



Guidance Document

Bulk Inorganic Fertiliser including Guano Fertiliser

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Title

Guidance Document: Bulk Inorganic Fertiliser including Guano Fertiliser

About this document

This document provides information and options about meeting the Import Health Standard (IHS) for Bulk Fertiliser including Guano Fertiliser and what actions MPI will undertake to verify compliance with the IHS. This Guidance Document is not legally binding but provides advice and direction as to the requirements.

Related Requirements

Import Health Standard for Bulk Fertiliser including Guano Fertiliser [INORGFERT.ALL](#)

Document history

Version	Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
	July 2012		
	May 2017	All	New format. No change to content.

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1 Purpose

This Guidance Document is intended to accompany the IHS for Bulk Inorganic Fertiliser including Guano Fertiliser ([INORGFERT.ALL](#)). This document outlines the accepted or recommended processes and procedures that importers should follow to control, manage, mitigate or eliminate biosecurity risks associated with Bulk Inorganic Fertiliser (referred to as fertiliser from this point in this document).

The desired outcomes of the requirements specified in this documents are to effectively and efficiently manage biosecurity risk material associated with importation of fertiliser and to provide appropriate and timely biosecurity clearance for compliant consignments on arrival in NZ.

2 Background

In general, the fertiliser pathway is one by which biosecurity contaminants (such as regulated grains or weed seeds) could be introduced directly into the New Zealand (NZ) environment associated with high fertility material. In this regard, the requirements specified in the IHS and the guidance provided in this document are intended to describe how importers should mitigate risk by meeting MPI's requirements, and how MPI will or may intervene to manage potential biosecurity risk material.

3 Definitions

For a list of definitions see schedule 1 of [INORGFERT.ALL](#)

4 Actions that may be undertaken for non-compliance

Fertiliser consignments that do not comply with the requirements of the IHS may be re-shipped or destroyed under the Act, or be treated by a method approved by a MPI Chief Technical Officer prior to release (if applicable). Importers are liable for all associated expenses. By contrast, a biosecurity clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Act will be actioned or issued when fertilisers meet all the requirements of the IHS.

5 Actions undertaken regarding deliberate non-compliance or negligence

Deliberate non-compliance with the requirements of the IHS or negligence leading to non-compliance is likely to lead to increased intervention regimes (for example, further audit or inspection activities) that will include increased costs and may lead to delays in obtaining biosecurity clearance or direction. Prosecution of liable individuals/parties under the Act may also occur. Actions that are usually taken when non-compliance is identified with the IHS are split into two areas:-

- a) biosecurity contamination found associated with direct application fertiliser (DAF or guano); and
- b) actions taken by importers that expose NZ to biosecurity risks.

The investigation of non-compliances will usually determine general responsibility attributed to an individual or organisation, and will guide further intervention by MPI.

6 Contamination found associated with DAF

MPI inspection regimes are usually guided by the level of compliance displayed by importers of fertiliser. Compliance may be assessed by using the MPI designated contamination thresholds in the IHS, historical inspection records, management systems and the effectiveness of any documented system that is operated by the importer (and previously approved by MPI). Where contamination thresholds specified in the IHS are

exceeded in DAF or guano, discharge may be directed to stop immediately unless another method of biosecurity risk management is available and approved by MPI.

For any contaminated consignment, a MPI Inspector will assess the amount and type of contamination present. Where contaminant removal or treatment is not feasible, the consignment may be destroyed (if possible) or re-shipped to origin. Note: The only exception for fertiliser that exceeds the specified threshold levels is for specific fertiliser or constituents directed to a MPI-approved transitional facility (TF) for further processing under a documented system (as previously approved by MPI).

7 Actions taken by importers

Where an action (or inaction) by an individual importer or importing organisation results in non-compliance with the IHS, MPI will hold responsibility against the individual importer or importing organisation that is considered to have been at fault. The following examples apply: -

Non Conformance Examples	Persons/Organisation Responsibility
Delivery to places other than the specified TF (for fertiliser for further processing)	Transporter
MPI-approved system requirements not met	Importer/Transporter/TF Operator
Information required under the IHS that is absent or incomplete	Importer/Agent
Required notification not provided to transporter or TF	Importer or agent

8 Costs

Payment of MPI charges for assessment of information, development and approval of alternative systems or further actions as a result of non-compliance or required inspection activities conducted by MPI are the responsibility of the individual importer or importing organisation.

9 IHS Requirements for Fertiliser

9.1 IHS pre-shipment requirements for DAF

The IHS requires that DAF consignments receive pre-shipment sampling and analysis to determine the presence or absence of biosecurity risk material prior to shipment to NZ. The IHS requires fertiliser sampling to be conducted according to internationally recognised standards, or using another MPI-approved equivalent sampling method to form a 5kg composite sample per hold (and this can be further sub-sampled for representative analysis). Note: The only exception to requirements for direct application fertiliser relates to Guano which must be heat treated prior to importation into NZ.

Fertiliser sampling should be in accordance with procedures prescribed in the applicable International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) sampling rules for bulk fertilisers or other equivalent fertiliser sampling techniques approved by MPI. The IHS requires that these rules are the minimum sampling rules/techniques for drawing and subsequent testing of fertiliser samples for obtaining required certification for entry of consignments into NZ. Alternative equivalent sampling rules may be used but must be approved by MPI prior to use. Use the contact details in this Guidance Document to seek further direction on this process. Note: The ISO sampling rules for Bulk Inorganic Fertilisers can be sourced at: <http://www.iso.org/iso/home.html>

The IHS requires that fertiliser sampling is conducted by a regulatory authority or an independent third party organisation (ITPO) where this is applicable. Samples are then analysed at an independent laboratory

appropriate for that purpose. Failure to meet the requirements will likely result in the holding, re-shipment of the consignment or other actions as deemed necessary by MPI.

Analysis of fertiliser samples may occur in the country of origin, in another country or at an approved laboratory in NZ. The laboratory should be approved to the ISO 17025 standard (although this is not a legal requirement under the IHS), have the relevant means to analyse samples to determine the chemical constituents and identify the presence or absence of biosecurity risk material. MPI will recognise laboratories that meet the required standard for analysis and maintain a register for audit purposes.

9.2 IHS certification requirements for DAF Certification

The IHS requires that specific documentation must accompany DAF consignments as such documents provide MPI with assurance that the fertiliser consignment has been appropriately managed, sampled and tested to meet the requirements specified in the IHS. The IHS requires that all consignments of DAF (excluding guano) covered by this IHS must be accompanied by the following certification:-

- a) Fertiliser Analysis Certificate;
- b) Fertiliser Sampling Certificate and
- c) Vessel (Cleanliness) Certificate

Full certification specifications can be found in the IHS

9.3 IHS pre-shipment requirements for Guano

The IHS requires that guano is substantially free of regulated biosecurity contaminants, guano must also be heat treated and must be transported to NZ in vessels that have clean cargo holds free of biosecurity contaminants.

9.4 IHS certification requirements for Guano

The IHS requires that specific documentation must accompany guano fertiliser consignments as such documents provide MPI with assurance that the guano consignment has been appropriately managed. The IHS requires that consignments of guano must be accompanied by the following certification:

- a) a heat treatment certificate and
- b) a vessel cleanliness certificate.

Note: Guano does not require a fertiliser analysis certificate or a fertiliser sampling certificate. Full certification specifications can be found in the IHS (section 1.7.2).

9.5 Systems for fertiliser for further processing

The IHS requires that importers must provide a documented importation system for fertiliser for further processing (including fertiliser ingredients). Such a system should specify all pertinent details relating to the type and constituent make-up of the material imported or planned for importation, the secure method of transportation from the port of entry to the TF, secure storage at the TF and specific information about the type of processing that occurs or will follow. Any consignment or process that could allow the escape of regulated pests or biosecurity risk material into the environment should be identified in advance to MPI as Critical Control Points in the importation process.

Documented systems may be based on an existing MPI-accredited system or an equivalent standard. In this manner, the importer needs to provide objective evidence that any biosecurity risk material or pests are being managed through the documented system/IHS. Importers should submit their system to MPI for assessment

and approval prior to importation of fertiliser for further processing (see Contact details, Page 2 of this document) to avoid delays or clearance being withheld.

Note: The IHS does not permit the process of simply mixing fertiliser or ingredients (re-blending) after importation with other products to form a direct application fertiliser without further treatment, MPI inspection or as part of a MPI-approved documented system.

9.6 Agricultural compounds and veterinary medicine requirements

Importers of fertilisers should ensure that their products are compliant with the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 (ACVM Act) prior to importation. The ACVM Act requires certain compounds (used as agricultural compounds on food or animal feed) to be registered prior to importation. To establish a product's status under the ACVM Act importers can request an ACVM Class Determination (a paid discretionary service) for the fertiliser product prior to importation to facilitate its entry under the ACVM Act. After determination, an exemption or non-exemption letter containing relevant advice will be forwarded to the importer. More information about an ACVM Class Determination can be found at:

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/class-determination-request-form/index.htm>

10 IHS requirements for fertiliser inspection

10.1 DAF arriving with compliant certification

Where a DAF consignment arrives with compliant certification, all fertiliser in vessel holds will be inspected to the extent required to ensure compliance and such vessels should receive timely biosecurity clearance or further direction from MPI.

10.2 DAF arriving without compliant certification

Where required certification has not been provided by the importer, full ISO sampling or equivalent sampling is required as specified in the IHS and will be conducted by MPI or an authorised ITPO as specified by MPI. Note: Full ISO sampling is referred to from this point as that defined under ISO standards: 8633, 8634, and ISO Technical Report 7553. This will be conducted on board the vessel or at the port of first arrival (PoFA) or at a TF after discussion and agreement with MPI.

10.3 DAF imported under an equivalent system

Where an equivalent system for DAF has been approved by MPI as meeting the requirements of the IHS, then inspection of DAF consignments will be conducted on an audit-inspection basis to the extent necessary to verify continued compliance. Ongoing or continued compliance with the requirements of the IHS should lead to reduced MPI intervention, whereas discovery of non-compliances against the requirements of the IHS may result in increased MPI intervention or ongoing sampling under ISO requirements or equivalent sampling until confidence is regained. Note: MPI may conduct inspections at any time during the importation process and during storage and processing at the TF. Generic information around the set-up of a documented system can be found at: <http://mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/containers-and-cargo/equivalence-and-co-management/>

10.4 Guano with compliant certification (but no documented system)

Where guano arrives with compliant certification but is not imported under a documented system, all guano in vessel holds will be inspected to the extent required to ensure compliance and should receive timely biosecurity clearance or further direction from MPI.

10.5 Guano arriving without compliant certification

Where required certification has not been provided, full ISO sampling or equivalent sampling is required and will be conducted by MPI or an authorised ITPO as specified by MPI. Note: Full ISO sampling is referred to from this point as that defined under ISO standards: 8633, 8634, and ISO Technical Standard 7553. This will be conducted on board the vessel or at the PoFA or a TF after discussion and agreement with MPI.

10.6 Guano imported under an equivalent system

Where an equivalent system for guano has been approved by MPI as meeting the requirements of the IHS, inspection of guano consignments will be conducted on an audit-inspection basis to the extent necessary to verify continued compliance. Ongoing or continued compliance with the requirements of the IHS should lead to reduced MPI intervention. However, discovery of non-compliances against the requirements of the IHS may result in increased MPI intervention or ongoing sampling under ISO requirements or equivalent sampling until confidence is regained. Note: MPI may conduct inspections at any time during the importation process and during storage and processing at the TF. Generic information around the set-up of a documented system can be found as above under section 10.3.

10.7 Fertiliser for further processing

Inspection of fertiliser for further processing (and ingredients) will not generally be required at the PoFA as this product type may only be imported under a documented system. Importation of such material under a documented system is permitted on the basis that all aspects of importation, including transport to the approved TF and further processing is fully specified and agreed by MPI before importation. Further processing of consignments of fertiliser for further processing must include chemical or heat treatment or other processing as approved by MPI (for example, acidulation). Note: The requirements of the IHS do not permit the process of simply mixing fertiliser or ingredients (re-blending) after importation with other products to form DAF without MPI inspection or a MPI-approved documented system.

11 Equivalence

Equivalence of a documented risk management system (for imported fertiliser) will only be granted on the basis that it has measures that are equally effective or exceed MPI's minimum requirements for the importation and management of fertiliser. Importers may submit alternative fertiliser sampling techniques or procedures to those required in the IHS, in the systems that mitigate biosecurity risk associated with DAF or Guano or any other alternatives to managing biosecurity risks that differ from the usual requirements in the IHS. In approving equivalent systems there maybe scope for MPI to further reduce interventions on arrival at the NZ border for DAF or guano. This may apply where the importer has implemented risk mitigation activities in the system that has been approved by MPI. Importers who are interested in pursuing equivalence options must apply to MPI for assessment and approval of a documented system prior to importation of any consignments (see Contact Details, page 1 of this document).