



# Import Health Standard

## Soil, Rock, Gravel, Sand, Clay and Water

MPI.STD.SOWTR

## **TITLE**

Import Health Standard: Soil, Rock, Gravel, Sand, Clay and Water

## **COMMENCEMENT**

This Import Health Standard comes into force on the date of issue.

## **REVOCATION**

This Import Health Standard revokes and replaces BMG-STD-SOWTR: Soil, Rock, Gravel, Sand, Clay, Peat and Water from Any Country, dated 30 May 2007.

## **ISSUING AUTHORITY**

This Import Health Standard is issued

Dated at Wellington this ... day of ..... 2015

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(acting under delegated authority of the Director General)

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## Introduction

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

## Purpose

This IHS specifies the import requirements for the importation of soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and water from all countries for the effective management of biosecurity risks associated with these goods.

## Background

The New Zealand Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for effectively managing the import of risk goods.

Import health standards (IHS), issued under the Act, specify requirements to be met for the effective management of imported risk goods that may pose a biosecurity threat to New Zealand. IHS include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit and importation and post clearance, if specified, before biosecurity clearance can be given.

This IHS replaces BMG-STD-SOWTR: Soil, Rock, Gravel, Sand, Clay, Peat and Water from Any Country.

Requirements for peat in section 5 have been removed from this standard and amalgamated into MPI.STD.FERTGRO: Fertilisers and Growing Media of Plant Origin

Additional information to the requirements is included in guidance text boxes.

## Who should read this Import Health Standard?

This IHS applies to those intending to import soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, and water into New Zealand from all countries, and outlines the import requirements.

## Why is this important?

Operating other than in accordance with this standard may result in the goods being reshipped or destroyed.

Importers must take all responsible steps to ensure that the goods comply with this IHS (section 16B of the Act).

## Equivalence

The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may approve measures different from those set out in this IHS which can 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 if the Director- General considers it appropriate to do so.

## Part 1: General Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This import health standard (IHS) applies to soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and water being imported into New Zealand from all countries for the following purposes:
  - a) research, including the isolation of organisms, and analysis;
  - b) consumption;
  - c) other purposes, subject to specific requirements (refer to Part 2).

### 1.2 Definitions

- (1) Refer to Appendix 1 for a list of definitions which apply to this IHS.

### 1.3 Documentation and inspection

- (1) All documentation must be in English, but may be bilingual.
- (2) The following goods require a [permit to import](#):
  - a) research samples imported for the isolation of microorganisms;
  - b) water consignments greater than 100L (total volume);
  - c) soil consignments greater than 10kg;
  - d) goods where an equivalent measure in relation to disposal or treatment, different to that specified in this IHS, has been approved by a CTO.
- (3) The permit application is available at <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/3044>
- (4) A copy of the permit must accompany the consignment.
- (5) All documentation will be inspected to verify that it complies with the requirements of this IHS. The consignment may be inspected upon arrival in New Zealand to verify that compliance with the requirements of this IHS.
- (6) All inspections must be completed at an MPI approved transitional facility or biosecurity control area, which has been approved by MPI as suitable for inspecting plant products.

#### Guidance

- Soil, rock, gravel, sand, and clay imported for the purpose of use as an ingredient in growing media is not eligible for import into New Zealand under this IHS. The requirements for growing media ingredients are prescribed in the IHS MPI.STD.FERTGRO: Fertilisers and Growing Media of Plant Origin.
- Ballast water carried by vessels is not eligible for import into New Zealand under this IHS. The requirements for ballast water are prescribed in the [IHS Ship's Ballast Water from All Countries](#).
- When water is found as a contaminant on an imported consignment, the contaminant water will be handled as specified in the relevant IHS; treated in accordance with standard [MPI-STD-ABTRT Approved Biosecurity Treatments](#); or as otherwise specified by the MPI inspector.
  - the guidance document for IHS for Vehicles, Machinery and Tyres provides information on the actions which may occur when water is intercepted as a contaminant on those types of consignments.
- When soil is found as a contaminant on an imported consignment, the contaminant soil will be handled as specified in the relevant IHS; treated in accordance with standard [MPI-STD-ABTRT Approved Biosecurity Treatments](#), or as otherwise specified by the MPI inspector.
- All treatments required for clearance under this IHS are required to be completed by an approved

treatment supplier in a transitional facility. A list of [MPI approved treatment suppliers](#), and the scope of their approval, can be viewed on the website.

- For unaccompanied consignments that are eligible for biosecurity clearance, it is recommended that the importer provide documentation that clearly identifies the items to be imported and the intended end use.
- For unaccompanied consignments, it is recommended that the importer or their agent, applies for a Biosecurity Authority/Clearance Certificate (BACC) before the consignment arrives in New Zealand. Information about submitting a BACC application can be found at the following website: <http://mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/containers-and-cargo/>.
- A copy of all relevant documentation associated with the consignment should be submitted with the BACC application.

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## Part 2: Specific Requirements

- (1) All consignments must be packaged securely to prevent leakage.
- (2) All consignments must be clearly labelled with the full description of contents of each package.
- (3) Plants must not be propagated from soil, rock, gravel, clay or water samples.
- (4) Microorganisms must not be isolated from soil, rock, gravel, clay or water samples without an approval issued under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) 1996, and a permit to import.

### 2.1 Samples imported into a transitional or containment facility

- (1) For samples imported into a transitional or containment facility, the following requirements also apply:
  - a) records are to be kept of all samples, including the permit number, BACC number, a description of the goods, country of origin, date of arrival at the facility and the current status of the material (e.g. held, in use or destroyed);
  - b) samples must be held and used in the facility according to its operating system;
  - c) approval must be given by the MPI inspector before samples can be transferred to another facility or be re-exported from New Zealand;
  - d) any material remaining after analysis is to be destroyed by incineration or autoclaving; or by any other method in accordance with the operating system.

### 2.2 Samples imported for research purposes

- (1) Samples imported for research purposes must be imported in accordance with the specific requirements of Tables 1 and 2;
- (2) Samples requiring a permit to import are specified in section 1.3 (2).

#### Guidance

- The HSNO application code or approval code should be specified on the permit application for research samples imported for the isolation of microorganisms.
- Specific requirements for microorganisms may also be required under the [IHS for microorganisms from all countries \(Microic.all\)](#).

#### 2.2.1 Samples imported for analysis

Table 1. Specific import requirements for research samples for analysis

| Goods to be imported  | Option                               | Requirement   |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| Soil samples.   | Import into a transitional facility. | The soil must be treated/ destroyed after analysis according to the relevant TF standard. |
| Rock, gravel, sand, and clay samples.                               | Inspection on arrival.               | Samples must be free from organic material.   |
| Water samples up to, and including 100L (total consignment volume). | Import into a transitional facility. | Water must be treated/ destroyed after analysis according to the relevant TF standard.    |

## 2.2.2 Samples imported for the isolation of microorganisms

**Table 2. Specific import requirements for research samples for isolation of microorganisms**

| Goods to be imported                               | Option   | Requirement   |
|--|--|---|
| Soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, and water samples. | Import into a transitional facility or containment facility under a HSNO approval. | A permit to import is required, that will detail any specific requirements for the samples. |

## 2.3 Water for consumption and other purposes

- (1) This section specifies the requirements for water imported for purposes other than research.
- (2) Where the consignment is greater than 100 litres, or where treatment is unwanted, the importer may (prior to shipment) apply for a permit to import with details of the consignment's origin, destination and intended end use.

### 2.3.1 Water for consumption

**Table 3. Specific import requirements for water imported for consumption**

| Goods to be imported   | Requirement                                       |
|--|---|
| Commercially bottled water.  | No specific requirements.                         |
| Non- commercial water.   | The water must be free from visual contamination. |
| Non- commercial water from town water supplies (imported by a passenger only). | The water must be free from visual contamination. |
| Drinking water (on ships and aircraft arriving in New Zealand).                | No specific requirements.                         |

### 2.3.2 Distilled water

- (1) No additional requirements.

### 2.3.3 Water imported for other purposes

- (1) Water imported for purposes other than consumption must be imported in accordance with the specific requirements of Table 4 and 5.
- (2) Contaminated water must be treated prior to receiving biosecurity clearance.



**Table 4. Specific requirements for the import of water which is clear and free from visual contamination.**

| Goods to be imported  | Option                 | Requirement  |
|---|------------------------|--|
| Water samples up to 100L.                                   | Inspection on arrival. | The water must be inspected and found to be free from visual contamination.                  |
| Water samples greater than 100L (total volume consignment). | Permit to import.      | A permit to import is required, which will detail the specific requirements for the samples. |

**Table 5. Specific requirements for imported water which is visually contaminated.**

(1) Water treatment is required when:

- a) water is not clear and the importer requests treatment;
- b) water is found as a contaminant on an object and is likely to have been exposed to mosquitoes;
- c) water is visibly contaminated with algae or soil.

| Goods to be imported  | Option   | Requirement   |
|---|--|---|
| Contaminated water up to, and including, 100L (total consignment volume). | Treatment for viable organisms when the goods arrive in New Zealand. | When the consignment arrives in New Zealand, the water must be treated by an MPI approved treatment supplier by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) boiling;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) 100°C for a minimum of 1 minute;</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>b) chemical treatment by adding calcium hypochlorite at 20mg/L;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The water must be agitated for 1 minute, then left to sit for 30 minutes.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> NB: If treatment is not wanted, a permit to import is required, detailing specific requirements for the consignment. |
| Contaminated water greater than 100L volume.                              | Permit to import.  | A permit to import is required, detailing specific requirements for the consignment.  |

## 2.3 Soil, rock, gravel, sand, and clay for other purposes

- (1) The requirements for soil, rock, gravel, sand, and clay, imported for purposes other than research are specified in this section.

### 2.3.1 Soil consignments

Table 6. Specific import requirements for soil samples

| Goods to be imported                             | Option                                     | Requirement   |
|--|--|---|
| For soil consignments up to, and including 10kg. | Treatment on arrival for viable organisms. | <p>When the goods arrive in New Zealand, the soil must be treated by an MPI approved treatment supplier by either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) heat treatment;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) raising the internal temperature of the moist soil to 100°C for at least 25 minutes, at 40% relative humidity;</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>b) heat treatment;                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) raising the internal temperature of the moist soil to 85°C for at least 15 hours, at 40% relative humidity;</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>irradiation at 50kGy.</li> </ul> <p>NB if treatment is not a suitable option, a permit to import is required, detailing specific requirements for the consignment.</p> |
| For soil consignments greater than 10kg.         | Permit to import.                          | A permit to import is required, detailing specific requirements for the consignment.  |

### 2.3.2 Rock, gravel, sand and clay (including commercially packaged sand and clay)

- (1) The goods must be free from organic material.

## Appendix 1: Definitions

Definitions have the same meaning as defined by the Act unless set out below:

**Clay**

A layer of earth usually sticky in nature. For clay containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**Gravel**

A mixture of coarse sand and small rock. For gravel containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**ISPM**

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.

**MPI**

Ministry for Primary Industries New Zealand.

**NPPO**

National Plant Protection Organisation is the official organisation established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.

**Rock**

Solid mineral material forming part of the surface of the earth. For rock containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**Soil**

The upper layer of earth containing a mixture of organic material, sand gravel, clay, and silt. For the purposes of this import health standard soil also includes the following materials:

- compost, sediment, silt, sludge
- clay, gravel, rock and sand contaminated with organic material

**Sand**

A loose granular substance formed from worn down rocks. For sand containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**Water**

Water, including ice and snow.

## Appendix 2: Amendment Record

The following table provides a summary of amendments to this Import Health Standard.

| Number: | Details: | Date: |
|---------|----------|-------|
|         |          |       |

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