



## Fresh Onion for Consumption

MPI.IHS.FP.ONION

[Document Date]

## **TITLE**

Import Health Standard: Fresh Onion for Consumption

## **COMMENCEMENT**

This Import Health Standard comes into force on [Effective Date][ ]

## **ISSUING AUTHORITY**

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

Dated at Wellington this ... day of .....

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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 requirements for the importation of fresh produce for consumption into New Zealand from all countries.

## Background

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

Each IHS issued under the Act specifies requirements to be met for the effective management of risks associated with importing goods that may pose a biosecurity threat to New Zealand.

This IHS includes requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit and importation, and post clearance, if specified, before biosecurity clearance can be given.

Additional information to the requirements is included in guidance text boxes and the guidance document: *Importing Fresh Produce for Consumptions* [\[link\]](#).

## Who should read this?

This IHS applies to importers of fresh produce imported for consumption into New Zealand and the exporting country National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO).

## Why is this important?

It is the responsibility of the importer 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.

If any viable regulated pests are intercepted on arrival in New Zealand, the consignment will be treated, reshipped or destroyed, and depending on the regulated pest intercepted, the pathway may be suspended.

Penalties may be applied under the Act if fresh produce imported for consumption are propagated.

Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

## Equivalence

Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) may consider a pre-export application for an equivalent phytosanitary measure to be approved, different from that provided for in this IHS, to maintain at least the same level of protection assured by the current measures in this IHS.

Equivalence will be considered with reference to the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 24: *Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures* (2011).

## Document History

Refer to Appendix 2 for the Amendment Record for this IHS.

## Part 1: Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This import health standard (IHS) applies to the importation of fresh onions (*Allium cepa*) for consumption into New Zealand from all countries.

### 1.2 Incorporation of material by reference

- (1) The following documents are incorporated by reference under section 142M of the Act:  
[MPI Biosecurity Organisms Register for Imported Commodities \(BORIC\)](#)  
[International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures \(ISPM\)](#)  
[Schedule of Regulated \(Quarantine\) Weed Seeds](#)  
[ePest Database](#)
- (2) Under section 142O(3) of the Act it is declared that section 142O(1) does not apply, that is, a notice under section 142O(2) of the Act is not required to be published before material that amends or replaces any material incorporated by reference has legal effect as part of those documents.

### 1.3 Acronyms and definitions

- (1) Acronyms and definitions are listed in Appendix 1.

### 1.4 General

- (1) All consignments of fresh produce imported for consumption into New Zealand must:
  - a) be free of soil and extraneous material;
  - b) be free from viable regulated pests based on official inspection;
  - c) be free from regulated weed seeds;
  - d) be packaged in clean and new material; and
  - e) be shipped in a secure manner to prevent contamination by regulated pests.
- (2) All consignments of fresh produce imported for consumption into New Zealand must meet the requirements of an IHS before receiving biosecurity clearance.
- (3) Consignments of fresh produce imported for consumption under this IHS must not be used for other purposes such as propagation.

#### Guidance

- The [Schedule of regulated \(quarantine\) weed seeds](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/7111) (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/7111>) can also be found on the MPI website.
- Further information can be found in Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) Guidance Document: *Fresh Produce for Consumption* by using this [link....](#)

### 1.5 Exporting country systems

- (1) Importers may only import from a country where the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) has provided evidence, to the satisfaction of an MPI Chief Technical Officer (CTO), of the national systems/programmes and standards used for export assurance in accordance with ISPM 7: *Phytosanitary Certification System*.

- (2) The national systems/programmes and standards are subject to audit by MPI.

**Guidance**

- Countries with exporting country systems recognised by MPI are listed on the MPI website: [TBC](#).

## 1.6 Export Plans

- (1) MPI and the exporting country NPPO must negotiate a country-specific Export Plan that demonstrates how *Targeted* and *MPI- Specified Measures* will be achieved before trade can commence.
- (2) The Export Plan must include detail of the activities that support the effective application of *Targeted* and *MPI- Specified Measures*. Supporting activities include product traceability, training, management of records, phytosanitary inspection, certification and phytosanitary security.
- (3) The negotiated and agreed Export Plan is subject to review and audit by MPI.

**Guidance**

- Commodities approved for export from recognised countries are listed on the MPI website: [TBC](#).
- An Export Plan is only necessary when *Targeted* or *MPI- Specified Measures* are required to manage the pests associated with the commodity.
- An Export Plan is not necessary when only *Basic Measures* are required to manage the pests associated with the commodity.

## 1.7 Permit to import

- (1) A permit to import is not required unless specified in Part 3: *Documentation Requirements*.

## 1.8 Transport requirements

- (1) If a consignment is either opened, stored, split up or has its packaging changed prior to when it arrives in New Zealand, a phytosanitary certificate for re-export is required from the transiting country, in accordance with ISPM 12: *Phytosanitary certificates*, and must accompany each consignment.

## Part 2: Specific requirements

### 2.1 Commodity description

- (1) Fresh onion for consumption is defined as commercially produced, harvested, cured *Allium cepa* bulbs with skin, minimal root material attached and pseudostem trimmed within 15 mm of the bulb, clean and free from soil.
- (2) This IHS applies only to cultivated types of *Allium cepa* from the “Common Onion Group” which are large and produced from seed.

#### Guidance

- Frozen, cooked, pickled, pureed or dried onion may be imported but are covered by MPI IHS BNZ.NPP.HUMAN: *Importation into New Zealand of stored plant products intended for human consumption*.

### 2.2 Pest list

- (1) A list of pests associated with fresh onions requiring *Basic*, *Targeted*, or *MPI-Specified Measures* is reproduced on the MPI website **TBC**.
- (2) The full list of regulated and non-regulated pests for New Zealand can be found in [BORIC](http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/biosecurity-organisms-register-for-imported-commodities/) <http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/biosecurity-organisms-register-for-imported-commodities/>.

#### Guidance

- If, during an official inspection, the verifying NPPO detects a pest that is not listed on [BORIC](#) MPI may be contacted to establish the regulatory status of the pest.

### 2.3 Basic Measures

- (1) Fresh onions must be sourced from production sites that use standard cultivation methods for commercial export-grade product; including pest-control, harvesting, sorting, cleaning, inspection and packaging.

#### Guidance

- *Basic Measures* are required to manage pests and other regulated organisms that present a risk to New Zealand on this pathway.

### 2.4 Targeted Measures

- (1) Appropriate measures must be applied for each pest identified in ePest as requiring *Targeted Measures*. One (or more) of the following *Targeted Measures* must be applied prior to export to New Zealand.
  - a) *Country freedom*. No additional measures or an Export Plan are required where ‘country freedom’ status is recognised for the exporting country.

**Guidance**

- Country freedom will be listed on the MPI website **TBC**.

- b) *Pest free area*. MPI will audit the management of pest free areas for compliance with ISPM 4: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas*.
  - c) *Pest free place of production*. MPI will audit the management of pest free place of production for compliance with ISPM 10: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites*.
  - d) *Systems Approach*. The components of a systems approach must be documented in the Export Plan and in accordance with ISPM 14: *The use of integrated measures in a systems approach for pest risk management*.
  - e) Pest control activities (in-field).
  - f) End-point treatment.
- (2) The *Targeted Measures* must be applied in addition to the *Basic Measures* used as part of commercial production.
- (3) An export plan must be negotiated that describes how measures will be applied to manage pests identified by MPI as requiring targeted measures.

**Guidance**

- *Targeted Measures* are required to manage pests that are not sufficiently managed by *Basic Measures*. *Targeted Measures* are subject to negotiation of an Export Plan.

## 2.5 MPI- Specified Measures

- (1) There are no pests associated with this commodity which require an *MPI- Specified Measure*.



## Part 3: Documentation Requirements

### 3.1 Phytosanitary inspection

- (1) The NPPO of the exporting country must:
  - a) sample and visually inspect each consignment according to official procedures in accordance with ISPM 23: *Guidelines for Inspection* for all the regulated pests required by New Zealand;
  - b) verify that the *Basic Measures*, *Targeted Measures* and *MPI-Specified Measures* have been applied as outlined in Part 2: *Specific Requirements* and as per the approved Export Plan;
  - c) reconcile that the number of packages presented for inspection is consistent with documentation;
  - d) verify that traceability labelling is complete; and
  - e) verify that phytosanitary security is maintained for the consignment.

### 3.2 Phytosanitary certification

- (1) The NPPO must issue and supply a phytosanitary certificate in accordance with ISPM 12: *Phytosanitary Certificates* to accompany each consignment of fresh onions exported to New Zealand.
- (2) The phytosanitary certificate must include the following declaration:
  - a) *"This is to certify that the plants, plant products or other regulated articles 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 New Zealand and conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of New Zealand, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests."*

#### Additional declarations

- (3) The NPPO must include the following additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate if applicable:
  - a) *"This consignment was produced and prepared for export in accordance with the agreed Export Plan."*

#### Guidance

- This additional declaration should be included when an Export Plan has been negotiated between MPI and NPPO of the exporting country and when *Targeted* and/or *MPI-Specified Measures* have been applied.

- (4) The NPPO must include the following additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate if applicable:
  - a) *"The plant products described herein have been sourced from a pest free area for specified pests as recognised by New Zealand."*

#### Guidance

- This additional declaration should be included when a commodity has been sourced from a pest free area.

- (5) The NPPO must include full details of any end point treatments listed in the export plan or section 2.5 of this IHS (if applicable), in the "Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment" area of the phytosanitary certificate or as an NPPO-endorsed attachment to the phytosanitary certificate;
  - a) all details of the treatment including duration and temperature, chemical (active ingredient) and concentration must be recorded.

- (6) When the consignment is treated in-transit, the NPPO must include "Treated in-transit" in the "Disinfestation and /or Disinfection Treatment" area of the phytosanitary certificate.
- (7) The phytosanitary certificate must contain sufficient detail to enable identification of the consignment and its component parts. Information must include country/place of origin and meet all requirements listed in Part 2: *Specific Requirements* and Part 3: *Documentation Requirements*.

**Guidance**

- A phytosanitary certificate should not be issued if viable regulated organism(s) are detected, unless an appropriate phytosanitary measure has been applied.
- Country/place of origin is defined as a country where the plants, from which the plant products are derived, were grown or, place of origin; where the commodity was grown or produced.

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## Appendix 1: Acronyms and definitions

Definitions have the same meaning as defined by the Act and ISPM 5: *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*, unless set out below:

### **BORIC**

Biosecurity Organisms Register for Imported Commodities: MPI database which informs on the quarantine status for an organism as either regulated or non-regulated for New Zealand. BORIC is available at <http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/biosecurity-organisms-register-for-imported-commodities/>.

### **Consignment**

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

### **Country / place of origin**

Country/place of origin is defined as country where the plants, from which the plant products are derived, were grown or place of origin; where the commodity was grown or produced.

### **ePest**

MPI electronic pest database of plant pests searchable by country and commodity.

### **IPPC**

International Plant Protection Convention.

### **ISPM**

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures. The list of ISPMs are available from: <https://www.ippc.int/en/core-activities/standards-setting/ispm/>.

### **NPPO**

National Plant Protection Organisation – the official organisation established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.

### **Non-regulated pest**

Non-regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would not be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected. These may include new organisms which could not establish in New Zealand.

### **Pathway**

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

### **Regulated Pest**

A quarantine pest or a regulated non-quarantine pest as set out in BORIC.

### **Viable**

Any organism that is capable of development and/or reproduction, including insects, plants, seeds and other organisms that have not been through a de-vitalisation or sterilisation treatment.

## Appendix 2: Amendment Record

The following table provides a summary of the last amendment to the IHS for Fresh Onions for Consumption.

Schedule	Details	Date

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