



New Zealand Bovine Colostrum Factsheet

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for ensuring that the food New Zealand produces, imports and exports is **safe and suitable** for domestic and international consumers. This is a responsibility we take seriously.

History of Use - Sale and Export of New Zealand Bovine Colostrum

Many different colostrum products aimed at adults are available for purchase in New Zealand, and have been for over a decade. Some of these products are sold as foods or supplemented foods and are regulated by MPI. Some colostrum products are sold as dietary supplements in accordance with the Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985 administered by Medsafe within the Ministry of Health.

A number of New Zealand colostrum products have been exported with Official Assurances since at least the year 2000. Prior to being exported with an Official Assurance a dairy product must be included on the MPI list of dairy product descriptions and qualifiers:

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/product-descriptions/index.htm>

Supporting the Quality and Integrity of New Zealand Official Assurances

MPI regulates the production of colostrum in New Zealand under the Animal Products Act 1999 (APA). The purpose of the APA is to minimise and manage risks to human or animal health by putting measures in place that ensure all traded animal products are fit for their intended purpose.

Colostrum meets the definition of a dairy product in the Interpretation section of the APA and is further defined in the Animal Products (Dairy) Regulations 2005. Colostrum can be referred to as specialty milk, which also has a definition under these regulations:

- **specialty milk** means milk of unusual composition, whether natural or otherwise, that is intended for a special purpose.

Legislation sets product safety limits for many hazards, as well as specifying certain processing and hygiene requirements. A selection of relevant legislation, referred to in the development of this factsheet, is included at the end of this document.

New Zealand processors of colostrum material and products for export are required to operate under a registered and independently verified risk management programme (RMP)¹. A registered RMP is a legally binding document that sets out how the operator will identify and control, manage, eliminate or minimise food safety hazards and other processing risk factors. Hazards may be biological, chemical or physical. An RMP must also ensure products are truthfully and correctly labelled.

¹ If animal products are intended to be sold only on the domestic market an approved Food Safety Programme (FSP) may be developed rather than an RMP. The requirements for food safety and suitability remain the same, but the FSP will not address requirements that relate to the issuing of MPI official assurances.

In addition, exporters of colostrum products from New Zealand are required to register with MPI and meet the requirements that enable MPI to give official assurances to overseas authorities in relation to animal material or products exported from New Zealand.

Compliance with the regulatory requirements is regularly monitored and enforced by MPI.

Relevant Links:

New Zealand Legislation: Animal Products Act 1999

(http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1999/0093/latest/DLM33502.html?search=ts_act_animal+products+act_resel&p=1&sr=1)

New Zealand Legislation: Animal Products (Dairy) Regulations 2005

(http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2005/0104/latest/DLM327127.html?search=ts_all%40act%40bill%40regulation_animal+products_resel&p=1&sr=1)

Animal Products (Dairy Processing Specifications) Notice 2011

(http://foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/Animal_Products_Dairy-Requirements_Material-2011.pdf)

DPC 1: Animal Products (Dairy): Approved Criteria for General Dairy Processing

(http://foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/1_Animal-Sets_Additional.pdf)

DPC 2: Animal Products (Dairy) Approved Criteria for Farm Dairies

(http://foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/Dpc2_Animal-Sets_Additional.pdf)

DPC 3: Animal Products (Dairy): Approved Criteria for the Manufacturing of Dairy Material and Product

(<http://foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/3-animal-products-approved-criteria/index.htm>)

Animal Products (Export Requirements - Dairy Products) Notice 2005

(http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/Animal_Products-Specifies_That.pdf)

Animal Products (Official Assurances Specifications - Dairy Products) Notice 2011

(<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/animal-products-dairy-notice-2011.pdf>)

Labelling guideline for RMP manufacturers of colostrum products

(<http://foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/labelling-guidance-dairy-operators.pdf>)

New Zealand Legislation: Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985

(<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1985/0208/latest/DLM102109.html>)

A summary version of this factsheet is available here

<http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/bovine-colostrum-factsheets/nz-bovine-colostrum-fast-facts.pdf>