

Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

Moving to New Zealand

What you need to know

Please read the following information before packing your household / personal effects.

Border agencies

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) along with New Zealand Customs Service and the Department of Immigration, have specific requirements for people moving personal effects/household possessions to New Zealand.

The following guide is put together by MPI – please refer to New Zealand Customs and the Department of Immigration websites for further information in those areas.

The importance of biosecurity

MPI is responsible for protecting the natural resources, plants, animals and people of New Zealand from the introduction of pests and diseases. With more people than ever wanting to visit or move to New Zealand the risk of unwanted pest and disease introduction increases. Pests and diseases can cross our border in personal and household effects, so to prevent this there are strict rules about what people are allowed to send or bring to New Zealand.

MPI assess all shipments of goods coming into the country by checking documentation and, when necessary, examining the goods. If risk items are found these may be treated[1], reshipped, or destroyed (at the owner's cost).

Restricted and prohibited items

Do not pack these goods as they may be seized unless accompanied by official certification:

- Any packets of food.
- Honey, pollen, propolis, honeycombs and other bee products.
- Plants, bulbs, cuttings, corms, rhizomes or tubers, commercially packed seeds and seeds for planting.
- Packaging such as straw or used fresh food cartons.
- Items restricted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) such as coral, ivory, snakeskin or whale bone items, turtle shell and some sea shells.



Packing your personal effects

Strict biosecurity laws mean there are some items you cannot bring to New Zealand, and some other items will require inspection on arrival.

[1] See Approved Biosecurity Treatments: mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1555

Using a professional moving company, freight forwarder or import agent to help you move can be beneficial, as they can provide assistance with MPI requirements.

Having an accurate and easily understood manifest of your belongings will help MPI to assess these quickly when they arrive in New Zealand. By not packing some items, or packing goods that may require inspection together, you may save costs and time.

If belongings are arriving in a sea container then the container must meet the requirements of the Import Health Standard for Sea Containers[2].

Items that must be declared

The following items must be declared as they may require inspection and in some cases certification from the country of origin:

- Fresh or dried fruit, vegetables, mushrooms or fungi.
- Any meat, fish, shellfish or poultry.
- Ingredients used in cooking, all milk products, cheese, eggs or egg products, and milk based baby foods.
- Hunting trophies or stuffed animals.
- Traditional or herbal medicines or remedies, health supplements and homeopathic remedies that include animal or plant products.
- Dried flower arrangements or Christmas decorations made from plant material.
- Items made from wood.
- Items stuffed with seeds or straw.
- Items made of from bamboo, cane, coconut or straw.
- Items containing hair, fur, unprocessed wool, skin, feathers or bone.
- All outdoor, camping, sports equipment, hiking boots and other sporting footwear that could be contaminated with soil, seeds or water.
- Animal grooming and veterinary equipment, beekeeping equipment, saddles, bridles, bird cages and pet beds.
- Gardening equipment and outdoor furniture.

There may be other items that you have to declare, contact us if you are unsure about something. If an item requires treatment you will have to pay for this service. Any goods that cannot be imported will be destroyed or reshipped.













[2] See IHS Sea Containers: mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1984

Brown marmorated stink bug

Brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB) is a significant agricultural, horticultural, and public nuisance pest. If established, it could decimate New Zealand's fruit and vegetable industries and become a nuisance in homes and other buildings when thousands of adult bugs look for shelter in autumn and winter.

BMSB can hitchhike on a variety of imported goods, including household items. The pest been detected at the New Zealand border many times.

BMSB hide in a wide range of sheltered environments, including sheds, gardening equipment, barbecues, footwear etc.

Packers should pay careful attention to any items, equipment or cargo that may provide shelter for BMSB. Thoroughly inspect all goods before packing for shipment to New Zealand, particularly items stored outdoors or in locations easily accessible to BMSB.



If you find BMSB after arrival in New Zealand, contact MPI on **0800 809 966** or use the online reporting form – report.mpi.govt.nz/pest/

More information on BMSB is available at Brown marmorated stink bug: threat to NZ and identification | NZ Government

Everyone has a role to play in keeping New Zealand BMSB free.

Required documentation

All personal effects being shipped to New Zealand must have:

- An unaccompanied personal baggage declaration customs.govt.nz/news/resources/forms/Documents/NZCS%20218.doc
- A detailed inventory of goods (numbered boxes can help with this).
- A completed sea container Quarantine Declaration (for full container loads) mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1195
- Valid treatment certificates for goods that have been fumigated, heat treated or cleaned.
- A bill of lading, arrival notice, or air way bill.
- Supplementary declaration: This provides more information about specific items and could change the risk status of your consignment. mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/4690

You will be informed of any additional documentation that may be needed. For New Zealand Customs and Immigration document requirements please refer to those agencies.

Clearance of goods

An inspector will assess documentation presented to MPI for possible risk goods. If an inspection of your personal effects is required this must be at a transitional facility and you must notify MPI of the location. If the shipment is a full sea container load an inspection of the sea container is mandatory and will be carried out by an accredited person or a MPI inspector.

For more information contact MPI, your moving company, freight forwarder or customs agent. Other conditions may also apply and MPI will

advise you of these at time of application. Keys may be required for any locked trunks, suitcases or vehicles.

Wood packaging

Wood packaging such as crates or pallets is subject to biosecurity requirements and must be declared[3]. Wood packaging must have been fumigated or heat treated before use and must be declared in the Quarantine Declaration (for full container loads) regarding container cleanliness.



Personal vehicles

Vehicles and other machinery such as jet skis, lawn mowers or chainsaws are also subject to biosecurity requirements and are inspected on arrival. Before shipping, vehicles should be cleaned thoroughly inside and out, including underneath and around the wheels and wheel arches. If steam cleaning ensure the whole vehicle including the engine is cleaned. Contaminated vehicles will be directed for treatment and re-inspection (charges apply).

For information on complying with vehicle safety regulations refer to the New Zealand Transport Agency website. For information on vehicle tax refer to New Zealand Customs Service.

Inspection and treatment charges

MPI charges are based on the number of items inspected and include a travel fee to the place of inspection. A schedule of fees is contained in the Biosecurity Costs Regulations and all importations are required to pay a Biosecurity System Entry Levy[4]. Any charges for the treatment of goods are billed separately by the authorised treatment provider. MPI charges are separate to charges billed and services provided by your moving company, freight forwarder or customs agent. Other conditions may also apply and MPI will advise you of these at time of application. Keys may be required for any locked trunks, suitcases or vehicles.

Bringing your pets to New Zealand

The requirements for bringing pets into New Zealand depend on the type of animal, where it is from and if there is an existing import health standard for the animal. Disease concerns mean that not all types of pets are allowed into New Zealand. For more information on bringing pets to New Zealand go to: mpi.govt.nz/importing/live-animals/pets

Phone contact details

General Enquiries: 0800 00 83 33

MPI Clearances: 0800 22 20 18

All overseas enquiries: +64 4 894 0100

For other MPI contact details go to: mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/resources/registers-and-lists/mpi-border-clearance-services

Useful links

Importing to New Zealand: mpi.govt.nz/importing

New Zealand Customs Service: customs.govt.nz

Immigration New Zealand: immigration.govt.nz

New Zealand Transport Agency (Importing vehicles): nzta.govt.nz/vehicles/importing-a-vehicle/

Search for Import Health Standards mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/requirements/import-health-standards

[3] Information on ISPM15 (timber wood packaging) regulations available at: mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1212

[4] Fees & Charges: legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2015/0091/latest/DLM6465794.html