



Natural Sausage Casings

SAUSCASE.GEN

10 August 2016

TITLE

Import Health Standard: IHS: Natural Sausage Casings

COMMENCEMENT

This Import Health Standard comes into force on 10 August 2016.

ISSUING AUTHORITY

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

Dated at Wellington this 10th day of August 2016.

Howard Pharo
Manager, Import and Export Animals
Ministry for Primary Industries
(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

Contact for further information
Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
Regulation & Assurance Branch
Animal Imports
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140
Email: animalimports@mpi.govt.nz

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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

This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing natural casings from cattle, goats, pigs or sheep into New Zealand.

Background

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.

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.

Guidance accompanies this IHS as a separate document. Guidance provides information on how the requirements may be met.

Who should read this Import Health Standard?

This IHS applies to importers of eligible consignments of natural sausage casings.

Why is this important?

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.

The costs to MPI in performing functions relating to the importation of the commodity will be recovered in accordance with the Act and any regulations made under the Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity clearance must be covered by the importer or agent.

Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of the IHS may be re-shipped, rendered or destroyed using an MPI-approved destruction method.

See guidance document for more information about importer responsibilities.

Equivalence

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.

Document History

Refer to Schedule 1.

Other information

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.

Food Act 2014 and Animal Products Act 1999

Commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption must comply with relevant requirements of the Food Act 2014, the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, and the Animal Products Act 1999.

See guidance document for more information about the Food Act 2014 and Animal Products Act 1999.

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to all importers of eligible natural sausage casings derived from cattle, goats, pigs or sheep from all countries into New Zealand.
- (2) This IHS does not apply to the following IHSs, to the extent that they are in effect:
 - a) *Sausage casings for human consumption imported from Australia.*
 - b) *Sausage casings derived from pigs imported from Canada and the United States of America.*
 - c) *Sausage casings derived from pigs, sheep, or goats from the European Union.*

1.2 Outcome

- (1) The outcome this IHS is seeking to achieve is the effective management of biosecurity risks associated with consignments of natural sausage casings.
- (2) The biosecurity risk organisms associated with natural sausage casings managed by the requirements of Part 2 of this IHS are:
 - a) Classical swine fever virus (pigs)
 - b) Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (cattle)
- (3) The general processing requirements of Part 1 of this IHS manage the other biosecurity risk organisms associated with natural sausage casings.

1.3 Incorporation 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: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-manual/access-online/>.
 - b) The OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*), available at the OIE Website: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>.
 - c) The OIE *List of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status Member Countries*.

1.4 Definitions

- (1) For the purposes of this IHS and the associated guidance, 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 Exporting country systems and certification

- (1) Importers may only import eligible natural sausage casings from a country where the Competent Authority has provided evidence to the satisfaction of a CTO of the following:

- a) The verifiable animal health status of animal populations in the exporting country, zone or compartment, with respect to biosecurity risk organisms of concern.
 - b) The national systems and/or programmes and standards in the exporting country for regulatory oversight of the meat industry.
 - c) The capabilities and preferences of the exporting country's Competent Authority with respect to achieving equivalent outcomes to requirements stated in this IHS.
- (2) Once satisfied, MPI and the Competent Authority may commence negotiation of country-specific veterinary certification.
 - (3) In order to be satisfied with the evidence provided an in-country or desk-top audit may be carried out at any time, including prior to the first shipment of sausage casings.

See guidance document for more information about exporting country systems and certification.

1.6 Packaging and storage

- (1) The product must be commercially packaged in sealed, leak-proof packaging.
- (2) The product must be stored and subsequently transported in a hygienic manner and be kept free of contaminants.
- (3) The container that the product is transported in must be sealed with an official seal issued by the Competent Authority and the unique seal number must be recorded on the veterinary certificate.

1.7 Processing

- (1) All natural sausage casings must be derived from animals that have passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections.
- (2) The contents of all natural sausage casings must be removed and the casings must be cleaned and scraped according to GMP or HACCP programmes to the satisfaction of the Competent Authority.
- (3) All natural sausage casings must be salted for at least 30 days with either dry salt (NaCl) or saturated brine ($A_w < 0.80$); or with phosphate supplemented dry salt or saturated brine ($A_w < 0.80$) containing 86.5% NaCl, 10.7% Na_2HPO_4 and 2.8% Na_3PO_4 (weight/weight/weight), and kept at a temperature of greater than 12°C during this entire period.

See Section 2, Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms, for additional processing requirements for some casings derived from pigs or cattle.

1.8 Import permit

- (1) An import permit under section 24D of the Act is required if prior to import, a CTO has approved an equivalent measure under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that is different from those in this IHS that may be applied to effectively manage risks.
 - a) Import permit application form on the MPI website: [Animal Products Permit Application Form](#).
 - b) Completed applications can be submitted to Animal Imports animalimports@mpi.govt.nz.
- (2) An import permit is not required if, prior to import, a CTO has approved an equivalent measure under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that is different from those in this IHS in the form of a negotiated veterinary certificate.

1.9 The documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) All documents must:
 - a) Be original, unless otherwise stated.
 - b) Accompany the imported goods.
 - c) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible.
 - d) 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.
- (2) Documentation copies must be sent to the Biosecurity Inspector at the airport/port of arrival at least one working day in advance of importation.

1.9.1 Veterinary certificate

- (1) A veterinary certificate from the exporting country's Official Veterinarian must be provided. The veterinary certificate must include the following:
 - a) A unique consignment identifier.
 - b) The commodity description, source species, and amount of product.
 - c) Name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).
 - d) Name, signature and contact details of the Official Veterinarian.
 - e) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the general requirements outlined in Part 1 of this IHS have been met.
 - f) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the specified requirements outlined in Part 2 of this IHS have been met.

1.9.2 Import permit

- (1) A copy of an import permit must be provided if required for an equivalence as per clause 1.8. The importer must apply to the Director-General for an import permit and include the following information to obtain a permit
 - a) Name and address of exporter.
 - b) The type of product.
 - c) Name and address of the New Zealand importer.
 - d) Date of proposed importation.
 - e) Name and address of the post arrival destination in New Zealand to which the consignment is to proceed following importation.

See guidance document for more information about equivalence and country-specific veterinary certificates.

1.10 Biosecurity clearance

- (1) A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act, may be issued when the product meets 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

2.1 Classical swine fever virus (CSFV) (pigs only)

- (1) Natural sausage casings derived from pigs may be imported provided they have been either:
 - a) Derived from pigs continuously resident in countries, zones or compartments where CSFV has not been recognised in accordance with the OIE *Code* for the 12 months prior to slaughter; or
 - b) Salted for at least 30 days with phosphate supplemented dry salt or saturated brine ($A_w < 0.80$), containing 86.5% NaCl, 10.7% Na_2HPO_4 and 2.8% Na_3PO_4 (weight/weight/weight), and kept at a temperature of greater than 20°C during this entire period.

2.2 Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) (cattle only)

- (1) Natural sausage casings derived from cattle may be imported provided they have been either:
 - a) Derived from cattle continuously resident in a country, zone or compartment included in the negligible BSE risk list found under the OIE [*List of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Risk Status Member Countries*](#); or
 - b) The distal ileum has been removed.

Note: there are no specified requirements for natural sausage casings derived from goats or sheep.

Schedule 1 – Document History

| Date First Issued | Title | Shortcode |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 10 August 2016 | Natural Sausage Casings | SAUSCASE.GEN |
| Date of Issued Amendments | Title | Shortcode |
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Schedule 2 – Definitions

Ante-Mortem Inspection

An Official Veterinarian or Competent Authority approved veterinarian inspection on the day of slaughter to determine freedom from clinical signs of infectious diseases in animals destined for product for export to New Zealand.

Casings

Intestines and bladders that, after cleaning, have been processed by tissue scraping, defatting and washing, and have been treated with salt.

Compartment

An animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

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.

GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice)

A Competent Authority approved food control operation aimed at ensuring that products are consistently manufactured to a specified quality appropriate to their intended use. It thus has two complementary and interacting components; the manufacturing operation itself and the control system and procedures.

HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point)

A system that identifies, evaluates and controls hazards that are significant for food safety.

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 *Code* chapter for certification procedures.

OIE

The World Organisation for Animal Health.

Post-Mortem Inspection

An Official Veterinarian or Competent Authority approved veterinarian inspection on the day of slaughter to determine freedom from clinical signs of infectious diseases in animals destined for product for export to New Zealand.

Surveillance

The systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken.

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.

Zone

A clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.