



Import Health Standard

Fresh Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) for Human Consumption

THYME-IHS.FP

TITLE

Import Health Standard: Fresh Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*) for Human Consumption

COMMENCEMENT

This Import Health Standard comes into force on date of signing.

ISSUING AUTHORITY

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

Dated at Wellington,

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(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

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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

An **IHS** specifies the requirements for **importing risk goods** into New Zealand from all countries. This **IHS** specifies the requirements that must be met when **importing fresh thyme** into New Zealand.

Background

An **IHS** issued under the New Zealand **Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act)** specifies the requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with **importing risk goods**, including the risks from **incidentally imported new organisms**. **IHSs** include measures that must be applied in the exporting country before the **risk goods** are exported. **IHSs** also include requirements that must be met by **importers** during **importation**, including while the **risk goods** are **in transit** to New Zealand and held in a **transitional facility**, before **biosecurity clearance** can be given.

Post-**clearance** conditions may also be specified in an **IHS**.

Who should read this?

This **IHS** should be read by anyone involved in the process of **importing fresh thyme** into New Zealand (or who has an interest in **importing fresh thyme**).

Why is this important?

It is the responsibility of the **importer** to ensure that **risk goods** (i.e. **fresh thyme**) comply with the requirements of the relevant **IHS**. **Risk goods** that do not comply with the requirements of an **IHS** may not be **cleared** for **entry** into New Zealand and may be directed for **treatment**, re-shipment, destruction or further action deemed appropriate by a **Chief Technical Officer (CTO)**. The **pathway** may be suspended if certain types of **viable regulated pests** or weed seeds are **intercepted** on the **consignment**.

Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

Equivalence

A **CTO** may consider an application for an **equivalent phytosanitary measure** to be approved, different from that provided for in this **IHS**, to maintain at least the same level of protection assured by the current measure(s).

Equivalence will be considered with reference to the **International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures ISPM 24. Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures**.

Document History

This **IHS** replaces the following schedules in the revoked **Import Health Standard 152.02: Importation and Clearance of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables into New Zealand**:

- Thyme, *Thymus vulgaris*, Fiji

| Version Date | Section Changed | Change(s) Description |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| XX July 2019 | All | New document |

Other information

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

Guidance Document: *Import of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables for Human Consumption* provides information to assist with meeting the requirements of an **IHS** for **fresh fruits and vegetables** and should be read in conjunction with this **IHS**. **Biosecurity clearance of fresh fruits and vegetables** will be covered by a separate guidance document.

Within this **IHS**, terms printed in bold have the same meaning as that set out and defined by the **FAO**, in **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms, the Act** or in this **IHS**.

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Part 1: General Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This **Import Health Standard (IHS)** applies to **fresh thyme** leaves and stem (*Thymus vulgaris*) **imported** for human consumption ('**fresh thyme**').
- (2) This **IHS** applies to imports of **fresh thyme** from those countries that meet the requirements in 1.4.

Guidance

- Hybrids between species can be **imported** but only when each species is an approved **commodity**, i.e. an **IHS** exists for each species. The hybrid should meet the requirements specified in the **IHS** for each species in the hybrid.
- Some **fresh commodities** (commercially manufactured and processed **fruits and vegetables** of specific commercial brands that have undergone pre export assessment by MPI) can be found on the MPI website in "[Processed Fresh Commodities](#)". These **commodities** are not considered to be **risk goods** and do not need to comply with the requirements of this **IHS**. To apply to have a processed **fresh commodity** assessed to be listed, contact Plantimports@mpi.govt.nz.
- Frozen, cooked, pickled, pureed or dried **commodities** for human consumption are covered by **Import Health Standard: [Stored Plant Products for Human Consumption](#)**.
- **Import** requirements for trade samples for evaluation and private consignments are covered by separate standards.

1.2 Incorporation by reference

- (1) The following documents are incorporated by reference under section 142M of **the Act**:
 - a) **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**. Rome, IPPC, FAO.
 - b) **ISPM 7. Phytosanitary certification system**. Rome, IPPC, FAO.
 - c) **ISPM 12. Phytosanitary certificates**. Rome, IPPC, FAO.
 - d) **ISPM 23. Guidelines for inspection**. Rome, IPPC, FAO.
 - e) **ISPM 31. Methodologies for sampling of consignments**. Rome, IPPC, FAO.
 - f) **MPI Biosecurity Organisms Register for Imported Commodities (BORIC)**. Wellington, MPI.
 - g) **MPI Schedule of Regulated (Quarantine) Weed Seeds**. Wellington, MPI.
- (2) 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 any material incorporated by reference has legal effect as part of those documents.

1.3 Definitions

- (1) Definitions are listed in Schedule 1.

1.4 General requirements for fresh thyme

- (1) **Importers** may only **import fresh thyme** from a country where the **NPPO** has provided evidence to the satisfaction of a **CTO** that the exporting country has a **phytosanitary certification** system that complies with **ISPM 7. Phytosanitary certification system**. The **phytosanitary certification** system (including programmes and standards) must demonstrate the process used to provide export assurance.

- (2) In order to obtain **biosecurity clearance** all **consignments of fresh thyme imported** into New Zealand must:
- a) meet the specific requirements in Part 2 *Specific Requirements*;
 - b) be considered **free from viable regulated pests**, soil and other **contamination**;
 - c) at the time of export, be commercially produced in accordance with the principles of **Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)** and meet the requirements relating to export quality in 1.4 (3);
 - d) be **packaged** in clean and either new or refurbished material;
 - e) be exported in a secure manner to prevent **contamination**; and
 - f) be accompanied by documentation that meets the requirements of Part 3 *Inspection, Verification and Documentation Requirements*.
- (3) All **consignments of fresh thyme** must be:
- a) intact, sound and clean;
 - b) free from:
 - i) rot, signs of shrivelling and dehydration;
 - ii) any visible foreign matter;
 - iii) damage caused by **pests** affecting the flesh; and
 - iv) abnormal moisture;
 - c) able to withstand transportation and handling.
- (4) **Fresh thyme** must not include flowers, roots or any other **plant** parts.
- (5) **Fresh thyme** must only be used for human consumption.

Guidance

- Countries that meet the requirements in 1.4 (1) and are approved to trade **fresh thyme**, are listed in an [online pest database](#).
- A list of **pests** associated with **fresh thyme** can be found in the [online pest database](#).
- The full list of **regulated** and non-**regulated pests** for New Zealand can be found in **BORIC** and the [Schedule of regulated \(quarantine\) weed seeds](#). These databases can be found on the MPI website.
- In 1.4 (2) “considered **free from viable regulated pests**” is used as described in Section 5 of **ISPM 12. Phytosanitary certificates**.
- The phytosanitary **inspection** by the **NPPO** in Part 3 *Inspection, Verification and Documentation Requirements* may be used to determine whether the requirements in 1.4 (3) are met.

Part 2: Specific Requirements

2.1 *Basic Measures*

- (1) **Fresh thyme** must be sourced from a **production site** that uses standard commercial cultivation methods that comply with the principles of **Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)** including **pest control**, harvesting, sorting, cleaning, **inspection** and **packaging**.

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Part 3: Inspection, Verification and Documentation Requirements

3.1 Phytosanitary inspection

- (1) A sample unit for the purpose of this IHS is an individual stem of **fresh thyme** leaves.
- (2) The **NPPO** of the exporting country must:
 - a) sample each homogeneous grower **lot** of **fresh thyme**. The minimum sample size for **inspection** must be based on a 95% confidence level that not more than 0.5% of the units in the **lot** are **infested** as set out in **ISPM 31. Methodologies for sampling of consignments** Appendix 2;
 - b) visually **inspect** each sample unit according to **official phytosanitary procedures** in accordance with **ISPM 23. Guidelines for inspection** and **ISPM 31. Methodologies for sampling of consignments** for all **regulated pests** required by New Zealand;
 - c) verify that *Basic Measures* have been applied as outlined in Part 2 *Specific Requirements*;
 - d) reconcile that the number of packages presented for **inspection** is consistent with documentation;
 - e) verify that traceability labelling is complete; and
 - f) verify that **phytosanitary security** is maintained for the **consignment**.
- (3) The **NPPO** must contact MPI to establish the regulatory status of any **pests** not listed in **BORIC** and found during an **inspection**.

3.2 Phytosanitary certification

- (1) Each **consignment** must meet the requirements set out in Part 3 *Inspection, Verification and Documentation Requirements* and be accompanied by a **phytosanitary certificate** issued by the **NPPO** in accordance with **ISPM 12. Phytosanitary certificates**.
- (2) The **phytosanitary certificate** must include the following where applicable:
 - a) Sufficient detail to enable identification of the **consignment** and its component parts. Information must include country/place of origin.
 - b) The scientific name of **fresh thyme** (*Thymus vulgaris*).
 - c) The following certifying statement, or a variation that is compliant with **ISPM 12. Phytosanitary certificates** and has been approved by a **CTO**:
 - i) “*This is to certify that the plants, plant products or other regulated articles described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests specified by the importing contracting party and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of the importing contracting party, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.*”
- (3) If a **consignment** of **fresh thyme** is stored in another country **in transit** to New Zealand or opened, split up or has its **packaging** changed prior to when it **arrives in New Zealand**, a **phytosanitary certificate** for **re-export** is required from the transiting country, in accordance with **ISPM 12. Phytosanitary certificates**, and must accompany each **consignment**.

Guidance

- If **viable regulated pests** are detected, a **phytosanitary certificate** should not be issued unless appropriate **phytosanitary measures** have been applied.

Schedule 1: Definitions

Definitions have the same meaning as defined by **FAO, ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms** or **the Act** unless set out below. Derived forms of terms set out in the aforementioned sources, e.g. *inspect* from *inspection*, are considered to have the same meaning as the defined term.

Arrives in New Zealand

Definition as per **the Act**.

Biosecurity clearance/cleared

Definition as per **the Act**.

Biosecurity Organism Register for Imported Commodities (BORIC)

MPI database which identifies the **quarantine** status for an **organism** as either **regulated** or non-**regulated** for New Zealand. **BORIC** is available at:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/biosecurity-organisms-register-for-imported-commodities/>

Commodity

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Contamination

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Consignment

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Control

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Chief Technical Officer (CTO)

Definition as per **the Act**.

Entry

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Equivalence/equivalent

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Free from

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Fresh

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Fruits and vegetables

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Good Agricultural Practice (GAP)

Definition as per **FAO, 2003. Development of a Framework for Good Agricultural Practices**. Retrieved from FAO: <http://www.fao.org/3/y8704e/y8704e.htm>

Import/imported

Definition as per **the Act**.

Import health standard (IHS)

Definition as per **the Act**.

Importation

Definition as per **the Act**.

Importer

Definition as per **the Act**.

In transit

Refers to **risk goods (consignments)** in the process of being shipped to New Zealand, for example **risk goods** in sea containers on board a vessel. These **risk goods** or **consignments** may have **treatments** applied (for example, cold **treatment**) while the **risk goods** are en route to New Zealand.

Incidentally imported new organism

Definition as per **the Act**.

Inspection/inspect

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Interception (of a pest)

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**. The list of **ISPMs** are available from:
<https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispm/>.

National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Official/officially

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Organism

Definition as per **the Act**.

Packaging/packaged

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Pathway

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Pest

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Phytosanitary certification/phytosanitary certificate

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Phytosanitary measure

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Phytosanitary procedure

Definition as per **ISPM 5. Glossary of phytosanitary terms**

Phytosanitary security

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Plants

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Production site

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Quarantine

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Quarantine pests

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Regulated pest

A **pest** that is identified as a **regulated pest** in **BORIC** or the [Schedule of regulated \(quarantine\) weed seeds](#).

Re-export (consignment)

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Risk goods

Definition as per **the Act**.

Seeds

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Transitional facility

Definition as per **the Act**.

Treatment/treated

Definition as per **ISPM 5**. *Glossary of phytosanitary terms*

Viable regulated pest

Any **regulated pest** that is capable of reproduction and development, including insects, **plants**, **seeds** and other **organisms**.

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