

**MINISTRY FOR PRIMARY
INDUSTRIES
155.02.04**

**IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD
FOR CUT FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE**

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Issuance

Pursuant to section 24 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is hereby issued as an import health standard for cut flowers and foliage for decorative purposes.

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Ministry for Primary Industries
(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

Date of issue:

1. Introduction

1.1 SCOPE

This document describes the phytosanitary requirements for the importation of fresh cut flowers and foliage, for decorative purposes, into New Zealand.

The primary purpose of this document is to consolidate the import health standards (pursuant to section 24 of the Biosecurity Act 1993), for importation of cut flowers and foliage and provide a practical medium for the development and revision of specific country/commodity import health standards in accordance with current MPI procedures.

1.2 REFERENCES

The following Acts, Regulations and MPI standards are referred to, or complement, the implementation of this standard:

- ∃ *The Biosecurity Act 1993.*
- ∃ *MAF Standard 152.01.S: Requirements for Suppliers of Inspection Services at the Border.*
- ∃ *Standard for Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Risk Goods*
<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1615>

1.3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this MPI standard the following definitions and abbreviations apply:

Additional declaration

A statement that is required to be entered on a phytosanitary certificate which provides specific phytosanitary information pertinent to the phytosanitary condition of a consignment.

Approved inspection facility

A place approved by a MPI CTO, or delegate, in accordance with *MAF Standard TF-Gen*. Such facilities are also approved transitional facilities under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Consignment

One or more lots imported by one importer, on one conveyance at one time and covered by one phytosanitary certificate.

Note 1: Commercial consignments are unaccompanied consignments covered by an airway bill/bill of lading intended for resale.

Note 2: Private consignments are accompanied consignments imported as personal property.

Note 3: Unaccompanied private consignments are consignments covered by an airway bill/bill of lading and imported as personal property.

Chief Technical Officer (CTO)

A person appointed under section 101 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Devitalisation

Post harvest treatment which destroys the reproductive capability of a commodity

Entry (of a pest)

Movement of a pest into an area where it is not present, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

Establishment

Perpetuation, for the foreseeable future, of a pest within an area after entry.

Fresh cut flowers and foliage

Fresh cut flowers and foliage includes fresh flowers, stems and foliage harvested for decorative purposes but not for propagation. It does not include roots, fruit or soil that may be associated with fresh cut flowers and foliage.

Homogeneous

An identifiable lot of produce which has undergone a known and documented process or production method resulting in uniformity of pest contamination at a specific level.

Import health standard

A document issued pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 on behalf of a CTO permitting entry to New Zealand of a specific product under certain conditions.

Infested unit

An individual fresh flower, single piece of foliage or stem carrying any regulated or non-regulated organism.

Inspector

A person appointed as an inspector under section 103(1) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Introduction

Entry and establishment of a pest.

IPPC

Abbreviation for the International Plant Protection Convention.

Lot

The number of units of a single commodity (i.e. species), identifiable by such things as its homogeneity of composition and origin which forms part of a consignment.

Maximum allowable prevalence (MAP)

The level of infestation that is the threshold, above which phytosanitary actions based on inspection would be applied.

Non-regulated pest

Non-regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would not be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected.

National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)

Official service organisation established by Government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.

MPI

Acronym for the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Pathway

A series of activities that, when carried out according to documented procedures, form a discrete and traceable export system.

Pest

Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plant or plant products.

Pest list

A list of organisms known to be associated with a specific product in a specific country.

Pest proof container

A container or device of sound durable construction which when closed eliminates the possibility of pests escaping from or entering into its contents.

Phytosanitary certificate (PC)

A certificate issued by the authority of an exporting country, in accordance with the requirements of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), which verifies that the requirements of the relevant import health standard has been met.

Propagable

The ability of the imported plant material to readily reproduce and be disseminated without manipulation (e.g. propagable cuttings, seeds).

Regulated organisms (FAO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms 1996)

Regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected. (Glossary of phytosanitary terms ISPM 5:2010)

Secure area

A pest proof area, container or device which can be effectively sealed to ensure the contents cannot be tampered with or removed without the permission of an Inspector. This would be within an approved transitional facility.

Supplier

The organisation, or part of the organisation, that is contracted by MPI to deliver services, in accordance with an accredited system, to meet appropriate standards.

Transitional Facility

Any facility approved in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the purpose of inspection, storage, treatment, quarantine, holding or destruction of uncleared goods.

Unit

An individual fresh flower, single piece of foliage or stem as appropriate.

1.4 EXPLANATION OF PEST CATEGORIES

MPI categorises pests associated with plants and plant products into regulated and non-regulated pests. Measures to prevent the establishment of regulated pests in New Zealand are developed in accordance with the appropriate FAO ISPMs and other relevant international standards. Regulated pests are those pests for which actions would be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected. As well as quarantine pests, these include pests that may pose a risk to human or animal health or the environment, vectors of associated quarantine pests and contaminants. Non regulated pests are those pests for which no actions would be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected.

Organisms classified as regulated by MPI can be found by searching The Biosecurity Organisms Register for Imported Commodities (BORIC)

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

Contaminants (including soil)

Consignments contaminated with soil, or other potential carriers of regulated pests (e.g. leaf litter) will not be permitted entry if the level of contamination is above the acceptable tolerance.

2. Phytosanitary Requirements

2.1 GENERAL

All cut flowers and foliage are prohibited entry into New Zealand unless they are listed in Appendix 1 to this standard.

A completed phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country's national plant protection organisation must accompany all consignments of fresh cut flowers/foilage exported to New Zealand.

The phytosanitary certificate shall contain all information as detailed on the "model phytosanitary certificate" (Annex 1, Revised text of International Plant Protection Convention, November 1997).

General

- a unique certificate number
- exporting plant protection organisation
- importing plant protection organisation

Description of Consignment

- name and address of exporter
- declared name and address of consignee
- number and description of packages
- distinguishing marks
- place of origin
- declared means of conveyance
- name of produce and quantity declared
- botanical name of plants

Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment

- date
- treatment
- chemical and active ingredient
- duration and temperature
- concentration

Additional information

- additional declaration(s) specified for the commodity(s) concerned
- official stamp of the national plant protection organisation
- signature of authorised officer
- name of authorised officer
- place of issue
- date of issue

2.2 GENERAL PRE-EXPORT PHYTOSANITARY ACTIONS

Before an export phytosanitary certificate is to be issued, the exporting country's national plant protection organisation must be satisfied that the following activities, for each consignment have been undertaken.

For regulated organisms (except risk group 2 pests), either of the following activities apply:

- Inspected and/or tested in accordance with appropriate official procedures and found to be free of any visually detectable regulated pests specified by MPI.

OR

- Been sourced from a pest free area, as verified by official detection survey, for those regulated organisms specified by MPI for which there is no practical means of inspection or testing.

AND

For risk group 2 pests, either of the following activities apply:

- Undergone an appropriate pest control for those risk group 2 quarantine pests specified by MPI.

OR

- Been sourced from a pest free area, as verified by official detection survey for those risk group 2 quarantine pests as specified by MPI.

AND

For propagatable commodities:

- Been rendered non-propagatable

2.3 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PREVALENCE (MAP)

The MAP for visually detectable regulated organisms on cut flowers/foilage is as follows:

“At a 95% confidence level, that not more than 0.5% of the units in the consignment are infested (this equates to an acceptance level of zero units infested by regulated organisms in a sample size of 600 units)”.

2.4 INSPECTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT

MPI requires that the exporting country's national plant protection organisation sample and inspect the consignment according to official procedures for all visually detectable regulated pests specified by MPI.

(Refer Annex 1: Categorised Pest Lists for Cut Flowers and Foliage).

Should regulated pests be detected, the consignment must be either rejected for export or undergo a treatment effective against the detected pest.

2.5 TESTING OF THE CONSIGNMENT

Testing of the consignment prior to export to New Zealand for regulated pests which are not visually detectable is not (generally) required for fresh cut flowers/foilage from exporting countries.

2.6 TRANSIT REQUIREMENTS

All fresh cut flowers/foilage must be packed and shipped in a manner to prevent contamination by regulated pests.

The package should not be opened in transit. However, where a consignment is either stored, split up or has its packaging changed while in another country (or countries) *en route* to New Zealand, a "Re-export Certificate" is required.

Where a consignment is held under bond, as a result of the need to change conveyances, and it is kept in the original shipping container, a "Re-export Certificate" is not required.

2.7 INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL IN NEW ZEALAND

MPI will check the accompanying documentation on arrival to confirm that it reconciles with the actual consignment.

MPI requires, with 95% confidence, that not more than 0.5% of the units in a consignment are infested with visually detectable regulated quarantine pests. To achieve this, MPI will sample and inspect 600 units with an acceptance level of zero infested units (or equivalent), from the (homogeneous) lot.

2.8 SPECIFIC COUNTRY:COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS

Specific phytosanitary requirements and additional declarations to the phytosanitary certificate for each country:commodity combination have been detailed in Appendix 1 to this standard.

2.9 ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN ON THE INTERCEPTIONS/DETECTION OF ORGANISMS/CONTAMINANTS

If regulated organisms are intercepted/detected on the commodity, or associated packaging, the following actions will be undertaken as appropriate:

2.9.1 Quarantine: Risk Group 1 Pests

If a risk group 1 pest is intercepted, the importer will be given the option of:

- treatment (where possible) of the consignment at the importer's risk and expense,
- re-sorting (specific conditions apply) of the consignment,
- re-shipment of the consignment,
- destruction of the consignment.

2.9.2 Quarantine: Risk Group 2 Pests

If a risk group 2 pest is intercepted, the importer will be given the option of:

- treatment (where possible) at the discretion of the Director, Plants Food & Environment, and immediate feedback to the national plant protection organisation of the exporting country with a request for corrective action,
- re-shipment of the consignment,
- destruction of the consignment.

2.9.3 Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests

Actions for the interception/detection of regulated non-quarantine pests will be in accordance with the contingencies implemented for that pest if detected in New Zealand.

2.9.4 Regulated Non-Plant Pests/Unwanted Organisms

Actions for the interception/detection of regulated non plant pests/unwanted organisms will be in accordance with the actions required by the relevant biosecurity agency.

2.9.5 Vectors of Associated Quarantine Pests

Actions for the interception of “vectors” will generally be the same as for risk group 1 quarantine pests.

2.9.6 Vectored Organisms

Vectored organisms will be controlled by treatment of the associated vector.

2.9.7 Strains of Pests

Actions for “strains” of pests will generally be the same as for risk group 1 quarantine pests.

2.9.8 Non-Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests

No action is undertaken on the interception of non-regulated non-quarantine pests.

2.9.9 Non-Regulated Non-Plant Pests/Organisms

No action is undertaken on the interception of non-regulated non plant pests/organisms.

2.9.10 Contaminants

Lots with more than 25 grams of soil per 600 unit sample shall be treated, reshipped or destroyed.

Interception of extraneous plant material (e.g. leaves, twigs) in the 600 unit sample will result in the lot being held until an assessment has been made in comparison with the risk of importing the part(s) of the plant species concerned.

3. Additional Declarations to the Phytosanitary Certificate

General requirements

All consignments of fresh cut flowers/foilage must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate attesting that the consignment has been inspected and/or tested in accordance with appropriate official procedures and is considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by MPI. The phytosanitary certificate must also attest that the consignment conforms with the current phytosanitary requirements of MPI.

The following additional declaration to the phytosanitary certificate applies:

{AD1} This is to certify that the cut flowers/foilage 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 MPI and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of MPI, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.

Note: If the phytosanitary certificate is in accordance with the model phytosanitary certificate annexed to the revised (1997) text of the FAO IPPC the above additional declaration is not required.

Specific requirements

Where plant material is propagable (as shown in relevant country commodity schedules) the material must be subject to an appropriate devitalisation treatment rendering the material non-propagable. The following additional declaration to the phytosanitary certificate will apply.

{AD2} The [commodity] has been subject to an approved devitalisation treatment rendering it non-propagable.

Full details of the devitalisation treatment must be included in the “Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment” area of the phytosanitary certificate. Details of the date, active ingredient, concentration, treatment duration and temperature must be recorded.

Where plant material has been produced and prepared for export in accordance with the Singapore Assurance Certification Scheme, the following additional declaration to the phytosanitary certificate will apply.

{AD3} This consignment was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the Singapore Assurance Certification Scheme.