



Risk Management Proposal:

Amendment to the import health standard *Stored Plant Products for Human Consumption*

SPP.HUMAN.IHS

Prepared for public consultation by the Biosecurity Import and Export Standards Directorate

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1 General information

1.1 Purpose

- (1) The purpose of this document is to:
 - a) outline the proposed changes to the Stored Plant Products for Human Consumption import health standard,
 - b) explain why the proposed changes are necessary, and
 - c) ask for feedback on the proposed changes.

1.2 What is changing

The proposed amendments seek to:

- (1) update requirements for importing legumes in soup mix of retail packets up to 1 kg
- (2) add South Korea to the list of countries that have no requirements for packaged rice (up to 25 kg).

The proposed changes for consultation are outlined in Appendix 1. Other minor changes that do not require consultation have not been included in the Risk Management Proposal.

1.3 What you can do

- (3) If you are happy with the proposed changes, you do not need to do anything, but it is still a good idea to read the rest of this document.
- (4) If you want to comment on the changes we are proposing, we are accepting feedback until 20 February 2025. We value all feedback on our work, whether complimentary or critical. If we've done something well, let us know so we can keep heading in the right direction.
- (5) We base our requirements on the best scientific evidence available to us at the time. If you have scientific evidence that could change our conclusions, please include this in your feedback.
- (6) This is a public consultation. We compile all feedback into a document and publish it on our website. This document includes our responses to scientific evidence and details of any changes we make as a result. Your feedback, along with your name and organisation, will be online and may be read by anyone. See the note regarding the Official Information Act 1982 below.
- (7) The deadline for feedback is 5 pm, 20 February 2025. If we receive feedback after the deadline, we will hold it on file and consider it when we next review the standard.
- (8) Email your feedback to Plant Imports PlantImports@mpi.govt.nz or write to
Plant Products
Biosecurity Import and Export Standards Directorate
Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

1.4 The Official Information Act 1982

- (9) Your submission is public information, and it is MPI policy to publish submissions and a review of these submissions on the MPI website. Submissions may also be the subject of requests for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). The OIA specifies that information is to be made available to requesters unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it, as set out in the OIA. You may wish to indicate grounds for withholding specific information contained in your submission, for example, information that is commercially sensitive or that needs to be redacted for privacy reasons. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.

2 Proposed amendment and rationale

2.1 Proposal on legumes in soup mix of retail packets up to 1 kg

- (10) MPI proposes to incorporate a previous direction (CTOPlants:20170025) made by a Chief Technical Officer (CTO) into the standard. This means that consignments of whole or split legumes, listed under section 5.7 of the standard, in retail packets of soup mix up to 1 kg can be cleared without any certification or inspection requirements.

2.1.1 Background and rationale

- (11) The standard has an option for importing whole or split beans (*Phaseolus* spp.) in soup mixes in retail packs of up to 1 kg with no certification or inspection requirement. However, the standard has no option for importing similar packets of other common legumes in soup mixes. All other imports of whole or split legumes (i.e. legumes not in soup mixes or packages more than 1 kg) require inspection, or a treatment, or must be processed in a transitional facility as specified in the [Grain and Seeds for Consumption, Feed or Processing](#) import health standard.
- (12) This lack of specification in the standard has led to consignments of soup mix packs containing seeds of other legumes (apart from *Phaseolus* spp.) being stopped and held at the border. This often requires advice from Plant Products team before they can be given biosecurity clearance.
- (13) Retail packs of soup mix are individual packets of dried legumes/grains and powdered flavourings designed as a single meal for human consumption.

2.1.2 Risk assessment

- (14) In 2017, MPI assessed the biosecurity risk of these legume packets as low, because the contents are cleaned and processed to a high standard before they are packaged. Hence the risk of them harbouring regulated weed seeds and insect pests is low.
- (15) The contents of the packs are expected to be poured directly into a pot and cooked for human consumption. Cooking the soup mixes over high heat further reduces the likelihood of viable seeds or pests (if they were present) establishing in New Zealand from these packs.
- (16) MPI considers that there is an extremely low risk that someone would pick out seeds from a retail commercially prepared soup mix and plant them.
- (17) In 2017 the CTO direction: CTOPlants:20170025 (whole or split legumes in soup mixes) was approved. This CTO direction permits consignments of whole or split legumes, and listed under section 5.7 of the standard, in retail packets of soup mix under 1 kg to be cleared without any certification or inspection. This was considered to be an equivalent measure to the requirements specified in section 5.7 of the standard for whole or split beans (*Phaseolus* spp.) in retail packets of soup mix up to 1 kg.

- (18) MPI has since been using this CTO direction to clear soup mix of other legumes in retail packets up to 1 kg without any issues. As a result, MPI proposes to incorporate this direction into the standard. This will provide the same outcome and allow for more efficient clearance of these products.
- (19) A new line entry has been created in the Standard (Part 5.7 Table) for soup mixes containing whole or split beans or legumes.

2.2 Proposal to add South Korea to the list of countries with no requirements for packaged rice up to 25 kg

- (20) MPI proposes to add South Korea to the list of countries which have no additional requirements for packaged rice up to 25 kg for direct retail sale. This means that packaged rice (up to 25 kg) imported from South Korea for direct retail sale will no longer need to be inspected or have phytosanitary certification.

2.2.1 Background and rationale

- (21) Consignments of packaged rice (up to 25 kg) for direct retail sale from Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan, and USA are cleared at the border without inspection or certification.
- (22) It appears these countries were selected based on historical trade record for having low risk on this pathway.
- (23) Consignments of packaged rice more than 25 kg or not packaged for direct retail sale from all countries, require inspection or treatment.

2.2.2 Risk assessment

- (24) There have been 50 consignments of rice imports from South Korea since 2022. All consignments passed inspection, except two.
- (25) Insects were found on the first consignment but were not identified because the importer opted for treatment instead of identification. Two weevils, believed to be rice weevil *Sitophilus oryzae*, and contaminant seed were found on the second consignment but were not formally identified. This consignment was destroyed.
- (26) *Sitophilus oryzae* is one of the most common rice weevils distributed worldwide and is present in New Zealand (CABI, 2024; NZOR, 2024). It is a non-regulated organism in New Zealand (ONZPR, 2024). Considering that the packaged rice will be cooked, the likelihood of viable seeds or insects (if they were present) establishing in New Zealand is very low.
- (27) Assessment of records of rice imports from South Korea, including pest interception data, indicate that the risk profile of packaged rice from South Korea is very low, and is similar to that of other countries already permitted to export packaged rice (up to 25 kg) to New Zealand without certification or inspection. For example, three consignments of packaged rice up to 25 kg and originating from the USA have also been either held or destroyed over the same period. MPI proposes to add South Korea to this list of countries in the standard as the biosecurity risk of this category of rice import is considered to be low.

3 Practicality and feasibility

- (28) We expect the proposed measures to be practical and feasible for importers of legumes and rice for consumption. The changes will not increase costs for importers and will not increase biosecurity risk on the pathways.

- (29) Consignments of legumes or rice outside the proposed categories will continue to require appropriate phytosanitary measures.

4 References

1. CABI, 2024: [Sitophilus oryzae \(lesser grain weevil\) | CABI Compendium](#)
2. NZOR, 2024: [NZOR Name Details - Sitophilus oryzae \(Linnaeus, 1763\)](#)
3. ONZPR, 2024: [Pests of concern to NZ | ONZPR | MPI | NZ Govt](#)

Appendix 1: Proposed changes in the standard

Commodity		Requirements
Rice (<i>Oryza sativa</i>)	Packaged (up to 25 kg) for direct retail sale from: Australia, Canada, European Union, Japan, South Korea , UK, or USA	No certification or inspection requirements
Soup mixes containing whole or split beans or legumes	Retail packaged up to 1 kg	No certification or Inspection requirements
	Retail packaged more than 1 kg	Refer to IHS: <u>GCFP.IHS</u>
	Whole	Refer to IHS: <u>GCFP.IHS</u>
	Split	Inspection
		No certification or inspection requirements
Beans (<i>Phaseolus</i> spp.)	Seeds with testa (coat or skin) removed	Inspection

Changes to the standard are in red.

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