



Review of Submissions

Draft Facility Standard for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates

February 2016

Ministry for Primary Industries

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Regulation & Assurance

REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS

Facility Standard: Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates

2016

Approved for general release

Howard Pharo

Manager Import and Export Animals
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1 Introduction

The draft Facility Standard: *Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates* was notified for consultation on 22 July 2016. The consultation period closed on the 22nd September 2016.

The *standard* was previously put out for external consultation in 2015, but has since been updated to align with the amended MPI *Import Health Standard (IHS) for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates*.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) received submissions from the following:

Department of Conservation	02 December 2015
Department of Conservation	16 September 2016
Anastacia Kirk	19 September 2016
Alois Wolloner, Aquanet	15 January 2016
Alice Collins, The Big Fish Pet Supplies	22 September 2016
Warren Garrett, Brooklands	22 September 2016
Arnja Dale, SPCA	22 September 2016
Alex Fleming, Fishwise Ltd	20 September 2016
Adam Daniel, Fish & Game New Zealand	10 January 2017

This document summarises the issues raised in the submissions, and presents the MPI response to each.

1.1 Acronyms Used in the Document

MPI	Ministry for Primary Industries		
IRA	Import Risk Analysis		
DOC	Department of Conservation		
IHS	Import Health Standard		

2 Summary of Amendments

As a result of comments made, the following is a summary of amendments to be made to the facility standard for ornamental fish and marine invertebrates.

Part 3 clause 3.6.1(3) has been amended to state that it is a requirement for the scavenger snails to be euthanized if a disease outbreak occurs or is suspected.

Part 3 clause 3.1(4)(ii) has been amended to reference the IHS: *Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates* specifically.

Part 3 clause 3.2(3) has been amended to state that the operator must provide access to the transitional facility when required.

Part 3 clause 3.3.2(2) has been amended to 'within 5 days'.

Part 3 clause 3.6(10) has been amended to state that testing for specified risk organisms must take place not less than 2 weeks after the last fish was introduced to the batch.

Part 3 clause 3.11(1) has been amended to state that the operator must carry out internal audits and quality assurance system reviews a least once every 12 months.

Schedule 2 definitions- the definition for CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora was added.

Part 3 clause 3.3.1 'requirements for imported water' was added to the standard.

Copies of all external stakeholder submissions in their entirety are presented in Appendix 1.

2.1 Other amendments

The following changes have been made to the documents. These changes are the result of MPI's own further considerations of the documents:

- General editing to formatting
- Minor rewording for clarity of requirements.
- Part 3 clause 3.5 additional requirements on what records must be kept.

2.2 Late submission amendment

As a result of a late submission by Fish & Game, the following amendment was made to the facility standard for ornamental fish and marine invertebrates:

Part 3 clause 3.3.1 has been amended to add requirements for imported water.

3 Review of Submissions

3.1 Verity Forbes, Department of Conservation (2015)

3.1.1 Scavenger snails

The standard requires that the facility must not be used for any purposes other than the quarantine of imported ornamental fish except that scavenger fish and snails may be kept in the tanks for hygiene purposes. The department of conservation (DOC) suggested that the scavenger snails, kept in the fish tanks for hygiene purposes, require better prescriptive parameters.

MPI Response

MPI acknowledges DOC's comments and agrees to amend the standard so that it is a requirement for the scavenger snails to be euthanized if a disease outbreak occurs or is suspected.

'In the event of a positive test result for an exotic disease, or when the operator chooses not to have fish or marine invertebrates tested:

- a) All ornamental fish and marine invertebrates (including scavenger fish and snails) directed by the Inspector must be destroyed.
- b) All dead ornamental fish or marine invertebrates (including scavenger fish and snails) must be double bagged and removed from the facility by the Inspector for disposal.'

3.1.2 Reference of the Import health standard

DOC noted that Part 3 clause 3.1(4)(ii) refers to 'any relevant import health standard' and suggests that the clause should specifically refer to the '*Import Health Standard for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates*.'

MPI Response

MPI agrees with the DOC's comment and will amend the facility standard accordingly.

3.1.3 Identification of fish and marine invertebrates

DOC noted that they are pleased to see that Part 3 clause 3.3.2 requires identification of fish and marine invertebrates.

MPI Response

MPI acknowledges DOC's comment, no changes are needed.

3.1.4 Hygiene

DOC noted that for the hygiene substance mix described in Part 3 clause 3.3.4(3) it would be useful to state a time on how long the clothes should be soaked.

MPI Response

MPI acknowledges DOC's suggestion. However, the exact time that the clothes should be soaked will be determined by the inspector on a case by case basis and does not need to be specified in the standard.

3.1.5 Hygiene

DOC suggested to have all 'other MPI approved' disinfection methods listed for Part 3 clause 3.8(3)c).

MPI Response

MPI acknowledges DOC's suggestion. However currently no other disinfection methods are approved by MPI and 2.8(3) a) or b) should be used. 3.8(3) c) allows for future treatments to be assessed, based on scientific justification. Any future approved disinfection methods must be listed in the operating manual.

3.1.6 Presence of non-approved ornamental fish and marine invertebrates

DOC suggested correction of the wording for Part 3 Guidance Biosecurity Clearance. Furthermore DOC proposed that more emphasis should be given to c) correlating commercial fish list documents with the number and species of ornamental fish and marine invertebrates and d) checking for the presence of non-approved ornamental fish and marine invertebrate species on arrival of the animals.

MPI Response

Noted, MPI has amended the wording accordingly. In regards to giving more emphasis to the above two points, both are requirements of the facility standard, and therefore do not require further emphasis. Additionally, Part 3 clause 3.3.2 states that if an imported ornamental fish or marine invertebrate is not on the approved species list set out in Schedule 4 of the IHS: *Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates* then the operator must notify the Inspector within 5 days of importation. The operator must re-export the fish and marine invertebrates or have them destroyed under the supervision of the Inspector.

3.2 Anastacia Kirk, Department of Conservation (2016)

3.2.1 Biosecurity clearance and record keeping

DOC suggested alternative wording for Part 3 Guidance Biosecurity Clearance and for Part 3 clause 3.5 Record Keeping.

Part 3 Guidance Biosecurity Clearance:

- i) Add collect original CITES documentation and ensure permit matches specimens presented; if not seize under TIES Act 1989.
- ii) Add forward original CITES documentation to Department of Conservation CITES Officer.

Part 3 clause 3.5

- iii) Add CITES export or re-export permit number (aligns with requirements for recording CITES specimens in MPI's databases such as QUANMAIL)

MPI Response

Noted. This is an operational requirement and has been forwarded to MPI Verification Services (VS) to be considered as an inclusion to their operational processes.

3.2.2 Schedule 2 – Definitions

Add CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

MPI Response

Noted. The standard has been amended accordingly.

3.3 Alois Wolloner, Aquanet

3.3.1 Signage

Part 2 clause 2.3 states that 'a transitional facility must have prominent signs at all entrances and areas within the building which are designated as a transitional facility under the Act. Signs must warn that the entry is restricted to persons permitted by the operator'.

Aquanet believes that this signage is a risk to the operator as it may attract opportunistic burglars and deter visitors. Furthermore Aquanet would like to keep its location at a 'low profile' and only share its address when required.

Aquanet proposes that signage is displayed inside the facility, i.e. on the door of the room where the fish are kept rather than outside the building.

MPI response

MPI is unable to amend this requirement. The proposal was not supported by MPI's Verification Services (VS) staff.

3.3.2 Record keeping

Part 3 section 3.5 (c) and (h) require that the operator must, for auditing purposes, maintain for at least three years the following records filed with each shipment:

- the number of each ornamental fish and marine invertebrate species, in total, and by tank.
- the details of ornamental fish and marine invertebrates mortality by tank.

Aquanet proposes that fish in small numbers may be listed as an overall total rather than a total for each tank. Aquanet further suggests that in case of fish mortalities the tank in which the fish died is recorded but not the percentage that died in each tank as this is too time consuming and adds no value. Aquanet believes that MPI will have more than enough information if the importer solely lists the total number of fish arrived and the total mortality rate for each species.

Part 3 section 3.5(i) requires records of the water quality parameters.

Aquanet suggests that the phrase 'if required' be added the requirement as the standard implies that it is compulsory to test water for every shipment which Aquanet believes is impractical.

MPI response

In reference to 3.5(c) and (h) MPI acknowledges Aquanet's comment, but will not amend the standard. How the data are recorded to meet the standard must be agreed with the facility inspector.

Part 3 section 3.5(i) of the facility standard only relates to where the standard requires that tests are done, and records for these tests are kept. It does not require that the importer must test the water for all water quality parameters.

3.3.3 Minimum requirement for inspection

Part 3 Guidance Biosecurity Clearance states that the inspector shall have a schedule for regular inspection of the facility and audit of the operator's procedure. The inspector shall make as many visits as considered necessary but the minimum number of visits is:

- a) For high risk fresh water fish , three times during quarantine period;
 - i) On arrival. This may be performed up to 24 hours following arrival, at the discretion of the inspector.

Aquanet proposes that random inspections are conducted by MPI for low risk shipments.

Furthermore Aquanet suggests that importers with a good compliance history should be subjected to fewer inspections. Aquanet also proposes that boxes containing consignments fish and marine invertebrates do not need to be sealed with a tamper-evident MAF tape on arrival.

MPI response:

Both issues were discussed previously at the fish stakeholder meeting held in Auckland on 23 April 2015. MPI's risk team and VS veterinarians concluded that both suggestions would significantly increase biosecurity risks. MPI will not amend the facility standard.

3.3.4 Internal audit and quality assurance system review

Part 3 clause 3.11 (1) requires that the operator must carry out an internal audit and quality assurance systems review at least once every six months. The internal audit and quality assurance system review report must be kept as a record.

Aquanet suggests that internal audits by the operator are done annually (not every 6 months). The internal audit however, must be done 6 months prior to the annual MPI external audit.

MPI response:

The clause has been amended to state that the operator must carry out internal audits and quality assurance system reviews a least once every 12 months.

3.3.5 External MPI audit

Section 3 Guidance 3.12 states that the Inspector will conduct inspections and on-site audits as specified in clause 3.12. Additional audits will be conducted as required, and are based on the performance of the operator, especially if non-compliance is found.

Transitional facilities are assessed by the MPI Inspector to ensure the transitional facility's approval and operator's approval, and any other regulatory requirements in relation to the animals are being complied with. Part of the inspection is ensuring that the provisions in the operating manual are being complied with because those provisions have been approved by MPI as meeting the requirements of this standard.

The transitional facility will be inspected at least annually by the MPI Inspector. MPI reserves the right to inspect at any time and inspections may be unscheduled.

Aquanet noted that this is contradictory to Part 3 clause 3.2(3) of the standard where the operator must provide access to the transitional facility for the inspector at any reasonable time or at any other time when provided with 24 hours' notice.

MPI response:

MPI acknowledges Aquanet's comment and will amend Part 3 clause 3.2(3) of the standard to state that the operator must provide access to the transitional facility when required.

3.4 Alice Collins, The Big Fish Pet Supplies

3.4.1 Comment on the Facility Standard

On behalf of myself and The Big Fish Pet Supplies we support the draft facility standard for ornamental fish and marine invertebrates. These changes will help with the future of the fish industry in New Zealand

MPI Response

MPI acknowledges Alice Collins's support for the facility standard.

3.5 Warren Garrett, Brooklands

3.5.1 Identification of ornamental fish and marine invertebrates

If an imported ornamental fish or marine invertebrate is not on the approved species list set out in Schedule 4 of the current IHS: Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates then the operator must notify the Inspector within 2 days of importation. The operator must re-export the fish and/or marine invertebrates or have them destroyed under the supervision of the Inspector.

To advise the Inspector within 2 days of arrival re any species not on the approved species list is not practical for the importer. If an import arrives on a Friday this would mean the Inspector must be notified by Sunday, which may not always be a viable option due to operational factors (for example senior staff may not be rostered on the given weekend). It is important that accurate identification is carried out which may require consultation with experienced staff members, overseas suppliers and/or other resources. This could mean consulting with overseas suppliers and given differing time zones we may not have a response within 2 days. The animals in question are subject to 3-4 weeks quarantine anyway so reducing this time-frame for notification will not mitigate the risk.

The current standard allows 7 days in this situation and we think that 5 working days is fair therefore we would suggest: the operator must notify the Inspector within 5 working days of importation.

MPI response

Noted. MPI will amend the standard accordingly.

3.5.2 Occurrence of an exotic disease

In the event of a positive test result for an exotic disease, or when the operator chooses not to have fish or marine invertebrates tested:

b) All dead ornamental fish or marine invertebrates (including scavenger fish and snails) must be double bagged and removed from the facility by the Inspector for disposal.

This requirement states that the Inspector must physically remove the fish from the facility and then arrange for disposal. This is not workable as our inspector does not have access to incineration or other means of approved disposal for dead fish. MPI are aware that this statement is impractical as we discussed this during our recent external audit and this matter needs to be discussed at a higher level to find a workable solution.

MPI response:

MPI is open to considering review of this procedure if given a detailed alternative proposal.

3.5.3 Minimum requirements for inspection

Within 48 hours of arrival, weekly and prior to the last Inspector visit, the operator must forward records of fish mortality and any necessary evidence (see 3.6.4) required by the Inspector such as clinical signs, treatments and water parameters.

It is impractical to provide a full report on fish mortalities within 48 hours of arrival. First and foremost our priority during the first 48 hours after arrival should be in settling in the shipment and taking care of the fish. The inspector will see any abnormal mortalities during the arrival inspection and included in our arrival responsibility it is to report to MPI. Anyway I am sure that the MPI inspector will not be interested in this information outside of normal office hours unless it is a significant event.

We do not employ staff solely for the purpose of reporting to MPI and post arrival is a busy time ensuring that all necessary care is taken in looking after the livestock. This new proposal would mean that mortality reports for freshwater imports would have to be submitted 4-times during the 28 day quarantine period. This would be very time consuming for the operator and one would have to ask if MPI Inspectors have the time to analyse this data on a such a frequent basis. If there are any higher mortalities than usual or signs of significant the operator should of course advise the inspector. This would be more useful than asking us to send through loads of data which is most likely not going to be utilized. If the operator fails to advise of MPI of any abnormal mortalities then it is understood that the shipment release might be delayed.

We keep a running tally of all losses and this information is freely available at any time should MPI require it. Currently our MPI Inspector is satisfied with our reporting system therefore we see no need to change this system. The current standard only requires the operator to supply this report to MPI prior to the last visit. We would suggest that a report mid quarantine and again prior to the last inspector visit would be more practical, with an understanding that more regular reporting may be required under unusual circumstances or in the event of non-compliance..

MPI response:

MPI is unable to amend this requirement. The proposal was not supported by MPI's Verification Services (VS) staff.

3.5.4 Internal audit and quality assurance system review

One needs to remember that we are dealing with tropical fish importers who are operating small businesses with limited resources. This section appears to be taken from another standard from outside of our industry. For example frequent internal audits might be a requirement for an operator such as a food processing plant. They will of course require a more regular internal audit program and generally have staff appointed solely for such compliance matters and

managing quality standards. We simply don't have the resources maintain such a stringent audit program as is outlined in the proposed standard and don't see the need for it in our industry.

The current standard requirement is for a 6 monthly internal audit and a 12 monthly review of the quality system. Our latest external audit and calibration review have found that our monthly checklists and scheduling for regular audits has proved entirely satisfactory. The frequency of internal checks and whether they are monthly, 6 monthly or 12 monthly will be determined by the size of the operation and the number of imports per annum. The proposed standard is asking for a lot more detailed internal audit process, which is far beyond the capability of small business owners.

Currently internal audits are reviewed annually by the Inspector as part of the annual external audit process. We do not see the need for all review findings to be sent to the Inspector within 5 days of being completed along with a comprehensive written report. Again this is creating more workload and paperwork for all parties which we don't see as being beneficial to our business.

What risks have been identified in the past in order to change the audit process and what benefits are achieved through these new requirements? There is no point in creating additional workload and paperwork for no good reason, unless it really is going to have a positive impact on the industry.

We think that a full internal audit and quality assurance system should be required at least once every 12 months. The scope of this audit needs to be moderated, as you need to keep in mind the nature of the industry you are working with.

MPI Response

MPI understands fully the nature of the industry, and considers that the audit process is appropriate and in line with other transitional facility standards.

In regards to internal audits being conducted every 12 months see clause 3.3.4 above. Part 3 clause 3.11(1) has been amended to state that the operator must carry out internal audits and quality assurance system reviews a least once every 12 months.

3.6 Arnja Dale, SPCA

MPI Response

See review of submission for the *Import Health Standard for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates*.

3.7 Alex Fleming, Fishwise Ltd

3.7.1 Decrease of Visits for On-Shore Quarantine (3.11.1 (1))

Provided that enforcement of current rules remains effective, we are in full support of decreasing the number of visits from MPI for On-Shore Quarantine, as this reduces costs for local import facilities and allows for healthy competition with PEI importers.

MPI Response

Noted.

4 Late submission

4.1 Adam Daniel, Fish and Game

4.7.1 Imported water

Fish and Game are concerned that there are no sufficient measures in the standard to prevent entry and spread of zooplankton in imported water, ie in the water that the fish arrive in.

I had a look at the documentation today and I have some serious concerns about hitchhiker species you may be able to address. The aquarium trade has been identified as a major threat for invasive zooplankton (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-010-9768-x>) and I do not see specific safeguards within this document to prevent the entry of any microscopic hitchhikers. Can you clarify how this plan will protect New Zealand against invasive species such as those described in the attached paper. I would also like to know if the plan was reviewed by an experts that have experience with microscopic invaders such as zooplankton or phytoplankton?

MPI Response

MPI acknowledges Fish and Game's submission, and agrees that all imported water should be treated or disposed of. On discussion with the submitter, and with current TF operators, it was agreed to address this concern by requiring all water to be put through a water treatment (e.g. UV filter) prior to release OR that no water is introduced into the transitional facility (i.e. imported water is disposed of on arrival). The following clause was added to the facility standard:

Imported water

- (1) All imported water arriving with consignments of ornamental fish and marine invertebrates must be disposed of on arrival as per the waste water clause 3.4; or
- (2) The imported water can be added to the transitional facility tank with the imported fish where:
 - i) The water system includes filtration (ultraviolet light irradiation treatment) as per clause 3.4.3; or
 - ii) The tank is an isolated water system and is subjected to a water treatment in accordance with *MPI Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards (MPI-STDTVTL)*.

5 Appendix 1: Copies of Submissions

5.1 Verity Forbes, Department of Conservation (2015)

From: Verity Forbes [<mailto:vforbes@doc.govt.nz>]

Sent: Wednesday, 23 December 2015 12:03 p.m.

To: Animal Imports <Animal.Imports@mpi.govt.nz>

Cc: Natasha Grainger <ngrainger@doc.govt.nz>; Kristina Hillock <khillock@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Consultation: Draft facility standard for ornamental fish and marine invertebrates

Dear Animal Imports Team

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Facility Standard for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates for holding un-cleared ornamental fish and marine invertebrate species. We understand the Standard seeks to mitigate introducing pests and unwanted organisms into NZ that may be vectored via ornamental fish and marine invertebrate species permitted for import under the Import Health Standard for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates from All Countries. The Department's comments follow:

- Section 2.2 (7)(b) – we note scavenger snails may be kept in the tanks for hygiene purposes. To our knowledge the IHS does not cover snail species. Given some of Ian Duggan's work (attached) we think this is an area that needs better prescriptive parameters.
- Section 3.1(2)(ii) – it would increase usability if the relevant IHS and standards were referenced here. To our knowledge there is only one linking IHS - IHS: Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates from All Countries.
- Section 3.3.2 - we are pleased to see a section included that obligates an operator to identify imported ornamental fish and marine invertebrates. One of the Department's Freshwater Technical Advisors considers misidentification to be the key significant pathway risk for New Zealand and cites an example of importers deliberately mis-naming fish.
- Section 3.3.4(3) – the hygiene substance mix is described for contaminated clothing in this section, but it would be useful to prescribe a time for how long the clothes should be soaked for to ensure efficacy.
- Section 3.8(2)(c) – methods to clean equipment and fish tanks are prescribed in a) and b) which is appropriate; however, c) only refers to 'other approved disinfection methods' which we consider vague. It would be useful to reference all MPI approved disinfection methods.
- Section 3.11.1.1.(3) – the tense is wrong – needs clarity. We consider points (c) and (d) are really important; and more emphasis needs to be given to (d) (particularly) throughout the document given the presence of non-approved ornamental fish and/or marine invertebrate species is a key biosecurity risk.

Kind regards,

Verity Forbes

Technical Advisor - Biosecurity Threats (National) *Kai-mātanga Matua, Koiora Mōrearea*

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

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Contributor: Natasha Grainger, Technical Advisor – Freshwater, Science & Policy

5.2 Anastacia Kirk, Department of Conservation

From: Anastacia Kirk

Sent: Monday, 19 September 2016 11:30 a.m.

To: Verity Forbes <vforbes@doc.govt.nz>; Natasha Grainger <ngrainger@doc.govt.nz>; Kristina Hillock <khillock@doc.govt.nz>; Anna Paltridge <apaltridge@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Rosemary Miller <rmiller@doc.govt.nz>; Darryl Lew <dlew@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: DOC comments on MPI's Import Health Standard for Ornamental fish and marine invertebrates; deadline 22 Sept

Dear Verity

Although MPI don't include detailed CITES instructions in Import Health Standards, I have included a couple of additional entries would of great assistance to us at the time of border inspection and post-clearance:

3.11.1.1 Minimum requirements for inspection

3) a) Collect **original** CITES documentation **and ensure permit matches specimens presented; if not seize under TIES Act 1989**

5) **add b) Forward original CITES documentation to Department of Conservation CITES Officer**

Also 3.5 Record Keeping

3) **add g) CITES export or re-export permit number** (aligns with requirements for recording CITES specimens in MPI's databases such as QUANMAIL)

Schedule 2 – Definitions

Add CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

With best wishes

Anastacia

Anastacia Kirk

Senior CITES Officer

National Compliance Team

Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*

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5.3 Alois Wolloner, Aquanet

From: ALOIS [<mailto:alois@aquanet.nz>]

Sent: Friday, 15 January 2016 3:03 p.m.

To: Animal Imports <Animal.Imports@mpi.govt.nz>

Subject: Ornamental FISH SUBMISSION

Hi

Please find my Submission for Ornamental Fish,

I do apologize that it is late, I have been on Holiday and only just found out that it was due a few days ago,

Could you please submit it for consideration.

Regards
Alois Wolloner

15/1/2016
ALOIS WOLLONER 215 FOREST HILL RD
HENDERSON
AUCKLAND
EMAIL: alois@aqua.net.nz

To whom it may concern,
Please find my submission for Ornamental fish and Marine invertebrates,

2.3 Signage

(1) A transitional facility must have prominent signs at all entrances and areas within the building which are designated as a transitional facility under the Act. Signs must warn that entry is restricted to persons permitted by the operator.

Whilst signage is important to warn persons of QT facility, it can also be a risk to the operator.

For big ornamental facility it would not be a issue to have signage displayed , but for small sole traders who have facilities in residential area is poses as a risk as it will alert opportunistic burglars to the facility and also any visitors will always questions what the sign means.

As a sole operator I like to keep my facility at a low profile and only share what is at the location to whom it is required. The entrance is locked and no access can be gained without my approval.

PROPOSAL

Propose that signs need to be inside for small quarantine facilities leading to the entrance for the actual quarantine, but dispense with a sign displayed outside the facility due to the security risk of having a big sign at the front door which will cause any visitor or untrustworthy person to wonder what is in side.

3.5 Record keeping

Draft Says

b) Number of each ornamental fish and marine invertebrate species, in total, and by tank.

d) Details of ornamental fish and marine invertebrate mortality by tank.

Whilst there could be value in recording species by tank if in large numbers, The time it takes to provide what is in each tank is very time consuming.

For marine fish importers we import very few fish species in large number and most cannot be housed in the same tank as they fight and most of the time there is only one or two species of the same fish in a tank, .

The time and cost to do this is extreme and found there is not value to the importer and MPI vets.

Suggestion.

Can we look at fish in small numbers be listed together as one total on the spread sheet, this makes recording fast and simpler. There is no risk and it's the operators' responsibility to locate which tank the fish is in. spreadsheets will record total deaths by tank.

For example importer could bring in say 20 fish of one species, these fish cannot be put in the same tank like freshwater, so you end up having 20 fish in 20 different tanks, so as mentioned to record this takes many hours, verses having one total showing 20 fish, arrived and the percentage lost during QT.

When fish die it is recorded in what tank it died in so there is a record but to record the percentage that died in each tank is again so time consuming and adds no value.

Feel that Vets& Biosecurity will have more than enough information if a an importer lists total fish arrived and total deaths for each species,

e) Details of water quality parameters. (if required)

Suggest that the word (if required) is added, as there is hundreds of tests a importer can do and making importers record water tests is again no value add to the operator or MPI.

The draft implies that it is compulsory to test water for every shipment which is impractical.

3.11.1.1 Minimum requirements for inspection

(1) The Inspector shall have a schedule for regular inspection of the facility and audit of operator's procedures.

The Inspector shall make as many visits as considered necessary but the minimum number of visits is:

a) For high risk fresh water fish, three times during the quarantine period:

i) On arrival (immediately or within 48 hours on a percentage of shipments basis);

SUGGEST

Whilst fish can be checked 48 after arrival, there is a major delay at MPI at the airport when fish arrive, MPI staff at the airport need to tape all the boxes which adds no value to MPI and the operator as mentioned it takes many man hours before the boxes are taped due to the limited staff available.

I assumed that the boxes are taped so that no operator can open the box and do something before the inspector arrives, however it is contradictory as how can an inspector check the box tape if the fish are in the tanks after 48 hours. (the standard allows for importers to unload fish into the tanks before the operator arrived.)

At the end of the day any untrustworthy operator can gain access to the boxes if they really wanted to the tape itself is not 100% tamper proof.

Would like to propose that the taping of boxes is not required at the airport for Ornamental fish as operators have a permit to import.

This would save many hours and costs for MPI/operator and airlines. So much time is wasted and delays caused due the taping of the boxes.

Also the delays are causing extra fish mortalities and is causing harm to the animals. When fish arrive it is paramount that they get moved from the airport and to the facility at an urgent time frame.

Yes it has been promised that things will speed up, however this will never happen in my time as a importers have complained about it, but it never gets rectified.

We only have a very few fish operators in the country and they are all known to MPI which reduces the risk of someone tampering with the boxes. Also the time the fish arrive and the time they are checked at the operators' facility will be far quicker.

There are many other procedure in place already that would mitigate the requirement to tape each box, its already in the standard that MPI can do random and announced visits to a facility which would no doubt catch a untrustworthy operator out.

I believe that all other shipping container facilities don't all get checked at every shipment by MPI and not every box in the container is taped, so like all other shipping/car container facilities, fish importers would like the same latitude that fish boxes are not taped at the airport given the low risk and you are dealing with the same operators each month who have a licence to import.

3.11.1.1 Minimum requirements for inspection

Due to the cost involved with checked ornamental fish and the time, it is proposed that MPI balance this out and look at doing random inspections on low risk shipments on arrival.

Currently the draft suggest that inspections can be 48 hours after arrival.

Would like MPI to take this a step further and give importers with good history more latitude to have not all low risk fish arrival shipments checked, and for this to be done randomly.

Fish can be checked on release.

This would save importers costs to not have all arrival shipments checked on low risk fish on arrival.

The risk is very low with established importers and shipping containers / cars etc do have far more latitude, so it would be practical to reward established importers with some latitude to not check every arrival shipment.

However should an importer fail an audit or received a major CAR then they should be checked for every shipment.

I appreciate that there is a risk when importing, however as mentioned Ornamental fish importers are faced with passing extra cost to the retailers due to the 105% increase in the hourly rate, so to help with the huge cost being passed on a reduced checking time would help curb some of the costs

Consideration would be appreciated.

3.12 Internal audit and quality assurance system review

(1) The operator must carry out an internal audit and quality assurance systems review at least once every six months. The internal audit and quality assurance systems review report must be kept as a record.

The operator must document all audit and review findings in a written report and provide the report to the Inspector within five days of being completed.

SUGGEST

A sole operator are doing their own audits which is really pointless

Most importers are only doing 7 or 8 shipments a year and MPI is at your facility basically every month, so in itself it's an audit when fish and documents are checked.

We pay many thousands of dollars each shipment for MPI to check the fish and the documentation and procedure when they come to the Facility each month.

It would be more practical if an internal audit by the operator is done on a yearly basis, but is done 6 months prior to the yearly MPI EXTERNAL AUDIT, this way an audit is done 6 monthly anyway, one by the operator and one by MPI.

Many times I have had an external audit done and then my internal audit is due a month after my external audit was completed by MPI which is really pointless when I have just had an external audit.

If an operator choses to do more audits that's fine and will likely be the case with large importers as they have many different staff, however a sole trader only generally has himself so there is no value in him doing his own audit every 6 months .

There is cost involved with an importer doing an audit and having to provide the audit to the inspector within 5 days.

Whilst this might be a MPI standard to have facilities do 6 monthly audits , Ornamental fish operators are already micro managed monthly so by having a yearly internal audit it will not increase the risk.

DRAFT SAYS

Guidance 3.13

The Inspector will conduct inspections and on-site audits as specified in section 3.14. Additional audits will be conducted as required, and are based on the performance of the operator, especially if non-compliance is found.

Transitional facilities are assessed by the MPI Inspector to ensure the transitional facility's approval and operator's approval, and any other regulatory requirements in relation to the animals are being complied with.

Part of the inspection is ensuring that the provisions in the operating manual are being complied with because those provisions have been approved by MPI as meeting the requirements of this standard.

The transitional facility will be inspected at least annually by the MPI Inspector. MPI reserves the right to inspect at any time and inspections may be unscheduled.

SUGGEST

This is contradictory as it is mentioned in section 3.2 that MPI will provide 24 hours notice.

3.2 Transitional facility access and security

4) The operator must provide access to the transitional facility for the MPI Inspector at any reasonable time or at any other time when provided with 24 hours' notice

Given that operators have very little latitude to manage their Business section 3.2 would be appropriate with 24 hours' notice or it operators are given more latitude to manage their business then with no notice would be reasonable. As suggested in **3.11.1.1 Minimum requirements for inspection**

5.4 Alice Collins, The Big Fish Pet Supplies

From: The Big F [<mailto:thebigf2016@gmail.com>]

Sent: Thursday, 22 September 2016 3:02 p.m.

To: Animal Imports <Animal.Imports@mpi.govt.nz>

Subject: Draft facility standard for ornamental fish and marine invertebrates

Hi My Name is Alice Collins, Director of The Big Fish Pet Supplies (the big f limited)

Address is 19 fairbank road Rotorua, 0278432443

On behalf of myself and The Big Fish Pet Supplies we support the draft facility standard for ornamental fish and marine invertebrates. These changes will help with the future of the fish industry in new zealand.

Thank you for taking our opinion into consideration.

Alice Collins, The Big Fish Pet Supplies

5.5 Warren Garrett, Brooklands

From: Warren Garrett [<mailto:Warren@brooklands.co.nz>]

Sent: Thursday, 22 September 2016 5:00 p.m.

To: Animal Imports <Animal.Imports@mpi.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Stakeholder Notification of Draft - MPI-STD-ORNAMARI

To Whom it may concern

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Facility Standard for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates (MPI-STD-ORNAMARI).

3.3.2 Identification of ornamental fish and marine invertebrates

(2) If an imported ornamental fish or marine invertebrate is not on the approved species list set out in Schedule 4 of the current IHS: Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates then the operator must notify the Inspector within 2 days of importation. The operator must re-export the fish and/or marine invertebrates or have them destroyed under the supervision of the Inspector.

To advise the Inspector within 2 days of arrival re any species not on the approved species list is not practical for the importer. If an import arrives on a Friday this would mean the Inspector must be notified by Sunday, which may not always be a viable option due to operational factors (for example senior staff may not be rostered on the given weekend). It is important that accurate identification is carried out which may require consultation with experienced staff members, overseas suppliers and/or other resources. This could mean consulting with overseas suppliers and given differing time zones we may not have a response within 2 days. The animals in question are subject to 3-4 weeks quarantine anyway so reducing this time-frame for notification will not mitigate the risk.

The current standard allows 7 days in this situation and we think that 5 working days is fair therefore we would suggest:

.....*the operator must notify the Inspector within **5 working days** of importation.*

3.6.1 Occurrence of an exotic disease

(3) In the event of a positive test result for an exotic disease, or when the operator chooses not to have fish or marine invertebrates tested:

b) All dead ornamental fish or marine invertebrates (including scavenger fish and snails) must be double bagged and removed from the facility by the Inspector for disposal.

This requirement states that the Inspector must physically remove the fish from the facility and then arrange for disposal. This is not workable as our inspector does not have access to incineration or other means of approved disposal for dead fish. MPI are aware that this statement is impractical as we discussed this during our recent external audit and this matter needs to be discussed at a higher level to find a workable solution.

3.11.1 Minimum requirements for inspection

(2) Within 48 hours of arrival, weekly and prior to the last Inspector visit, the operator must forward records of fish mortality and any necessary evidence (see 3.6.4) required by the Inspector such as clinical signs, treatments and water parameters.

It is impractical to provide a full report on fish mortalities within 48 hours of arrival. First and foremost our priority during the first 48 hours after arrival should be in settling in the shipment and taking care of the fish. The inspector will see any abnormal mortalities during the arrival inspection and included in our arrival responsibility it is to report to MPI. Anyway I am sure that the MPI inspector will not be interested in this information outside of normal office hours unless it is a significant event.

We do not employ staff solely for the purpose of reporting to MPI and post arrival is a busy time ensuring that all necessary care is taken in looking after the livestock. This new proposal would mean that mortality reports for freshwater imports would have to be submitted 4-times during the 28 day quarantine period. This would be very time consuming for the operator and one would have to ask if MPI Inspectors have the time to analyse this data on a such a frequent basis. If there are any higher mortalities than usual or signs of significant the operator should of course advise the inspector. This would be more useful than asking us to send through loads of data which is most likely not going to be utilized. If the operator fails to advise of MPI of any abnormal mortalities then it is understood that the shipment release might be delayed.

We keep a running tally of all losses and this information is freely available at any time should MPI require it. Currently our MPI Inspector is satisfied with our reporting system therefore we see no need to change this system. The current standard only requires the operator to supply this report to MPI prior to the last visit. We would suggest that a report mid quarantine and again prior to the last inspector visit would be more practical, with an understanding that more regular reporting may be required under unusual circumstances or in the event of non-compliance..

3.12 Internal audit and quality assurance system review

One needs to remember that we are dealing with tropical fish importers who are operating small businesses with limited resources. This section appears to be taken from another standard from outside of our industry. For example frequent internal audits might be a requirement for an operator such as a food processing plant. They will of course require a more regular internal audit program and generally have staff appointed solely for such compliance matters and managing quality standards. We simply don't have the resources maintain such a stringent audit program as is outlined in the proposed standard and don't see the need for it in our industry.

The current standard requirement is for a 6 monthly internal audit and a 12 monthly review of the quality system. Our latest external audit and calibration review have found that our monthly checklists and scheduling for regular audits has proved entirely satisfactory. The frequency of internal checks and whether they are monthly, 6 monthly or 12 monthly will be determined by the size of the operation and the number of imports per annum. The proposed standard is asking for a lot more detailed internal audit process, which is far beyond the capability of small business owners.

Currently internal audits are reviewed annually by the Inspector as part of the annual external audit process. We do not see the need for all review findings to be sent to the Inspector within 5 days of being completed along with a comprehensive written report. Again this is creating more workload and paperwork for all parties which we don't see as being beneficial to our business.

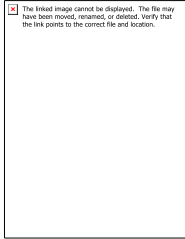
What risks have been identified in the past in order to change the audit process and what benefits are achieved through these new requirements? There is no point in creating additional workload and paperwork for no good reason, unless it really is going to have a positive impact on the industry.

We think that a full internal audit and quality assurance system should be required at least once every 12 months. The scope of this audit needs to be moderated, as you need to keep in mind the nature of the industry you are working with.

Please let me know if there is anything further that we can assist with in this review.

Regards

Warren Garrett
Director



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5.6 Arnja Dale, SPCA

[click on image to see full submission]



SUBMISSION

BY THE

**Royal New Zealand Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc.**

ON THE

**Proposed Import Health Standard (IHS) for
ornamental fish and marine invertebrates**

and the

**Proposed Transitional Facility Standard for
ornamental fish and marine invertebrates**

Public Draft dated 22nd September 2016

5.7 Alex Fleming, Fishwise Ltd

From: Alex Fleming [<mailto:info@fishwise.co.nz>]

Sent: Tuesday, 20 September 2016 2:36 p.m.

To: Animal Imports <Animal.Imports@mpi.govt.nz>

Subject: Submission: Import Health Standard: Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates

Dear MPI,

My name is Alex Fleming and I represent Fishwise Ltd, which is a distributor for aquarium products and aims at developing education for the Fishkeeping industry. We specialize in Freshwater fish, and therefore are unable to comment on Marine-specific changes. We have not previously made any submissions to MPI in regards to draft standards, so I apologise if this is poorly structured in regards to how submissions are typically made.

This submission relies on our previous correspondence and the answers from MPI being accurate, as they strongly influence our views on the draft standard. We have previously corresponded around topics including: Clarifying Quarantine types, the countries involved in Off-Shore Quarantine, the allowance of both On-Shore and Off-Shore Quarantine, and miscellaneous subjects such as diseases and prophylactic medications.

Decrease of Visits for On-Shore Quarantine (3.11.1 (1), Facility Standards for Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrates)

Provided that enforcement of current rules remains effective, we are in full support of decreasing the number of visits from MPI for On-Shore Quarantine, as this reduces costs for local import facilities and allows for healthy competition with PEI importers.

5.8 Adam Daniel , Fish & Game New Zealand

From: Adam Daniel [<mailto:>]

Sent: Wednesday, 11 January 2017 11:12 a.m.

To: Animal Imports <Animal.Imports@mpi.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Importing ornamental fish and marine invertebrates – draft IHS and draft facility standard

Vicki

I had a look at the documentation today and I have some serious concerns about hitchhiker species you may be able to address. The aquarium trade has been identified as a major threat for invasive zooplankton (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-010-9768-x>) and I do not see specific safeguards within this document to prevent the entry of any microscopic hitchhikers. Can you clarify how this plan will protect New Zealand against invasive species such as those described in the attached paper. I would also like to know if the plan was reviewed by an experts that have experience with microscopic invaders such as zooplankton or phytoplankton?

Thank you,

Adam Daniel, PhD
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