



## Poultry Hatching Eggs and Specific-Pathogen- Free Chicken Eggs

23 January 2013

## **TITLE**

Import Health Standard for Poultry Hatching Eggs and Specific-Pathogen-Free Chicken Eggs

## **PURPOSE**

This Import Health Standard (IHS) specifies the import requirements for Poultry Hatching Eggs and Specific-Pathogen-Free (SPF) Eggs from Chickens.

## **COMMENCEMENT**

This IHS came into force on the 23rd of January 2013.

Subsequent to negotiation of a new veterinary certificate with Competent Authorities, there will be a transition period when either the new or old IHS can be used. Notice of the transition periods can be found in the associated guidance document for this IHS.

## **REVOCATION**

The following IHSs will be revoked after transitioning to the new IHS:

Importing Chicken hatching eggs from Australia 4 October 2005  
Importing Chicken hatching eggs from Great Britain 26 March 2010  
Importing Chicken hatching eggs from the USA and Canada 26 March 2010  
Importing SPF chicken eggs for laboratory use from Australia 27 June 2008  
Importing Turkey hatching eggs from specified countries 4 October 2005  
Importing Turkey hatching eggs from the United Kingdom 4 October 2005

## **ISSUING AUTHORITY**

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

Dated at Wellington this 23rd day of January 2013

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(Acting under delegated authority)

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## Part 1: Introduction

### 1.1 Background

- (1) The Biosecurity Act 1993 provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.
- (2) Import Health Standards (IHSs) issued under the Biosecurity Act specify requirements to be met for the effective management of risks associated with importing goods that pose a biosecurity threat to New Zealand. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit and during importation, before biosecurity clearance can be given.
- (3) This particular IHS contains requirements to manage the biosecurity risks posed by the importation of poultry hatching eggs and SPF eggs from chickens.
- (4) A guidance document accompanies this IHS providing information relevant to how requirements may be met.

### 1.2 What and whom this IHS applies to

- (1) This standard applies to importers' of poultry hatching eggs and SPF eggs from chickens. It is the importers' responsibility to ensure the requirements of this standard are met.
- (2) Eligibility is limited to:
  - (a) hatching eggs of chickens (*Gallus gallus*), turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos domesticus* and *Cairina moschata*), sourced from poultry breeding flocks compliant with the standards described in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Code), Chapter on biosecurity procedures in poultry production; AND
  - (b) SPF eggs of chickens (*Gallus gallus*) produced by flocks free from specified pathogens. The flocks supplying SPF eggs must be kept under secure biosecurity controls at least equivalent to those required for breeders in the Code Chapter on Biosecurity in Poultry.

### 1.3 The outcome this IHS is seeking to achieve

- (1) A biosecurity clearance (pursuant to section 26 of the Act), may only be issued when poultry hatching eggs and SPF eggs from chickens meet the requirements of this IHS.
- (2) All imports of hatching and SPF eggs must be subjected to risk management measures for specified risk organisms appropriate to the status of the risk organism, their likelihood of entry and/or establishment in New Zealand and consequent impacts.
- (3) The risk organisms associated with hatching eggs and SPF eggs that are subject to specific risk management requirements are;
  - (a) for chicken hatching eggs:
    - i. Notifiable avian influenza (NAI) viruses
    - ii. Type 1 avian paramyxoviruses (Newcastle disease virus)
    - iii. *Salmonella* Gallinarum-Pullorum
    - iv. *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium

v. *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale*

(b) for turkey hatching eggs:

- i. Avian influenza viruses
- ii. Type 1 avian paramyxoviruses (Newcastle disease virus)
- iii. *Salmonella* Gallinarum-Pullorum
- iv. *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium
- v. *Salmonella arizonae*
- vi. *Mycoplasma iowae*
- vii. *Mycoplasma meleagridis*
- viii. *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale*

(c) for duck hatching eggs:

- i. Avian influenza viruses
- ii. Type 1 avian paramyxoviruses (Newcastle disease virus)
- iii. *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale*
- iv. *Salmonella* Gallinarum-Pullorum
- v. *Salmonella* Enteritidis and *Salmonella* Typhimurium
- vi. Duck virus enteritis (DVE) virus
- vii. Goose and Muscovy duck parvoviruses (Muscovy ducks and their hybrid breeds only)
- viii. Reovirus of Muscovy ducks (Muscovy ducks and their hybrid breeds only)
- ix. *Chlamydia psittaci*

(4) For each risk organism, risk management requirements are specified in Part C and E using the general format:

- (a) Country, zone or compartment freedom; Or
- (b) Specified measures to verify individual flock/batch freedom.
- (c) Pre export isolation (PEI) and post arrival quarantine (PAQ).

(5) The model Veterinary Certificate template is located in the guidance document.

## 1.4 Consequences of not complying with this IHS

- (1) Operating other than in accordance with this IHS is an offence under Part 3 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- (2) Imports of poultry hatching eggs and SPF eggs from chickens that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may be re-shipped or destroyed under the Act in the first instance, 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. Imports 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 under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

## 1.5 Change history

No.	Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
1	23 January 2013	N/A	N/A

## 1.6 Incorporation of material by reference

- (1) The following international standards are incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Biosecurity Act:
  - (a) The International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations (LAR) - a copy is available for reading free of charge at MPI, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington.
  - (b) The OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (available at the OIE website free of charge: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/>)
  - (c) The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code. (available on the OIE Website free of charge: <http://www.oie.int/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-manual/access-online/>)
- (2) Under section 142O(3) of the Biosecurity Act it is declared that section 142O(1) does not apply, that is, a notice under section 142O(2) of the Biosecurity Act is not required to be published before material that amends or replaces the above listed standards has legal effect as part of these documents.

## 1.7 Other information

### ***Equivalence***

- (1) The requirements for poultry hatching eggs are met if, in the opinion of the Chief Technical Officer, the measures taken for managing the risks associated with the importation of those goods are equally effective at managing those risks as the requirements specified in Part 3: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms. If an equivalence measure(s) is approved MPI will issue an Import Permit (under section 24D(2) of the Biosecurity Act).

## 1.8 Definitions and acronyms

- (1) This IHS uses the following definitions and acronyms:

### **Approved Countries**

Countries from which New Zealand enables imports of a particular commodity. The countries must be included in the scope of an import risk analysis/assessment for the commodity and be specifically approved by MPI

### **Biosecurity Authority**

Written authority from an inspector, given under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand

### **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)

### **Biosecurity Plan**

A plan that identifies potential pathways for the introduction and spread of disease in a zone or compartment, and describes the measures which are being or will be applied to mitigate the disease risks, if applicable, in accordance with the recommendations in the Code. A Biosecurity Manual must comply with the Code Chapters on zoning and compartmentalisation, and application of compartmentalisation

### **Closed flock**

A flock that is managed on an all-in, all-out basis, in a single epidemiological unit with no introductions of birds from different epidemiological units. A biosecurity plan as described in the Code must be adhered to during the management of the flock

**Code**

The World Organisation for Animal Health Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Any reference in this standard to the Code is to the most current as found on the OIE website

**Poultry Hatching Eggs**

Hatching eggs of chickens (*Gallus gallus*), turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) or ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos domesticus* and *Cairina moschata*), sourced from poultry breeding flocks compliant with the standards described in the Code chapter on biosecurity procedures in poultry production

**Compartment**

An animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade

**Competent Authority**

The Veterinary or other Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, that has the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the Code in the whole territory

**Inspector**

A person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) (Explanatory Note: An Inspector is appointed to undertake administering and enforcing the provisions of the Biosecurity Act and controls imposed under the Hazardous Substances and New Organism Act 1996, and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species)

**Zone**

A clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade

**Manual**

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

**Official Veterinarian**

A veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of the country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the OIE Code Chapter for certification procedures

**OIE**

The World Organisation for Animal Health

**Parent flock**

A group of birds of one species kept for producing fertile eggs, as a single epidemiological unit, in accordance with the Code Chapter on biosecurity in poultry, recommendations applicable to the operation of poultry establishments and additional measures for breeders.

**Permit to import**

A permit issued by the Director General of MPI pursuant to section 24D(2) of the Biosecurity Act 1993

**Prescribed diagnostic test**

The diagnostic test(s) which can be used for international trade when the OIE Code recommends a testing procedure for international trade in a commodity

**Production Cycle**

The production cycle refers to all operations between and including the hatching, breeder farms and the egg handling facilities associated with a consignment for export to New Zealand.

**Specific-pathogen-free (SPF) eggs**

Eggs produced by chicken flocks free from specified pathogens. The flocks supplying SPF eggs must be kept under secure biosecurity controls at least equivalent to those required for breeders in the Code Chapter on Biosecurity in Poultry.

**Transitional Facility**

- (a) any place approved as a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 [of the Biosecurity Act 1993] for the purpose of inspection, testing, storage, treatment, holding or destruction of uncleared goods; or
- (b) a part of a port declared to be a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 [of the Biosecurity Act 1993]

**Veterinary Certificate**

A certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the OIE Code Chapter for certification procedures, describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities



## Part 2: General Requirements

### 2.1 Approved Countries

- (1) Countries must be approved by MPI to export poultry hatching eggs or SPF eggs to New Zealand. A list of approved countries is included in the guidance document for this standard. A country can only be eligible for approval by MPI if it is included in the scope of an import risk analysis/assessment for the commodity and specifically approved by MPI.
- (2) MPI reserves the right to audit facilities from countries approved to export product to New Zealand.

### 2.2 Documentation

- (1) The eggs must be accompanied by the following documentation and the conditions of that documentation must be met:
  - (a) Copy of permit to import issued by MPI (see general information for importing live animals); and
  - (b) Veterinary/ Zoosanitary/ Negotiated export certificate; and either
    - i. A tabulated summary of laboratory tests conducted on parent flocks in accordance with the specific requirements in the Veterinary Certificate (indicating the relevant disease, the date/s, sampled, sample size, test undertaken, and the reported result); Or
    - ii. Copies of laboratory reports for all tests; and
- (2) Details of any vaccination used on the parent flock, including date of administration, name and nature of vaccine is attached to the veterinary certificate.
- (3) The documentation specified must:
  - (a) Be original, unless otherwise stated; and
  - (b) Accompany the consignment; and
  - (c) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible; and
  - (d) Be endorsed by the Official Veterinarian with their original stamp, signature and date on every page (except permit to import) or MPI approved alternative security features available for paper certificates.

### 2.3 Approval of Specific Disease Free Compartments

- (1) Specific disease free compartments must be approved by the exporting country's Competent Authority and a biosecurity plan for the compartment submitted to MPI. (See Appendix E)
- (2) MPI approval of the compartment is required prior to an importer/exporter submitting an application for a permit to import.

### 2.4 Laboratory

- (1) Where diagnostic testing is required it must be conducted at a laboratory approved by the Competent Authority of the exporting country to conduct the required pre-export testing for poultry to supply poultry hatching eggs or SPF eggs to New Zealand.
- (2) Where flock testing options are used to satisfy specified requirements for identified risk organisms (Part C), sampling of birds for diagnostic testing must be randomised, and representative of the flock from

which the product is derived and samples must be collected under the supervision of the Official Veterinarian.

- (3) Laboratory samples from birds must be collected, processed, and stored in accordance with the recommendations in the Code and/or Manual, and/or approved by MPI.
- (4) OIE prescribed diagnostic test(s) for international trade must be used unless otherwise stated in the standard.

## 2.5 Inspection

- (1) The pre-export inspection requirements for poultry hatching eggs are:
  - (a) The parent flock must be inspected by an Official Veterinarian within 28 days of commencement of collection of eggs for export. This inspection must be carried out once the birds are housed in the premise where egg collection will take place.
  - (b) An officer approved by the Competent Authority must inspect the consignment within 48 hours pre-shipment and verify that the consignment and accompanying documentation meets all the requirements of the IHS.
- (2) Post-arrival inspection of packaging and document verification is required by an Inspector at the port of arrival. An Official Veterinarian must complete a full inspection of consignments of poultry hatching eggs and accompanying documentation once it is in the transitional facility.
- (3) The inspection requirements for SPF eggs are the parent flock must have been held, under supervision of an Official Veterinarian, for at least 28 days immediately prior to the scheduled date of export in isolation facilities approved by the exporting country's Competent Authority. Any deaths or illnesses must have been investigated by an Official Veterinarian or by a registered veterinarian under the supervision of the Official Veterinarian.

## 2.6 Labelling and Packaging

- (1) Poultry hatching eggs must be placed in a spill proof container and sealed into clean and disinfected crates, using an official seal attached by an Official Veterinarian of the country of origin before departure;  
OR
- (2) In the case of SPF eggs, the Official Veterinarian must confirm after due enquiry that the eggs were placed into clean spill proof containers and sealed into clean and disinfected crates inside the facilities before dispatch.
- (3) The consignment must be clearly identified and identifiable to the Veterinary Certificate.

## 2.7 Pre-export Isolation

- (1) The parent flock must be kept in a country/zone/compartiment free of the risk organisms, as described in Part C of this IHS, for at least 21 days prior to collection of eggs for export. As described in the Code Chapter on biosecurity procedures for poultry, parent birds must be kept isolated from all other birds.

## 2.8 Treatment Requirements

- (1) The eggs must be clean when collected, unwashed and have intact (uncracked) shells. They must be collected separately from dirty and broken or cracked eggs. Hatching eggs must be cleaned and sanitised as soon as possible after collection using an approved sanitising agent, in accordance with the

manufacturer's instructions, or equivalent. Details of the treatment must be attached to the Veterinary Certificate.

## 2.9 Transport

- (1) Details of transport and arrival times of the eggs must be supplied to an Inspector and/or Official Veterinarian at the port of entry not less than 7 days in advance of importation.
- (2) Transport containers must meet the design and species specification published in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations (LAR), unless otherwise agreed by MPI.
- (3) Containers made of timber must be inspected by an authorised Inspector at the arrival port and must comply with the IHS for Importing Wood Packaging Material from All Countries.
- (4) The vehicle the eggs are transported to the port of departure in must be cleaned and disinfected. The date of treatment, the chemical(s) used, and the active ingredients must be appended to the Veterinary Certificate.
- (5) During transport to the port of departure, and during transit or stopovers on route to New Zealand, hatching eggs must only be transported or stored with animals of equivalent health status.
- (6) Eggs transiting a third country en route to New Zealand must receive MPI approval prior to export. MPI approval and any special conditions must be noted on the permit to import.

## 2.10 Biosecurity Direction

- (1) Upon arrival in New Zealand, an Inspector must inspect the consignment to ensure the packaging is intact and the accompanying documentation is as described in part 13 and 14. An Official Veterinarian will complete a full inspection of poultry hatching egg consignments and accompanying documentation once they are in the transitional facility.
- (2) The consignment must be compliant to MPI standard for General Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Goods Annex O (BNZ-STD-TFGEN). An authorised MPI inspector at the arrival port must confirm all aspects of BNZ-STD-TFGEN are met.
- (3) Providing the documentation meets all requirements listed in part 13 and 14, an Inspector under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, may give a biosecurity direction authorising the consignment to be moved to the approved avian or biological transitional facility named in the Import Permit.

## 2.11 Post Arrival Quarantine

- (1) Poultry hatching eggs must be incubated, hatched and hatchlings raised in a transitional facility approved and supervised by the Authorised Supervisor to MPI Standard 154.02.05 Standard for Avian Transitional Facilities. Hatching egg consignments must comply with post-arrival quarantine (PAQ) requirements as described in Part E, Appendix 2.
- (2) SPF eggs may be used within a transitional facility approved to MPI Standard 154.02.17 Transitional Facilities for Biological Products; and operate at a minimum physical containment level 2 (PC2). The eggs and any resultant chickens shall remain in the transitional facility and be destroyed at the conclusion of the work, triple bagged and incinerated. Alternatively SPF eggs may be hatched in an avian transitional facility (154.02.05) and released as per the requirements for poultry hatching eggs in 37 above.

## **2.12 Biosecurity Clearance**

- (1) A person authorised under the Biosecurity Act 1993 may issue biosecurity clearance once the consignment has met all of the conditions for import and post arrival testing prescribed in appendix 2 with negative results.
- (2) No clearance shall be issued for SPF eggs, products derived from those eggs or any resultant chickens held in a transitional facility for biological products (154.02.17).

EXAMPLE ONLY