



Statement of Policy: Market Access and Official Assurances  
Principles (As signed off as the Pan-MAF Certification Principles by  
the SPS Forum, August 2006)

This statement of policy encapsulates New Zealand Food Safety Authority principles that underpin bilateral market access protocols and certification arrangements for official assurances covering SPS and related aspects of trade. These principles were developed and agreed with MAF Biosecurity New Zealand.

Dated at Wellington this 1st day of April 2008.

(Signed)

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(Acting under delegated authority)

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## **Market Access Requirements**

### **1 Principle 1**

Bilateral market access requirements can be ascertained through industry (exporters through their contact with importers of New Zealand products) with subsequent validation by Government as necessary, or negotiated by Government.

### **2 Principle 2**

Government will endeavour to ensure that importing country official requirements are commensurate with risk and aligned with the principles espoused in the WTO SPS Agreement.

### **3 Principle 3**

Only Government can provide the official assurances underpinning market access and these will be supported by adequate systems and records.

### **4 Principle 4**

Government will only provide official assurances where they are required by the importing countries' Governments as a condition of market access or in certain conditions where there is ambiguity as to the official requirements.

## **Certification and Certification Systems**

### **5 Principle 5**

Export certification systems providing official assurances will be outcomes based and consistent with OIE, Codex and IPPC standards and guidelines. Of particular importance are the sections on ethics and integrity.

### **6 Principle 6**

Export certification will be supported by adequate levels of verification and security.

### **7 Principle 7**

Government certification systems will be aligned and integrated across Government agencies as appropriate and applied equitably across export sectors.

### **8 Principle 8**

Third parties will be used at the verification step in the provision of official assurances wherever possible and their roles will be clearly defined.

### **9 Principle 9**

Third party verifiers must meet internationally recognised standards that cover competencies, conflict of interest and quality systems. Government will define appropriate secondary/supplementary criteria to the international standards.

## **General**

### **10 Principle 10**

Actual costs to Government associated with BNZ/NZFSA involvement in bilateral market access negotiations and certification will be recovered from users/beneficiaries as appropriate.

### **11 Principle 11**

Government will focus on ensuring market access requirements, certification systems and certification are such that compliance costs are minimised consistent with risk mitigation and robust controls.

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