



# Import Health Standard

## Bee Products

BEEPROIC.ALL

Draft for Consultation

## **TITLE**

Import Health Standard: Bee Products

## **COMMENCEMENT**

This Import Health Standard comes into force on ..

## **REVOCATION**

This Import Health Standard revokes and replaces the Import Health Standards for Specified Processed Bee Products issued on 13 November 2006 and the Importation into New Zealand of Honey and Propolis from Pitcairn Island issued on 23 August 1999.

## **ISSUING AUTHORITY**

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

Dated at Wellington this . day of 20

Howard Pharo  
Manager, Import and Export Animals  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
(acting under delegated authority of the Director General)

Contact for further information  
Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)  
Regulation & Assurance Branch  
Animal Imports  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140  
Email: [animalimports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animalimports@mpi.govt.nz)

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 1: General Requirements</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 Application	5
1.2 The outcome this standard is seeking to achieve	5
1.3 Incorporation of material by reference	5
1.4 Definitions	5
1.5 Packaging	5
1.6 Permit to import	6
1.7 The documentation that must accompany goods	6
1.8 Transitional facility	6
1.9 Biosecurity clearance	7
<b>Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 Ingredients of processed foods and beverages	8
2.2 Dietary supplements and medical preparations	8
2.3 Cosmetics	8
2.4 Beeswax and beeswax products	8
2.5 Honey of New Zealand origin	9
2.6 Honey of Pacific Island origin	9
<b>Schedule 1 – Document History</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Schedule 2 – Definitions</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Schedule 3 – Approved Treatments</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Schedule 4 – Processing Requirements at the Transitional Facility</b>	<b>13</b>

## Introduction

This introduction is not part of the import health standard (IHS), but is intended to indicate its general effect.

## Purpose

- (1) This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing bee products into New Zealand.

## Background

- (1) The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.
- (2) Import health standards issued under the Act set out requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with importing goods. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit, and during importation, before biosecurity clearance can be given.
- (3) A guidance document for bee products accompanies this IHS providing information on how the requirements may be met.

## Who should read this import health standard?

- (1) This IHS applies to importers of eligible consignments of bee products.

## Why is this important?

- (1) It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of this IHS are met. Consignments 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. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may be:
  - a) Re-shipped; or
  - b) Destroyed under the Act; or
  - c) Retained in quarantine under the Act prior to release or equivalence determined.
- (2) Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

## Equivalence

- (1) The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may approve measures under section 27(1)(d) of the Act, different from those set out in this IHS, that may be applied to effectively manage risks associated with the importation of these goods. If an equivalent measure is approved a permit to import may be issued under section 24D(2) of the Act, if the Director-General considers it appropriate to do so.
- (2) [Permit application forms](#) can be accessed on the MPI website.

## Document history

- (1) Refer to Schedule 1.

## Other information

- (1) This is not an exhaustive list of compliance requirements and it is the importer's responsibility to be familiar with and comply with all New Zealand laws.

*See guidance document for more information about inspection and verification.*

**Food Act 1981 and Animal Products Act 1999**

- (2) Commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption must comply with relevant requirements of the Food Act 1981 and the Food Act 2014 as it comes into force, the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, and the Animal Products Act 1999.

Draft for Consultation

## Part 1: General Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to importers of the following consignments of bee products:
  - a) Processed foods, ingredients and drinks containing honey, bee pollen, propolis and royal jelly from all countries.
  - b) Dietary supplements and medical preparations containing honey, bee pollen, propolis, royal jelly and bee larvae from all countries.
  - c) Cosmetics containing honey, bee pollen, propolis and royal jelly from all countries.
  - d) Beeswax and beeswax products from all countries.
  - e) Bee venom and propolis from all countries.
  - f) Honey of New Zealand origin.
  - g) Honey from specified Pacific Islands (Niue, Pitcairn Island and Samoa).

### 1.2 The outcome this standard is seeking to achieve

- (1) The outcome this IHS is seeking to achieve is the effective management of biosecurity risks associated with eligible consignments of bee products.
- (2) The biosecurity risk organisms associated with bee products that are managed by this IHS are:
  - a) *Melissococcus plutonius* (European foulbrood).
  - b) *Paenibacillus larvae spp larvae* (American foulbrood).
  - c) *Aethina tumida* (small hive beetle).

### 1.3 Incorporation of material by reference

- (1) The following international standards are incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
  - a) The OIE [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#) (the Code)

### 1.4 Definitions

- (1) For the purposes of this standard and the attached guidance document, terms used that are defined in the Act have the meanings set out there. The [Biosecurity Act](#) is available online.
- (2) See Schedule 2 for additional definitions that apply.

### 1.5 Packaging

- (1) The outer packaging of all consignments of bee products imported into New Zealand must be clean and secure.
- (2) The criteria to be applied to determine whether the outcome in clause (1) has been achieved are as follows:
  - a) Exterior of package is free from any organic contaminants.
  - b) Bee products are adequately contained within package.

## 1.6 Permit to import

- (1) A permit to import under section 24D of the Act is required if:
  - a) It is required in this IHS; or
  - b) Prior to import, a CTO has approved an equivalent measure under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that is different from those in this standard that may be applied to effectively manage risks.

*See guidance document for more information about applying for a permit and equivalence.*

## 1.7 The documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) Where required in this IHS, the consignment must arrive in New Zealand with the following:
  - a) A permit to import (copy acceptable) issued by MPI. The permit will be issued for multiple consignments and is valid for one year. The importer must supply the following information to obtain a permit:
    - i) The name and address of the exporter.
    - ii) The date of proposed importation.
    - iii) The name and address of the transitional facility in New Zealand to which the consignment is to proceed following importation, if required.
    - iv) The port of arrival.
  - b) A veterinary certificate, including all of the following:
    - i) The description, type of bee product, and amount of product.
    - ii) The Pacific Island of origin.
    - iii) The name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).
    - iv) The name, signature and contact details of the Official Veterinarian.
    - v) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the general requirements outlined in Part 1 of this IHS have been met.
    - vi) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the specified requirements outlined in Part 2 of this IHS have been met.
  - c) A manufacturer's declaration, which must:
    - i) Be prepared by the manufacturer on letterhead paper.
    - ii) Be dated within the last 12 months.
    - iii) Be signed and dated by the quality manager or equivalent.
    - iv) Identify the bee product(s) present in the consignment, and the treatment to which the bee product has been subjected: times and temperatures, radiation treatment or percent alcohol/solvent used for immersion or extraction.
- (2) All documents must:
  - a) Accompany the imported goods.
  - b) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible.
  - c) Be endorsed on every page by the Official Veterinarian with their original stamp, signature and date or be endorsed in the space allocated and all pages have paper based alternative security features (Veterinary Certificates only).

## 1.8 Transitional facility

- (1) Bee products are considered risk material unless they meet the conditions described in Part 2 (Specified Requirements). Bee product risk materials for further processing in New Zealand may not be imported unless they are covered by a valid import permit and, if authorised by a biosecurity inspector, must proceed directly to the transitional facility named on the permit.

- (2) The consignment must meet all the requirements set out in Part 1 General Requirements of this IHS and must be processed to the requirements in Schedule 4 (Processing Requirements at the Transitional Facility) of this IHS in order to be eligible for biosecurity clearance.
- (3) Transfer of bee product risk materials from a transitional facility for offsite testing or sale must be authorised by an MPI Inspector.

## **1.9 Biosecurity clearance**

- (1) A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act, may be issued when the specified bee products meet all the requirements of this IHS, provided the applicable requirements of section 27 of the Act are met.

Draft for Consultation

## Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms

### 2.1 Ingredients of processed foods and beverages

- (1) Bee product ingredients including honey, propolis, bee larvae, bee pollen or royal jelly contained in commercially prepared and packaged foods may be imported provided:
  - a) They are shelf-stable.
  - b) The bee product is:
    - i) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the bee product has been subjected to a treatment listed in Schedule 3; or
    - ii) An ingredient in a commercially prepared and bottled beverage containing at least 20% alcohol according to the label or in an accompanying manufacturer's declaration; or
    - iii) Accompanied by a permit to import.

### 2.2 Dietary supplements and medical preparations

- (1) Dietary supplements and medical preparations (including dermatological preparations) containing honey, bee pollen, bee larvae, venom, propolis or royal jelly may be imported provided the bee product is:
  - a) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the bee product has been subjected to a treatment listed in Schedule 3; or
  - b) Encapsulated (completely covered by an edible substance that does not contain sugar, fruit, honey, pollen or royal jelly, such as gelatin or wax) and packaged in shelf-ready packages (see definition in Schedule 2) for direct retail sale; or
  - c) Accompanied by a permit to import.

### 2.3 Cosmetics

- (1) Cosmetics containing honey, bee larvae, pollen, propolis or royal jelly may be imported provided they are commercially prepared and packaged (see definition in Schedule 2).

### 2.4 Beeswax and beeswax products

- (1) Items containing beeswax may be imported provided:
  - a) The beeswax product is not foundation beeswax or any other product associated with the beekeeping industry.
  - b) The beeswax product is:
    - i) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the bee product has been subjected to a treatment listed in Schedule 3; or
    - ii) Commercially prepared and packaged (see definition in Schedule 2).
- (2) Blocks of beeswax from Niue, Pitcairn Island or Samoa may be imported provided that the product is:
  - a) Accompanied by a veterinary certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country certifying that:
    - i) The beeswax originates from Niue, Pitcairn Island or Samoa; and
    - ii) The country is free from European foulbrood caused by *Melissococcus plutonius*.

## 2.5 Honey of New Zealand origin

- (1) Honey of New Zealand origin from any country may be imported provided all of the following requirements are met:
- a) The product must be commercially prepared and packaged.
  - b) The product must be within its original sealed packaging on arrival.
  - c) The country of origin (New Zealand) must be clearly identifiable on the packaging.
  - d) The product must be accompanied by a copy of the free-sale certificate, export certificate or manufacturer's declaration used to export the honey from New Zealand.

## 2.6 Honey of Pacific Island origin

- (1) Honey from Niue, Pitcairn Island or Samoa may be imported provided that:
- a) The product is accompanied by a veterinary certificate issued by the Competent Authority of the exporting country certifying that all of the following requirements are met:
    - i) The honey originates from Niue, Pitcairn Island or Samoa.
    - ii) The country is free from European foulbrood caused by *Melissococcus plutonius*, small hive beetle and Israeli acute paralysis virus.
    - iii) The country is free from American foulbrood or the country has an approved control programme for American foulbrood.

Draft for Consultation

## Schedule 1 – Document History

<b>Date First Issued</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Shortcode</b>
1 May 2003	Import Health Standard for Specified Processed Bee Products	BEEPROIC.ALL
<b>Date of Issued Amendments</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Shortcode</b>
March 2005	Import Health Standard for Specified Processed Bee Products	BEEPROIC.ALL
13 November 2006	Import Health Standard for Specified Processed Bee Products	BEEPROIC.ALL
	Import Health Standard for Specified Processed Bee Products	BEEPROIC.ALL

Draft for Consultation

## Schedule 2 – Definitions

### **Bee product risk material**

Bee product which does not comply with any relevant requirement set out in Part 2 (Specified Requirements) of this IHS.

### **Commercially Prepared and Packaged**

A product that has been manufactured in a commercial manner by a commercial enterprise and is packaged for retail trade in tamper proof packaging.

### **Competent Authority**

The Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of an OIE Member having 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 OIE Code in the whole territory.

### **Foundation Beeswax**

Thin sheets of beeswax embossed or stamped with the base of a worker (or rarely drone) cells on which bees will construct a complete comb (called drawn comb); also referred to as comb foundation.

### **Medical Preparation**

A product intended to aid healing or prevent or reduce disease.

### **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.

### **Permit to Import**

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

### **Risk Material**

Bee products that do not meet the conditions described in Part 2 (Specified Requirements).

### **Shelf-Ready Packaging**

Shelf-ready packaging (SRP) refers to the preparation of a product so that it is delivered to a retailer in a ready-to-sell merchandised unit.

### **The Code**

The *OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code* as found on the OIE website.

### **Veterinary Certificate**

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

## Schedule 3 – Approved Treatments

The following are approved treatments for the effective removal of the risk of *Melisococcus plutonius*:

- (1) Any of the heat treatment combinations listed below in which the core temperature of the bee product has reached:
  - a) 50°C for a minimum of 54 hours
  - b) 60°C for a minimum of 10 hours
  - c) 65°C for a minimum of 8 hours
  - d) 70°C for a minimum of 1 hour, 48 minutes
  - e) 80°C for a minimum of 22 minutes
  - f) 85°C for a minimum of 11 minutes
  - g) 90°C for a minimum of 6 minutes
  - h) 100°C for a minimum of 5 minutes
  - i) 110°C or more for a minimum of 1 second
- (2) Gamma irradiation to 15 kGy or more (non-food items only); or
- (3) Chemical extraction process; or
- (4) Immersion in solutions of at least 20% alcohol.

Draft for Consultation

## Schedule 4 – Processing Requirements at the Transitional Facility

- (1) This part applies to consignments of bee product risk materials imported into New Zealand that have been authorised to be moved for further processing at the transitional facility listed on the permit to import.
- (2) While in the transitional facility, consignments of bee product risk materials must be marked, stored and handled in accordance with the [MPI Standard for Transitional Facilities](#) for Uncleared Goods, issued under section 39(1) of the Act (or any standard that replaces that standard), and any associated requirements listed in Annex F of the Guidance Document (or any guidance or standard that replaces that Annex) to that standard.
- (3) While in the transitional facility, the facility operator must ensure that the bee product risk material is processed to meet the following requirements, thereby becoming non-risk material:
  - a) The product must be encapsulated at the transitional facility listed on the permit.
  - b) The outer layer of those capsules must not contain any substance that is attractive to bees. This includes but is not limited to sugar, fruit, honey, pollen or royal jelly.
  - c) Encapsulated bee products must be packaged and sealed in shelf-ready packages.
- (4) The facility operator must ensure that all packaging, semi-solid and solid waste in direct contact with bee product risk materials imported into New Zealand is treated, destroyed or disposed of by:
  - a) Incineration; or
  - b) Autoclaving (at least 101° for at least 5 minutes); or
  - c) Deep burial.