



Ref: CTO 2015 087 [G]

Dogs: Certified as NZ Disability Assist Dogs

CTO direction to biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of dogs

Pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii) of the Biosecurity Act 1993 I, Marnie Thomas, Manager Animal Imports, Ministry for Primary Industries (under delegated authority), give the following directions for dogs to be given clearance in accordance with the following measures, different from those in the applicable import health standard *Cats and Dogs from Approved Countries* [CATDOG.GEN dated 28 November 2014]:

Equivalence is given to the MPI definition of an assistance dog in Schedule 3 of the IHS, if:

- i) Written confirmation to confirm that a dog will be certified as a disability assist dog upon arrival in New Zealand is given directly to MPI from an organisation authorised to certify disability assist dogs in New Zealand under the Dog Control Act 1996, or
- ii) Official documentation is provided to MPI to show that a dog is currently certified, by an authorised organisation, as a disability assist dog in New Zealand.

This equivalence no longer applies if the status of the dog as per i) or ii) above changes prior to or at the time of arrival of the dog in New Zealand.

The following organisations are currently authorised to certify disability assist dogs in New Zealand:

Hearing Dogs
Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust
Blind Foundation Guide Dogs
Top Dog Companion Trust
Perfect Partners Assistance Dogs Trust
Assistance Dogs New Zealand

The reason for directing clearance is that the biosecurity risks associated with this CTO direction have been assessed and are managed effectively.

This direction takes effect from the date of signing and continues in effect until amended or revoked.