

# **IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF CAVIAR FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION FROM ALL COUNTRIES**

**Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993**

**Dated: 19 May 2008**

## **USER GUIDE**

The information in MAF animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for MAF import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE contains sections that outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, transport and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment.

Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a transitional facility in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given biosecurity clearance.

Part D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION contains model health certification which must be completed by the appropriate personnel as indicated in the certification and accompany the consignment to New Zealand.

## **PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD**

1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation into New Zealand of caviar for human consumption from all countries.

1.2 Obtaining biosecurity clearance for each consignment of caviar for human consumption imported into New Zealand is dependant upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.

1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are

changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Director Pre Clearance.

## **2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 2.1 The costs of MAF in performing functions relating to the importation of the commodity shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.2 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance shall be borne by the importer or agent.
- 2.3 Commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption in New Zealand must comply with the Food Act 1981. These requirements are independent of the import health standard requirements and are managed by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA). Importers are advised to contact the NZFSA or consult the NZFSA website at [www.nzfsa.govt.nz/imported-food/index.htm](http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/imported-food/index.htm)
- 2.4 The product must be accompanied by a permit to export where required by the legislation of the country of origin and the convention relating to "Trading in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora". The importer is advised to clarify the status of the species of origin of animal products in relation to international agreements on their trade, prior to export. Material arriving in New Zealand without a permit to export may be subject to customs delays pending clearance from the New Zealand Department of Conservation.
- 2.5 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current version of the relevant import health standard at the time of importation into New Zealand. Current versions of import health standards are available online at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/import-health-standards/search>

## **3 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

### **Biosecurity Clearance**

A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand. (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction).

### **Caviar**

The preserved roe derived from salmon or sturgeons (family *Acipenseridae*).

### **Commercially packaged**

A product that has been manufactured in a commercial manner by a commercial enterprise and is subsequently packaged in tamper proof packaging.

## **Equivalence**

Acceptance by the Director Pre Clearance that the circumstances relating to the importation of a consignment are such that the health status of the consignment is equivalent to the health status of a consignment that complies with the requirements of the import health standard

## **MAFBNZ**

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand

## **Official veterinarian**

A veterinarian authorised by the Veterinary Administration of the country to perform animal health and/or public health inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, perform certification in conformity with the provisions of the chapter of the *Terrestrial Code* pertaining to principles of certification.

## **Shelf-Stable**

Means that the products do not require to be kept under refrigeration. This only refers to products while they are sealed, and does not apply to products with instructions stating that the product must be refrigerated *after* opening.

## **4 EQUIVALENCE**

The import health standard has been agreed as being suitable for trade between the exporting and the importing countries. It is expected that the poultry products will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the control of the importer or exporter, a consignment does not comply completely with this import health standard. In such cases, an application for equivalence may be considered, equivalence granted and a permit to import issued at the discretion of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, but only if the following information is forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authority:

- which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- the reason the consignment is considered to be of an "equivalent health" status and/or what proposal is made to return the consignment to an equivalent health status as set out in this standard; and
- the reasons why the veterinary authority of the country of origin believe this proposal must be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and their recommendation for its acceptance.

## **PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE**

### **5 PERMIT TO IMPORT**

- 5.1 Importations into New Zealand of caviar for human consumption which meet the requirements of this import health standard may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act, be given biosecurity clearance and do not require a biosecurity direction to a transitional facility. As such, they do not require a permit to import.

## **6 INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY IMPORTER**

For commercial consignments, the importer shall supply the following information:

- i. name and address of exporter,
- ii. name and address of manufacturer,
- iii. description and type of product.

## **7 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT**

- 7.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed documentation which meets the requirements of PART B. ELIGIBILITY.
- 7.2 Documentation shall be in English, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English).
- 7.3 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity direction and/or clearance or rejection of consignments.

## **8 ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION**

- 8.1 The product must be derived from salmon or sturgeons. Caviar and roe products from fish of other species are not eligible for clearance under this import health standard.
- 8.2 The product shall be commercially packaged for direct retail sale. The product shall be within its original packaging on arrival and the packaging shall show no signs of having been opened.
- 8.3 Salmon roe products shall be shelf-stable and not required to be kept under refrigeration for the purposes of slowing the process of decay.

(NB: If the product indicates a use by date in excess of 3 months from manufacture, any reference to refrigeration may be ignored and the product can be considered shelf stable.)

## **PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE**

### **9 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE**

- 9.1 Upon arrival in New Zealand, the consignment or a sample of the consignment may be inspected by an Inspector at the port of arrival.

9.2 Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of ELIGIBILITY, the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a biosecurity clearance pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

## **PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION**

NONE REQUIRED

Ref: AI00-35E

FISCAVIC.ALL