



Are you considering exporting Plants or Plant products from New Zealand?

It is best to plan well ahead.

This guideline will assist you through the phytosanitary (plant health) requirements relating to fruit, vegetables, nursery stock, forest products and seeds intended for export.

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Requests for further information should be directed to:

Plant Exports
Plant, Food and Environment Directorate
P O Box 2526
WELLINGTON

Telephone: 04 894 5693
Facsimile: 04-894 0662
Email: plantexports@maf.govt.nz

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1 NEW ZEALAND'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

- New Zealand is a signatory party to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), an international agreement on plant health with 177 current signatories. IPPC aims to protect cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of pests and promoting the establishment of appropriate pest control measures.
- Part of New Zealand's commitment to the IPPC is to provide export phytosanitary (plant health) certification, to ensure the international trading of plants and plant products does not spread unwanted pests.
- The New Zealand Government has designated MAF as New Zealand's National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) responsible for providing phytosanitary certification.
- Phytosanitary certification is based on the Phytosanitary requirements set out by the Government of an importing country or by international agreement. Requirements are **NOT** set by New Zealand.
- Phytosanitary requirements may be stated as Phytosanitary Import Permits, Importing Countries Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs), or in commodity or pre-clearance compliance programmes (developed in conjunction with specific importing countries, MAF and industry).

2 WHAT IS PHYTOSANITARY (PLANT HEALTH) CERTIFICATION?

- Phytosanitary (plant health) certification certifies that a plant, plant product or other regulated article has been inspected and/or tested and found free of quarantine pests specified by an importing country.
- MAF phytosanitary certification facilitates (but cannot guarantee) the entry of compliant plants and plant products into an importing country.
- It is an official assurance provided by an exporting country's Government to an importing country's Government.
- It assures that plant products comply with phytosanitary requirements.
- Phytosanitary certification usually takes the form of a certificate (i.e. a Phytosanitary Certificate) but may also be a registered certification mark.

3 WHO IN NEW ZEALAND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PHYTOSANITARY (PLANT HEALTH) CERTIFICATION?

MAF is the organisation in New Zealand that is responsible for phytosanitary certification. Within MAF, MAF – Plant Exports is the group responsible for the delivery of MAF Phytosanitary Certification. Requests for further information should be directed to:

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If an importing country requires a phytosanitary certificate, they usually require a statement that the plant products are free from quarantine pests and diseases. Plant products include (list is not exclusive):

- Cut flowers
- Seeds and Grain
- Fruit and Vegetables (fresh and preserved)
- Nursery stock
- Forest products (Logs, timber, wood products, wood packaging and bark)
- Fungi, peat and composts or other growing media.

Phytosanitary certification is only issued where it can be determined by a MAF authorised IVA (Independent Verification Agency) that the plant products are free from harmful pests and diseases as specified by the importing country.

4 HOW CAN I FIND THE IMPORTING COUNTRY'S REQUIREMENTS FOR MY PLANT PRODUCTS?

It is important to obtain details of the country's import phytosanitary requirements as early as possible as you may need to consider additional requirements such as growing, processing, handling, treatment and transportation requirements.

Phytosanitary requirements may be stated in the:

- Phytosanitary Import Permit (refer to Section 4.1);
- The Importing Country's Phytosanitary Requirements (ICPRs) (refer to Section 4.2); or
- Commodity and offshore verification (pre-clearance) compliance programmes (refer to Section 4.3).

4.1 PHYTOSANITARY IMPORT PERMITS

- A phytosanitary import permit is an official document authorising the importation of a commodity in accordance with a country's specified phytosanitary import requirements.
- These take precedence over any technical conditions contained in MAF-Plant Exports ICPR for that country.
- These are not always required (refer to your IVA or the ICPRs).

4.1.1 If a Phytosanitary Import Permit is required:

- Obtain a phytosanitary import permit from the Government authorities of the country you want to export to.
- If the phytosanitary import permit is in a foreign language it will need to be officially translated by an independent translation organisation.
- Contract the services of an IVA and forward a complete copy of the phytosanitary import permit to them (if the phytosanitary import permit has been translated provide both the original and translated permit).

4.1.2 If a Phytosanitary Import Permit is not required, but a Phytosanitary Certificate is required:

Contact an IVA. They will be able to provide you with (examples only):

- Guidance regarding options available to you to meet conditions specified by the importing country;
- Provision of some phytosanitary services (e.g. inspection);

- Contact details of MAF approved suppliers of various phytosanitary services (e.g. treatment suppliers);
- Their service delivery arrangements & costs;
- Commodity specific guidance regarding compliance and offshore verification (pre-clearance) programmes (developed in conjunction with industry to provide assurances required by an importing country).

4.2 IMPORTING COUNTRIES PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS (ICPRs)

MAF maintains a publicly available website with summaries of known import country phytosanitary requirements (ICPRs) of New Zealand's main trading partners. Note that import requirements change from time to time and it is the exporter's responsibility to be familiar with the current import requirements of the country they wish to export to.

4.2.1 Plants and plant products ICPRs (excluding forestry) can be found at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/plants/icpr/search>

4.2.2 Forest and wood products ICPRs can be found at:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-exports/forestry-exports/export-certification-standards>

4.2.3 What if my plant product or Country of destination is not listed?

If the information on the MAF website is not sufficient, contact one of three MAF authorised Independent Verification Agency (IVA) in the first instance:

AsureQuality Limited: phone 0508 00 11 22 – for plant, plant products and forestry enquiries including treatments.

Independent Verification Services: phone 0800 021 169 – For forestry enquiries including treatments.

SGS Ltd: phone 0800 174 025 – For plant and plant product enquiries.

IVAs can help you with finding out if there are any special requirements relating to exports of plant products to a particular country. This may include (but is not limited to) asking MAF to contact the authorities of the importing country. Alternatively you can contact your importing agent in order to obtain a phytosanitary import permit.

4.3 COMMODITY AND OFFSHORE VERIFICATION (PRE-CLEARANCE) COMPLIANCE PROGRAMMES

4.3.1 Compliance Programmes

Compliance programmes describe the phytosanitary requirements of an importing country for (typically) a specific commodity. These requirements must be adhered to by New Zealand exporters to allow ongoing access for the commodity.

- Commodity compliance programmes may be found at the following MAF website:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/plants/compliance>

4.3.2 Offshore Verification (Pre-Clearance) Programmes

Offshore Verification (pre-clearance) Programmes giving generic requirements and working procedures for all parties involved.

- Pre-clearance programmes may be found at the following MAF web-site:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/plants/pre-clearance>

5 WHAT PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION OPTIONS DO I HAVE?

There are 3 main options available to you for certification of your plant products:

1. Contract the services of an IVA to arrange for certification of your product. IVAs are all MAF approved to produce, verify and print phytosanitary certificates (refer to Section 4.3.2 for contact details).
2. Contract the services of a MAF approved organisation. Check this link to see if your customs agent or freight forwarder is approved under option 3 to raise and print phytosanitary certificates:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/exports/plants/approved-orgs.pdf>
3. Become registered to use ePhyto. This will allow you to submit your own phytosanitary certificates, but you will still need to contract an IVA to verify and print them. Registration information is found at this URL:
<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/plants/phyto-ecert/application>

Regardless of which option you choose, you will need to supply the IVA or MAF approved organisation with supporting documentation such as (not exclusive):

- A complete phytosanitary import permit (if applicable);
- Proof of phytosanitary inspection by a MAF approved inspector;
- Proof of phytosanitary treatment by a MAF approved treatment supplier (if applicable);
- Documentation that demonstrates traceability of exported produce to inspection and treatment;
- Other documentation as required to meet specific importing country or commodity requirements.

Your contracted IVA or MAF approved organisation can advise you regarding your particular certification needs.

6 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN IVA AND A MAF APPROVED ORGANISATION?

6.1 INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION AGENCIES (IVAs)

IVAs are an ISO accredited independent organisations that are authorised by MAF to:

- Verify phytosanitary certificates;
- Audit MAF approved organisations;
- Supervise delivery of phytosanitary services by organisations that are not MAF approved.

6.2 MAF APPROVED ORGANISATIONS (MAOs)

Organisations approved by MAF to deliver phytosanitary service options.

There are many MAF Approved Organisations (MAOs) undertaking a range of phytosanitary activities. They include fruit or vegetable packhouses, timber sawmills, seed dressing plants, pest control companies and freight forwarders.

A current list of MAOs and the service options for which they are approved can be found here:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/exports/plants/approved-orgs.pdf>

6.3 WHAT CAN IVAs AND MAF APPROVED ORGANISATIONS DO FOR ME?

Depending upon the scope of their MAF approval, IVAs and MAF approved organisations (MAOs) can help you with:

- Phytosanitary inspection
- Phytosanitary treatment
- Phytosanitary certification
- Pest survey
- Registered certification mark (ISPM15)

Note: Only IVAs can verify phytosanitary certificates

7 HOW MUCH WILL IT COST TO GET A PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE?

There are basic fees and charges that are charged by MAF these can be found on the MAF Biosecurity website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/fees-and-charges>

Each IVA and MAF Approved Organisation will have their own charges on top these. You will need to discuss these charges with the service provider (i.e IVAs and MAF Approved Organisations).

8 WHAT ARE THE PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR TRADE SAMPLES, NON-COMMERCIAL CONSIGNMENTS AND POST?

These consignments often have to meet the same requirements as those specified for commercial consignments as available on the MAF Biosecurity website:

<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/plants/icpr/search>

Further information may be obtained from an IVA, or directly from the embassy or consulate of the country of destination.

Trade Samples: Importing countries do not normally make exceptions for trade samples.

Private Consignments: “Better safe than sorry” if unsure whether a plant product can be brought into a country declare the plant products on arrival. Non-declaration or false declaration may incur a fine or be destroyed at your expense. Forms may be provided in transit to enable you to make a declaration.

If you are making a stop over in another country on your way to your ultimate destination, the product must also meet that country’s plant health requirements.

Postal or Courier Consignments: Always accurately describe the product (including species) on the customs declaration provided to you by the post office or courier company.

Products that do not meet requirements will usually be treated or destroyed at your expense.

9 ARE THERE OTHER NON-PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES?

To export some products to some countries you may need to meet other non-phytosanitary requirements. You are responsible for understanding and complying with these requirements. Some of these requirements are summarised below (this is not intended to be an exhaustive list)

- MAF is also responsible for certification to importing country's Quality Standards. They also hold information on food safety requirements, including Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) for various crops and countries. For further information see:
www.nzfsa.govt.nz/plant/subject/official-grade-assurance-standard
- The export of Indigenous Timber and Indigenous Forest Products is restricted under the Forests Act 1949. For more information contact a MAF Forestry and Land Operations regional office: Rotorua (07) 921 3400, Christchurch (03) 943 3700 or 0800 CLIMATE (254 628)
- For further information see:
<http://www.maf.govt.nz/forestry/forestry-in-nz/indigenous-forestry.aspx>

There may also be a number of other requirements administered by other Departments that may need to be met.

- Department of Conservation (DOC) is responsible for administering the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/international/endangered-species/>
- New Zealand Customs Service enforces the New Zealand Horticulture Export Authority Act 1987 and the NZ Kiwifruit Marketing Board Kiwifruit Export Regulations 1999 at the border. This regulates the export of apricots, avocados, blackcurrants, boysenberries, cherries, chestnuts, kiwifruit to Australia, nashi pears, nectarines, peaches, persimmons, plums, squash, tamarillos, and truffles.
www.customs.govt.nz/exporters
- See also the Horticulture Export Authority (HEA) website:
<http://www.hea.co.nz/>
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade can assist with information on trade in importing countries and suitable contacts for commercial exporters.
www.mfat.govt.nz/Trade-and-Economic-Relations/1-Market-access/Exporters.php