



Cats and Dogs

CATDOG.GEN

7 April 2021

TITLE

Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs

COMMENCEMENT

This Import Health Standard comes into force on 7 April 2021.

- a) This import health standard consolidates the *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs*, which came into force on 9 March 2018, and all amendments up to and including 7 April 2021
- b) The amendment schedule is set out in Schedule 1: Document History.

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Import Health Standard is issued under section 24A of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to incorporate amendments made in accordance with section 24B(1)(a) of that Act.

Dated at Wellington this 7th day of April 2021

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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

- (1) This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing cats and dogs into New Zealand.

Background

- (1) The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.
- (2) 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 during importation, before biosecurity clearance can be given.

Who should read this import health standard?

- (1) This IHS applies to importers of eligible consignments of cats and dogs.

Why is this important?

- (1) 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.

See guidance document for more information about importer responsibilities.

Equivalence

- (1) The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may approve measures under section 27(1)(d) of the Act, different from those set out in this IHS, that 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.

See guidance document for more information about equivalence, and permits.

Document history

- (1) Refer to Schedule 1.

Other information

- (1) 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.

Dog Control Act 1996

- (2) Section 30A(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996 (the Act) prohibits the importation into New Zealand of any dog that belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more of the breeds or type of dog listed in Schedule 4 of the Act.

See guidance document for more information on the Dog Control Act 1996.

Part 1: General Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) Cats and dogs may be imported into New Zealand from approved countries that meet the requirements of this IHS.

See guidance document for the list of approved exporting countries.

1.1.1 Eligibility

- (1) Eligibility is restricted to domestic cats (*Felis catus*) and domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*).
 - a) Hybrids (offspring of dogs or cats crossed with another species) are not eligible for importation, with the exception of Bengal cats. Documentation of five generations of domestic ancestry must be provided for Bengal cats.
 - b) Dog breeds/types prohibited by New Zealand law, including dogs that wholly or predominantly belong to one or more of the prohibited breeds or type of dog, are not eligible for importation. Dogs previously registered in New Zealand may be imported if accompanied by evidence of New Zealand registration.

See guidance document for information on the Importer Breed Declaration and the Dog Control Act 1996.

- (2) An approved microchip must be implanted in the animal.

See guidance document for information on approved microchips.
- (3) Animals must meet the minimum age specified on the veterinary certification and not be more than 42 days pregnant on the date of shipment.
- (4) Animals, except those from Australia, must reside in the country of export for at least the six months (or since birth) immediately preceding the date of shipment.
- (5) Animals imported directly from New Zealand into the country or territory of export may be given exemption for the residency requirement if they meet the following requirements:
 - a) The animal has resided continuously in the country or territory of export since being imported directly from New Zealand.
 - b) The animal was identified by a microchip prior to export from New Zealand.
 - c) A copy of the New Zealand export certificate is supplied.
 - d) If resident in a country or territory with measures for rabies, the animal was vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated vaccine at least one month and not more than six months prior to leaving New Zealand when the animal was at least three months of age, and the animal was subjected to a serum rabies neutralising antibody titre test no greater than 18 months prior to leaving New Zealand, with a result of at least 0.5 IU/ml.
- (6) Dogs that have been diagnosed with *Babesia gibsoni* or *Brucella canis* are not eligible for import, regardless of treatment.

1.2 The outcome this standard is seeking to achieve

- (1) The outcome this IHS is seeking to achieve is the effective management of biosecurity risks associated with eligible consignments of cats and dogs.

- (2) The biosecurity risk organisms associated with cats and dogs that are managed by this IHS are:
- a) Cats and dogs:
 - i) External parasites
 - ii) Internal parasites
 - iii) Rabies
 - iv) Canine influenza
 - b) Dogs only:
 - i) *Babesia canis*
 - ii) *Babesia gibsoni*
 - iii) *Brucella canis*
 - iv) Canine transmissible venereal tumour
 - v) Filariasis (canine heartworm, *Dirofilaria immitis*)
 - vi) Leptospirosis (*Leptospira interrogans* serovar *canicola*)

1.3 Incorporation of material by reference

- (1) The following international standards are incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
- a) The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Manual*), available at the OIE website: [Terrestrial Manual Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
 - b) The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*), available at the OIE website: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
 - c) The *International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations* (LAR): a copy is available for reading, free of charge, at MPI, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington.
 - d) The *Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 6* (equivalent to the *New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C*) (available free of charge: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2006L03643>).
- (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](#)).
- (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)*.

1.4 Definitions

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

1.5 Approved exporting countries

- (1) Importers may only import eligible cats and dogs from countries where the Competent Authority has provided evidence to the satisfaction of a CTO of the following:

- a) The verifiable animal health status of cat and dog populations in the exporting country, zone or compartment, with respect to biosecurity risk organisms of concern.
- b) The national systems/programmes and standards in the exporting country for regulatory oversight of cats and dogs.
- c) The capabilities and preferences of the exporting country's Competent Authority with respect to achieving equivalent outcomes to requirements stated in this IHS.

See guidance document for more information about approved exporting countries.

- (2) MPI reserves the right to perform an in-country or desk-top audit at any time, including prior to the first shipment of cats and dogs.

1.6 Diagnostic testing, vaccination and treatment

- (1) Any laboratory conducting the pre-export and/or surveillance testing as specified in the IHS must be approved by the Competent Authority of a country approved to export to New Zealand.
- (2) Laboratory samples must be collected, processed, and stored in accordance with the recommendations in the *Code* and/or the *Manual* or as described in MPI-STD-TVTL.
- (3) Diagnostic test(s) and vaccines used must be approved by MPI and listed in MPI-STD-TVTL.
- (4) All product names, manufacturers, active ingredients (where applicable), dose and date of treatment must be recorded on the veterinary certificate.

See guidance document (model veterinary certificates) for more information on tests, treatments and vaccinations.

1.7 Inspection and verification

- (1) Pre-shipment veterinary inspection and compliance verification.
- (2) Post-arrival veterinary inspection and document verification.

1.8 Transport

- (1) Cats and dogs arriving by air must be transported as cargo unless they qualify as an assistance dog (see *Schedule 3 – Assistance Dogs*).
- (2) The container must meet the *International Air Transport Association (IATA)* standards and be clean, dry, and free of pests.
- (3) The animals must not be carried on an aircraft or vessel with any animals other than those qualified for entry into Australia or New Zealand.
- (4) Straw or hay bedding is not permitted. Only inert bedding is permitted, and any material such as bedding, toys or clothing will be destroyed on arrival for ectoparasite control.
- (5) The animal must only transit in approved countries.

See guidance document for list of specified (approved) countries.

- (6) The container door of all animal crates, except those containing animals from Australia, must be sealed securely with a government-approved seal.
- (7) Cats and dogs arriving by sea must comply with the requirements in *Schedule 4*.
- (8) Advance notification of arrival by air or sea must be sent to the port of arrival at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of arrival.

1.9 Import permit

- (1) An import permit is required prior to the importation of eligible cats and dogs from specified countries (except Australia – no permit required).
- (2) An import permit under section 24 D of the Act is required if a CTO has approved an equivalent measure prior to import, different from that set in the IHS that may be applied to effectively manage risks.
- (3) An import permit is not required where a CTO has approved an equivalent measure prior to import, different from that set in the IHS in the form of a negotiated veterinary certificate.

See guidance document for further information about equivalence, and import permits.

1.10 The documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) The consignment must arrive in New Zealand with the following:
 - a) An import permit issued by MPI (copy acceptable) for a single consignment (except Australia). The importer must supply the following information to obtain a permit:
 - i) The name and address of exporter.
 - ii) The number, sex, age, species and unique microchip identification of the animal.
 - iii) The date of proposed importation.
 - iv) The name and address of the transitional facility in New Zealand to which the consignment is to proceed following importation.
 - v) The port of arrival, and route and means of transport to the transitional facility.
 - b) Veterinary certificate, that must include the following:
 - i) A unique consignment identifier.
 - ii) The description, species, and microchip identification of each animal.
 - iii) The name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).
 - iv) The name, signature and contact details of the Official Veterinarian.
 - v) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the general requirements outlined in Part 1 of this IHS have been met.
 - vi) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the specified requirements outlined in Part 2 of this IHS have been met.

See guidance document for model veterinary certificates.
 - c) Original laboratory reports; copies of laboratory reports endorsed by the Official Veterinarian must include:
 - i) Unique microchip identification for each animal, consistent with the veterinary certificate.
 - ii) Dates of sample collection.
 - iii) Test type.
 - iv) Test result.
 - d) Importer dog breed declaration.

See guidance document for information about the Importer Breed declaration.
- (2) All documents must:
 - a) Be identified with the animal's microchip number.
 - b) Be original, unless otherwise stated.
 - c) Accompany the imported goods.
 - d) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible.

- e) 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.
- (3) Documentation copies must be sent to the New Zealand Official Veterinarian at the airport/port of arrival at least 72 hours in advance of importation.

1.11 Post-arrival quarantine

- (1) Following biosecurity authorisation being given, cats and dogs from all countries, other than Australia, must proceed directly to the transitional facility named on the import permit, for a minimum of 10 days, or until all biosecurity requirements have been met.
- (2) The animal will be transported directly to the approved transitional facility named on the permit by the approved operator or agent of that facility using a transport method approved by the supervisor of the facility.
- (3) All non-compliant animals from Australia, and those arriving outside the hours scheduled for veterinary inspection, will be sent to an approved transitional facility and remain there until all non-compliances are resolved and/or until biosecurity clearance is given.
- (4) The documentation will be checked to ensure it meets all requirements noted under Part 1 General Requirements and Part 2 Specified Requirements (veterinary certification) of this IHS.

See guidance document for a list of MPI-approved quarantine facilities.

1.12 Biosecurity clearance

- (1) A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act 1993, may be issued when the cats and dogs meet all the requirements of this IHS, provided the applicable requirements of section 27 in the Act are met.

Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms

- (1) The Veterinary Authority of the exporting country is required to issue a signed, stamped and dated veterinary certificate containing declarations regarding the following diseases:

2.1 Rabies (cats and dogs)

- (1) The animal has been resident in a rabies-free country (as defined in the OIE Code) since birth or for the six months immediately prior to the date of shipment; and
 - a) The animal shows no clinical signs of rabies on the day of shipment; or
- (2) The animal has been vaccinated against rabies with a government approved inactivated virus vaccine or recombinant vaccine expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein:
 - a) In the case of a primary vaccination, the vaccine was given not less than six months and not more than one year prior to the date of shipment, when the animal was at least three months old. A copy of the vaccine certificate is required; or
 - b) If a booster vaccination, the vaccine was given not more than one year prior to the date of shipment. A copy of the most recent and previous vaccination certificate is required.
Note: rabies vaccination must be kept up-to-date from the date of sample collection for the rabies titre test to the date of shipment; and
- (3) The animal has been subjected to a rabies antibody test (as prescribed in the *Manual*) on a sample collected not less than three months and not more than 24 months prior to the date of shipment, with a result of at least 0.5 IU/ml; and
- (4) The animal shows no clinical signs of rabies on the day of shipment.

2.2 External parasites (cats and dogs)

- (1) The cat or dog was treated by a veterinarian twice with a topical product registered for the control of ticks and fleas at the manufacturer's recommended dose and certified as free from external parasites at each treatment:
 - a) The first treatment was given in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment and at least two weeks before the second treatment.
 - b) The second treatment was given in the two days prior to the date of shipment.
- (2) The cat or dog was inspected and found to be free of external parasites post arrival.

2.3 Internal parasites (cats and dogs)

- (1) The animal has been treated twice with a product (or combination or products) registered for the control of nematodes and cestodes at the manufacturer's recommended dose:
 - a) The first treatment was given in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment and at least two weeks before the second treatment.
 - b) The second treatment was given in the four days prior to the date of shipment.

2.4 *Babesia canis* (dogs that have ever resided in or travelled to South Africa)

- (1) The dog has been inspected and found to be healthy and free of ticks prior to each of the two treatments required for external parasites.

- (2) The dog has been given an approved treatment for *Babesia canis* in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (3) The dog has been subjected to an IFA or ELISA test for *Babesia canis* in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment with a negative result; or
- (4) The dog has been subjected to PCR tests for *Babesia* spp. or *Babesia canis* with negative results on samples collected 30-37days apart, with the second sample collected in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment.

2.5 *Babesia gibsoni* (dogs)

- (1) The dog has been inspected and found to be free of ticks and healthy prior to each of the two treatments required for external parasites.
- (2) The dog has been subjected to an IFA or ELISA test for *Babesia gibsoni* with a negative result in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (3) The dog has been subjected to two PCR tests for *Babesia* spp. or *Babesia gibsoni* with negative results on samples collected 30-37days apart, with the second sample collected in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment.

Note: Dogs diagnosed with *Babesia gibsoni* are not eligible for import, regardless of treatment.

2.6 *Brucella canis* (dogs)

- (1) The dog has been subjected to a rapid slide agglutination test (RSAT) with a negative result in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (2) The dog has been subjected to a tube agglutination test (TAT) with a negative result in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (3) The dog has been subjected to a cytoplasmic agar gel immunodiffusion test (CPAg-AGID) with a negative result in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (4) The dog had a positive or inconclusive RSAT or TAT result and has been subjected to a cytoplasmic agar gel immunodiffusion test (CPAg-AGID) for *Brucella canis* with a negative result in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (5) The dog had a suspicious TAT result and the test was repeated at least 30 to 42 days after the first test with a negative result in the 16 days prior to the date of shipment; and
- (6) For entire dogs only, an owner declaration that the dog has not been mated in the 44 days prior to the date of shipment unless to a dog of equal *Brucella canis* health status. Any artificial insemination must be done with semen that meets the relevant New Zealand import health standard for semen.

Note: Dogs diagnosed with *Brucella canis* are not eligible for import, regardless of treatment.

2.7 Canine transmissible venereal tumour (dogs)

- (1) Entire male or female dogs have been subjected to examination of the external genitalia in the two days prior to the date of shipment and have no lesions suggestive of canine transmissible venereal tumour.

2.8 Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) (dogs)

- (1) If six months of age or older on the date of shipment, the dog has been subjected to a heartworm antigen ELISA test with a negative result in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment.
- (2) All dogs (regardless of age) have either been treated with a product registered for heartworm prevention at the manufacturer's recommended dose in the four days prior to the date of shipment or are up-to-date with a sustained-release injection registered for heartworm prevention.

2.9 Leptospirosis (*Leptospira interrogans serovar canicola*) (dogs)

- (1) The dog has been treated with an approved course of treatment in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (2) The dog has been subjected to a microscopic agglutination test (MAT) for *Leptospira canicola* with a negative result in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment; or
- (3) The dog had a positive MAT of 1:400 or less for *Leptospira canicola* in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment and has been subjected to a second MAT for *Leptospira canicola* at least 14 days after the first test and showed no increase above the titre of the first test.

2.10 Canine influenza

- (1) For at least 21 days prior to shipment:
 - a) The cat or dog was not kept in a place where there were cats or dogs showing clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease; and
 - b) The cat or dog showed no clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease.

See guidance document for specific details of each requirement

Schedule 1 – Document History

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
24 July 2013	Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN
Date of Issued Amendments	Title	Shortcode
28 November 2014	Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN
9 March 2018	Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN
7 April 2021	Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN

Schedule 2 – Definitions

Biosecurity Authority

Written authority from an inspector, given under Section 29 of the Act, to move restricted organisms from a transitional facility, biosecurity control area or containment facility to another transitional facility, biosecurity control area or containment facility or to export those goods from New Zealand.

Biosecurity Clearance

A clearance under section 26 for the entry of goods into New Zealand.

Explanatory note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction.

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.

Director-General

The chief executive of the Ministry for Primary Industries.

IATA

The International Air Transport Association.

Import Permit

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

Inspector

A person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Act.

Explanatory note: An Inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Act and controls imposed under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996, and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species.

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.

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.

The Code

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

The Manual

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

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.

Schedule 3 – Assistance Dogs

- (1) This schedule must be used in conjunction with the *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs*. Assistance dogs must comply with all of the requirements listed in the veterinary certificate for the country they are exported from.
- (2) Dogs that meet the definition of an assistance dog may travel in the cabin with their assisted handler, if acceptable to the airline.
- (3) Additionally, if quarantine is required for dogs from the country of export, a home quarantine agreement will be arranged to allow the dog to complete the quarantine at home under the supervision of an official veterinarian, provided the dog is compliant with all of the tests and treatments required for the country of export.

See guidance document for Assistance Dog Home Quarantine form.

Eligibility

- (4) Assistance dogs are defined as highly trained dogs for the purpose of assisting persons with a disability in the course of their daily lives. These dogs are trained and certified by a recognised and accredited national and/or international organisation. Only active (in use) assistance dogs that are accompanying their assisted handler are eligible under this import health standard.
- (5) *For Guide Dogs:* the importer must provide official documentation from a member school of the International Federation of Guide Dog Schools that states that the guide dog has been in the service of its handler at and/or under the supervision of the school for at least the six months prior to the date of importation.
- (6) *For other assistance dogs:* the importer must provide official documentation from a recognised and accredited assistance organisation that states that the assistance dog has been in the service of its assisted handler at and/or under the supervision of the organisation for at least the six months prior to the date of importation.

Import permit

- (7) All assistance dogs, except those from Australia, must have an import permit issued prior to arrival.

Advance Notice of Arrival

- (8) Notification of arrival must be sent to the port of arrival and to the official veterinarian at least 72 hours prior to arrival to ensure that an official veterinarian is available to complete the post-arrival inspection and issue a home quarantine agreement or biosecurity clearance.

See guidance document for contact details.

Biosecurity Clearance

- (9) Assistance dogs must pass post-arrival inspection and document verification before receiving biosecurity clearance or becoming eligible for a home quarantine agreement. If ticks or fleas are found, the dog will be sent to an approved transitional facility.
- (10) If applicable, the assisted handler must sign the declaration for home quarantine. The period covered will be equal to the period of post-arrival quarantine specified in the veterinary certification of the country of export.

Schedule 4 – Cats and Dogs Arriving on Yachts

- (1) This appendix must be used in conjunction with the *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs*. Cats and dogs arriving on yachts must fulfil specific biosecurity requirements, or remain offshore. Yachts arriving with cats and dogs must comply with **one** of the following options:

- a) For importers planning to bring their pet onshore, the cat or dog must meet all of the eligibility requirements in the import health standard and comply with all of the requirements listed in the veterinary certificate for either specified countries where rabies is absent or well-controlled, or Australia. See guidance document for veterinary certificates; or

Note: Cats and dogs that have travelled to or from approved countries other than Australia in the six months preceding arrival in New Zealand must comply with the rabies requirements, including microchip implantation, rabies vaccination (given at least six months before coming onshore), and rabies titre test (sample collected at least three months before coming onshore) before entering a quarantine facility. The remaining tests and treatments may be completed in the quarantine facility, and the animal may be given clearance once all tests and treatments are completed, with a minimum quarantine period of 10 days. Once biosecurity clearance is given the animal may travel freely throughout New Zealand on land or sea.

- b) For cats or dogs that do not meet the eligibility requirements, or have not completed the microchip and rabies vaccination and test requirements, the animal must remain secured onboard the yacht at anchor or pole mooring at an approved port. Movement to one other approved port may be approved if necessary, and the vessel must leave New Zealand within six months. Inspection and treatment for parasites will be required, along with scheduled compliance inspections. Failure to comply with the requirements will result in the animal being reshipped or destroyed.

Eligibility

- (2) For cats or dogs to be eligible for biosecurity clearance, the yacht must have only travelled to approved countries or territories listed in the guidance document in the six months immediately prior to arrival in New Zealand, and meet all of the other eligibility requirements listed in the IHS.

Import permit

- (3) To obtain biosecurity clearance, all cats and dogs on yachts, except those from Australia, must have an import permit issued prior to arrival.

Advance notice of arrival

- (4) Notification must be sent to the port of arrival at least 72 hours prior to arrival for all vessels.

See guidance document for contact details.

On arrival

- (5) All yachts arriving with animals on board must not berth in New Zealand, but must go directly to one of the ports approved as a place of first arrival.

See guidance document.

- (6) Animals must be secured below deck on arrival at the port. The importer must immediately notify MPI of the presence of an animal on board and whether or not arrangements have been made for the animal to go to an approved quarantine (transitional) facility.

Biosecurity clearance

- (7) Cats and dogs arriving on yachts must remain secured on board at anchor or pole mooring at an approved port until they:
- a) Are transferred under biosecurity control to a quarantine facility, where, after they have met all requirements in the veterinary certificate for cats and dogs from specified countries, they can be given biosecurity clearance; or
 - b) Meet all of the requirements for cats and dogs from Australia and are given biosecurity clearance; or
 - c) Leave New Zealand within six months of arrival.

Note: Cats and dogs arriving on commercial vessels and cruise ships are subject to biosecurity requirements, and arrangements must be made with a MPI Inspector to ensure animals are secured on board while the vessel is docked.

Schedule 5 – National or International Emergencies and New Zealand Defence Force Activities

Importing Working Dogs for a National Emergency

Scope

- (1) In the case of a national emergency declared by the Government of New Zealand, for example a natural disaster, working dogs from other countries may be required to provide search and rescue or other services. In such cases there may not be time or resources to issue permits to import and complete all pre-export requirements.

Eligibility

- (2) Dogs must come from an approved country included in the *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs*.
- (3) Dogs should be from countries free of rabies, or have completed the pre-export rabies requirements for specified countries where rabies is absent or well-controlled. If the need exceeds the number of dogs that meet these specifications, dogs must as a minimum have a current rabies vaccination and remain under the direct control of their handler for the entire duration of their stay in New Zealand.
- (4) Prior to export, or on arrival, the dogs should be treated with products registered for internal parasites, external parasites, and heartworm prevention.
- (5) While in New Zealand the dogs should be prevented from direct contact with all other animals, including New Zealand search and rescue dogs if possible. Waste material from the dogs should be collected and disposed of when possible, and the dogs should not be allowed to eliminate in or near any bodies of water.

Advance notification and import permit

- (6) If possible, advance notification of the dog's arrival should be given to the port of arrival and an import permit should be issued.

Biosecurity clearance

- (7) Working dogs allowed into New Zealand for emergency measures will not be given biosecurity clearance. They will be exported as soon as possible once their work is completed.

Return of New Zealand Working Dogs used for International Emergency or New Zealand Defence Force Activities

- (8) New Zealand working dogs used during an international emergency or New Zealand Defence Force activities, and held under restricted conditions whilst overseas, may be returned from any country. These dogs will be subject to specified conditions prior to re-entry into New Zealand as noted in the import permit.