origin: ISO Code*																									
	1.6. Country of destination: ISO Code*																									
	1.7. Place of origin: Name: Address:																									
	1.8. Place of shipment:			1.9. Date of departure:																						
	1.10. Means of transport: <input type="checkbox"/> Aeroplane <input type="checkbox"/> Ship Identification:			1.11. Expected border post:																						
	1.12. Description of commodity:			1.13. Commodity Code (ISO Code*):																						
				1.14. Total quantity:																						
1.15. Temperature of commodities for transport: <input type="checkbox"/> Ambient <input type="checkbox"/> Chilled <input type="checkbox"/> Frozen			1.16. Total number of packages:																							
1.17. Identification of container/serial number:			1.18. Type of packaging:																							
1.19. Commodities intended for use as: <input type="checkbox"/> Human consumption <input type="checkbox"/> Animal feed <input type="checkbox"/> Further processing <input type="checkbox"/> Technical use <input type="checkbox"/> Other																										
1.20. Identification of commodities:																										
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Species (Scientific Name)</th> <th>Nature of Commodity</th> <th>Treatment Type</th> <th>Net Weight</th> <th>No. of Packages</th> <th>Lot ID/Date Code</th> <th>Approval No. of Processing Facility</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						Species (Scientific Name)	Nature of Commodity	Treatment Type	Net Weight	No. of Packages	Lot ID/Date Code	Approval No. of Processing Facility														
Species (Scientific Name)	Nature of Commodity	Treatment Type	Net Weight	No. of Packages	Lot ID/Date Code	Approval No. of Processing Facility																				

Part 2: Health Information	Country:	Certificate reference number:
	<p>The undersigned Official or Official Veterinarian certifies that [insert product description] described above satisfy(ies) the following requirements:</p> <p>Processing, packaging and storage requirements</p> <p>(1) To the best of my knowledge, the product for export is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Commercially prepared and packaged in sealed, leak-proof packaging. (b) Stored and subsequently transported in a hygienic manner and kept free of contaminants. (c) Clearly identified and the identifier is stated on the export certificate. (d) Packaged in packaging that is clean, secure, and free of any organic contaminants. (e) Sealed at the time of manufacture in tamper-proof packaging. <p>Third country processing</p> <p>(2) The animal product is eligible for direct export from [insert the eligible country of origin] to New Zealand under an existing New Zealand import health standard, or the animal product originates from New Zealand.</p> <p>(3) Copies of the original health certificates for the animal product, which meet all requirements of an existing New Zealand import health standard, or copies of the original health certificates issued by New Zealand if the animal product originates from New Zealand, is/are attached to this certificate. The copies have been endorsed 'certified copy of original' and signed by an Official or Official Veterinarian of [insert the Competent Authority of the exporting country]. Serial numbers of the certificates are: [insert numbers]</p> <p>(4) The animal product was processed at a facility approved and overseen by [insert the Competent Authority of the exporting country], or [insert an agency recognised by the Competent Authority of the exporting country] under the Official Biosecurity Programme agreed between [Insert the Competent Authority of the exporting country] and MPI. Verification processes are in place to ensure approved processing facilities meet the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Quality management systems are in place to ensure that the animal product is processed, packaged, stored and transported in such a way that prevents cross-contamination. (b) Integrity of product separation from all other products not eligible for export to New Zealand is maintained. (c) Substitution of product is prevented. (d) Traceability of the product from [insert the eligible country of origin or New Zealand] through all processing steps in [insert exporting country] until exportation to New Zealand is maintained. (e) When applicable, the animal product either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Meets disease-specific further processing requirements as specified in [insert import health standard]; or (ii) Has been subjected to [insert the further processing and its parameters] in [insert exporting country]. 	

	Official or Official Veterinarian Name: Address: Email:	Signature: Date: 
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[Official or Official Veterinarian signature,
Official stamp and date]

Appendix 1 – Document History

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
27 September 2011	Guidance Document: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing	ANIPROIC.ALL
Date of Issued Amendments	Title	Shortcode
5 November 2018	Guidance Document: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing	THIRDCOP.GEN
26 February 2019	Guidance Document: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing	THIRDCOP.GEN
11 January 2022	Guidance Document: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing	THIRDCOP.GEN
7 March 2022	Guidance Document: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing	THIRDCOP.GEN
18 December 2023	Guidance Document: Animal Products that have Undergone Third Country Processing	THIRDCOP.GEN