

Amendments to the **Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Bee Products**

New Zealand Food Safety Discussion Paper No. 2020/04

Prepared for the bee product exporters and sector stakeholders
by New Zealand Food Safety, Assurance Directorate

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1. Submissions

New Zealand Food Safety (NZFS) is proposing reducing the traceability requirements for parcels less than or equal to 2kg that are exported in the Animal Products Notice: *General Export Requirements for Bee Products*.

You are invited to have your say on the proposed changes, which are as explained in this document.

Consultation closes on 17 July 2020 at 5pm.

1.1 How to have your say?

You can comment on these proposed changes.

NZFS encourages submitters to make their submissions electronically. Submissions can be emailed to: Food.Assurance@mpi.govt.nz

If you wish to send your submissions in writing, these can be mailed to the following address:

Food & Live Animal Assurance Team
Assurance Directorate
New Zealand Food Safety
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington, 6140

Please include the following information in your submission:

- the title of this consultation document;
- your name and title (if applicable);
- your organisation's name (if applicable); and
- your address and contact details.

The following points may be of assistance in preparing comments:

- where possible, reasons and data to support comments may be provided;
- the use of examples to illustrate particular points is encouraged;
- as a number of copies may be made of your comments, please use good quality type, or make sure the comments are clearly hand-written in black or blue ink.

1.2 The Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA)

Everyone has the right to request information held by government organisations, known as "official information". Under the OIA, information is to be made available to requesters unless there are good or conclusive grounds under the Act for withholding it.

If you are submitting on this consultation document, you may wish to indicate any grounds for withholding information contained in your submission. Reasons for withholding information could include that information is commercially sensitive or that the submitters wish personal information such as names or contact details to be withheld. NZFS will consider such grounds when deciding whether or not to release information.

Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA may be reviewed by the Ombudsman.

For more information please visit <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources-and-publications/guides/official-information-legislation-guides>

1.3 What happens next?

NZFS will consider all submissions at the expiry of the consultation period and make a recommendation to the relevant decision maker about the final amendments to be adopted in any replacement to the Notices. A paper outlining the analysis of all submissions received will be made available to all submitters.

Any replacement to the Notice as a result of this consultation may be in place by 3 August 2020.

Key dates	Action
2 July 2020	Consultation starts
17 July 2020	Consultation closes
20-31 July 2020	Consideration of submissions
3 August 2020	Final review and issue of notices

2. Background

- (1) NZFS has become aware that the GREX traceability requirements are impractical for exports via postal and courier channels. The proposed changes to the GREX are to facilitate these exports whilst maintaining the ability to check that these honey exports meet the other requirements in the GREX.
- (2) On 5 February 2018, NZFS issued the Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Bee Products (the GREX). For all consignments, whether or not they need an official assurance, the GREX requires a transfer document to accompany the consignment through the supply chain. The transfer document allows for traceability back to the source extractor and links to any relevant testing of the honey (e.g. tutin or Mānuka honey testing).
- (3) On 15 August 2019, MPI issued Animal Products Notice (No: 19/23) China: Exporting honey from New Zealand to China in the form of small parcels or packages direct to consumers (for cross-border e-commerce trade)¹. This Notice allows for the export of honey to China in the form of small parcels or packages without an export certificate to reduce compliance costs for the sector and to reflect that China does not require certification for small consignments to private individuals. This OMAR does not specify the weight of these small parcels/packages. The GREX traceability and testing requirements still apply to prevent export of Manuka honey that does not meet the definition.

2.1 Regulatory and Traceability Requirements

- (1) A transfer document is required for bee products that are transferred from one premises to another. The operator of the sending premises (the consignor) must provide a transfer document to the operator of the receiving premises (the consignee).
- (2) NZFS recognises that for exports via postal and courier channels, once the parcels are handed over to postal services or courier companies they are managed by these services/companies and they enter a streamlined and efficient system to be exported overseas. The control of these parcels are no longer under the control of the registered exporter.
- (3) NZFS considers it appropriate that document traceability ends with the consignor (the person handling the parcel) transferring the parcel to the postal services or courier companies. NZFS still needs safeguard measures in place to ensure that honey exported meets the Manuka honey definition (if labelled as Manuka honey), has had tutin testing (if required), has been sourced from premises that are in compliance with New Zealand's domestic honey requirements and meets the other export requirements in the GREX. It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that all of the appropriate requirements are met.
- (4) Exports of honey to other countries are required to meet the GREX and the relevant Overseas Market Access Requirement (OMAR).

2.2 Retaining the Credibility of New Zealand Honey Export Trade

- (1) NZFS still wants to ensure that the honey exported meets New Zealand regulatory requirements prior to transfer to the postal services or courier companies. This means we will still require transfer documents up to that point and to ensure that the relevant Manuka and tutin testing (if applicable) have been completed.
- (2) Exports without an official assurance that are business-to-business are likely to be larger consignments. NZFS has determined that for these exports the current requirements of the GREX are appropriate and do not need amendment.

¹ NZFS. Animal Products Notice (No: 19/23). China: Exporting honey from New Zealand to China in the form of small parcels or packages direct to consumers (for cross-border e-commerce trade). Accessed online on 30 June 2020. url: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/overseas-market-access-requirements-omars/omar-notifications-for-animal-products/>

2.3 Summary of proposed changes

- (1) NZFS proposes that the document traceability ending with the consignor transferring the parcel to the postal services or courier companies is only applicable to parcels less than or equal to 2kg and addressed to a private individual (not a company or trader).
- (2) The rationale for the weight limit is because NZFS understands that some markets do not require certification for small parcels. The Universal Postal Union standards² defines small parcels as items weighing less than or equal to 2kg. Furthermore, the European Union allows for imports of honey less than or equal to 2kg without an export certificate.
- (3) Within the current GREX the exporter's responsibility is to ensure that the honey exports have the appropriate Manuka and tutin testing, and that the honey has the required traceability. With traceability ending with the consignor transferring the parcel to the postal services or courier companies, NZFS will need to ensure that these responsibilities are carried out prior to this transfer.

3. Proposed Changes

- (1) It is proposed that the GREX will be amended as explained below. To facilitate a quick resolution to the current problems, we are consulting on the concepts rather than the exact legal wording.
- (2) These changes will not impact on the requirements for exports with an official assurance or for business to business consignments.
- (3) These proposed changes are limited to exports of honey via postal or couriers and where an export certificate is not required.

3.1 Limited to parcels less than or equal to 2kg

- (1) NZFS proposes that the change to the GREX will only apply to small parcels less than or equal to 2kg because:
 - a) 2kg is the European Unions' requirements for personal consignments³; and
 - b) NZFS understands that some markets may require certification for items that are not small parcels; and
 - c) the Universal Postal Union standards defines small parcels as less than or equal to 2kg².

3.2 Reduced traceability for post or courier system

- (1) NZFS will no longer require traceability through the postal or courier system as these systems are designed to ensure the parcels are delivered to the addressee. This will only be applicable to exports for parcels less than or equal to 2kg and where no export certificate is required.
- (2) NZFS proposes for exports for parcels less than or equal to 2kg and where no export certificate is required that the GREX is amended so that a transfer document is not required when the parcel is transferred to the postal service or courier company.
- (3) Where the exporter is not the person transferring the parcel to the postal service or courier company, NZFS proposes that the last transfer document is copied to the exporter.

3.3 Parcels only addressed to a private individual

- (1) NZFS proposes that the parcels are only addressed to a private individual because:
 - a) parcels which are less than or equal to 2kg meet the European Unions' requirements for personal consignments³.

² http://www.upu.int/uploads/tx_sbdownloader/guidePostalTransportEn.pdf

³ <https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/imports-for-personal-use>

- b) business-to-business exports are likely to be larger consignments and the current requirements of the GREX are appropriate and do not need amendment.

3.4 Additional labelling of parcels

- (1) NZFS proposes that the exporter ID (obtained from NZFS as required under the Animal Products Act⁴) and business address must be written clearly on the rear of the parcel to allow traceability through the system back to the exporter that is registered under the Animal Products Act.
- (2) Labelling of the parcel with the NZFS exporter ID will ensure that the exporter is registered with NZFS as required under the Animal Products Act.
- (3) NZFS proposes that the export product's source transfer document number or eligibility document number must also be written clearly on the parcel to allow traceability back to the premises of origin and linking of tutin test results (if applicable) and manuka honey test results (if applicable).
- (4) Labelling of the parcel with the source transfer document number or eligibility document number will allow MPI to have confidence that the requirements of the honey GREX have been met and to trace the honey through the product supply chain.

4. References

Food Standards Agency. Imports for personal use. 30 July 2018. Accessed online on 30 June 2020. url: <https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/imports-for-personal-use>

NZFS. Animal Products Notice (No: 19/23). China: Exporting honey from New Zealand to China in the form of small parcels or packages direct to consumers (for cross-border e-commerce trade). Accessed online on 30 June 2020. url: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/overseas-market-access-requirements-omars/omar-notifications-for-animal-products/>

NZFS. Register as an exporter. 15 Jan 2020 Accessed on 30 June 2020.url: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/register-as-an-exporter/>

Universal Postal Union. Postal Transport Guide. October 2018. Page 5. Accessed online on 30 June 2020. url: http://www.upu.int/uploads/tx_sbdownloader/guidePostalTransportEn.pdf

⁴ <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/register-as-an-exporter/>