



Natural Sausage Casings

MEACASIC.ALL

TITLE

Import Health Standard: [Natural Sausage Casings]

COMMENCEMENT

[This Import Health Standard comes into force on ..]

REVOCATION

This Import Health Standard revokes and replaces the following IHS's:

- *Importing Porcine Sausage Casings from Canada and the USA, 2 December 2004*
- *Importing Sausage Casings from Australia, 31 January 2000*
- *Import Health Standard for Natural Casings (Porcine/Ovine/Caprine) for Human Consumption from the European Union, 28 June 2012]*

ISSUING AUTHORITY

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

Dated at Wellington this [...] day of [..... 2014]

Draft for Consultation

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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

- (1) [This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing natural sausage casings from cattle, pigs, sheep or goats.]

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 specify requirements to be met for the effective management of risks associated with importing goods that pose a biosecurity threat to New Zealand. 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 natural sausage casings 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 natural sausage casings.]

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 re-shipped or destroyed under the Act or treated in accordance with this IHS prior to release or equivalence determined. Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

See guidance document for more information about importer responsibilities.]

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 equivalence 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.

See guidance document for more information about equivalence and permits.

Document history

- (1) Refer to Schedule 1.

Other information

- (1) This IHS 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, the Food Act 2014 as it comes into force, the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, and the Animal Products Act 1999.

See guidance document for more information about the Food Act 1981 and Animal Products Act 1999.]

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Part 1: General Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to the following sausage casings imported from all countries:
 - a) Natural sausage casings derived from porcine animals (pigs), comprised of the submucosal tissue layer of the intestine.
 - b) Natural sausage casings derived from bovine animals (cattle), comprised of all major intestinal tissue layers, with the exception of the ileum. After processing, only a small amount of mucosa and lymphoid tissue remain.
 - c) Natural sausage casings derived from caprine (goats) or ovine animals (sheep), comprised of the submucosal tissue layer of the small intestine.

1.2 The outcome this IHS 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 natural sausage casings.
- (2) The biosecurity risk organisms associated with the product specifically managed by this IHS are:
 - a) Classical swine fever virus (porcine casings).

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 *World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* ([the Manual](#)).
 - b) 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 Act is available at the following website:
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>
- (2) See Schedule 2 for additional definitions that apply.

1.5 Exporting country systems and certification

- (1) Importers may import eligible product only from a country where the Competent Authority has provided evidence to the satisfaction of a CTO of the following:
 - a) The verifiable animal health status of animal populations in the exporting country, zone or compartment, with respect to biosecurity risk organisms of concern.
 - b) The national systems/programmes and standards in the exporting country for regulatory oversight of the meat industry.
 - c) The capabilities and preferences of the exporting country's Competent Authority with respect to achieving equivalent outcomes to requirements stated in this IHS.

- (2) Once satisfied, MPI and the Competent Authority may commence negotiation of country-specific veterinary certification.

See guidance document for more information about exporting country systems and certification and for more information about countries with approved exporting systems that meet the requirements above.

1.6 Processing

- (1) Natural sausage casings must be derived from animals that have passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections.
- (2) The gut contents of casings must be removed and the casings must be cleaned and scraped according to GMP or HACCP programmes to the satisfaction of the Competent Authority in that country.
- (3) The casings must be stored at room temperature in either dry salt or saturated brine for a minimum of 30 days.

1.7 Packaging and storage

- (1) The product for export must be commercially packaged in sealed, leak-proof packaging.
- (2) The product for export must be stored and subsequently transported in a hygienic manner and be kept free of contaminants.
- (3) The container that the product for export will be transported in must be sealed under Competent Authority supervision and the unique seal number and date of sealing must be recorded on the veterinary certificate.

1.8 Permit to import

- (1) A permit to import under section 24 D of the Act is required if a CTO has approved an equivalent measure prior to import, different from that set in the IHS that may be applied to effectively manage risks.
- (2) A permit to import is not required where a CTO has approved an equivalent measure prior to import, different from that set in the IHS in the form of a negotiated veterinary certificate.

1.9 The documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) The consignment must arrive with the following documentation:
 - a) A veterinary certificate from the exporting country's Official Veterinarian. Where equivalent measures have been negotiated and agreed with a CTO, a country-specific veterinary certificate must be used.
 - b) A copy of a permit to import if required by clause 1.8(1). The importer must apply to the Director-General for a permit to import and include the following information to obtain a permit:
 - i) The name and address of exporter.
 - ii) The type of product.
 - iii) Name and address of the New Zealand importer.
- (2) A veterinary certificate that accompanies a consignment must include all of the following:
 - a) A unique consignment identifier.
 - b) The description, species, and amount of product.
 - c) The name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).

- d) The name, signature and contact details of the Official Veterinarian.
 - e) Certification and endorsement that the general requirements outlined in Part 1 of this IHS have been met for processing, packaging, and storage.
 - f) Certification and endorsement that details how each specified requirement outlined in Part 2 of the IHS have been met.
- (3) A separate veterinary certificate must be supplied for each species from which the product for export has been sourced.

See guidance document for more information about the model certificate and country specific veterinary certificates that have been agreed for trade.

- (4) 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.

1.10 Biosecurity clearance

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

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Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms

2.1 Classical swine fever virus (CSFV)

Guidance: Natural sausage casings derived from cattle, sheep and goats are not subjected to risk management measures for CSFV.

- (1) Natural sausage casings derived from pigs may be imported provided that they have been:
- a) Derived from animals continuously resident in countries, zones or compartments where CSFV has not been recognised in accordance with the OIE Code for the 12 months prior to slaughter; or
 - b) Salted for at least 30 days with supplemented dry salt or saturated brine ($A_w < 0.80$) containing 86.5% NaCl, 10.7% Na_2HPO_4 and 2.8% Na_3PO_4 (weight/weight/weight) and kept at a temperature of greater than 20°C during this entire period.

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Schedule 1 – Document History

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
	Natural Sausage Casings	MEACASIC.ALL
Date of Issued Amendments	Title	Shortcode

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Schedule 2 – Definitions

Ante-Mortem Inspection

An Official Veterinarian or Competent Authority approved veterinarian inspection on the day of slaughter to determine freedom from clinical signs of infectious diseases in animals destined for product for export to New Zealand.

Compartment

An animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

Competent Authority

The Veterinary or other Governmental Authority of an OIE Member, that has 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 *Code* in the whole territory.

GMP

Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) is a system to ensure that products meet food safety, quality and legal requirements of the country of manufacture.

HACCP

Hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) is a systematic preventive approach to food safety from biological, chemical, and physical hazards in production processes that can cause the finished product to be unsafe, and designs measurements to reduce these risks to a safe level.

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.

OIE

The World Organisation for Animal Health.

Post-Mortem Inspection

An Official Veterinarian or Competent Authority approved veterinarian inspection on the day of slaughter to determine freedom from clinical signs of infectious diseases in animals destined for product for export to New Zealand.

Surveillance

Competent Authority supervised systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information so that action can be taken. For the purposes of this IHS, for risk organisms, where disease specific surveillance recommendations are made in the *Code*, the *Code* recommendations must be met. For other risk organisms, surveillance must meet the recommendations in the *Code* Chapter for animal health surveillance.

The Code

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

The *Manual*

The OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals.

Veterinary Certificate

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

Zone

A clearly defined part of a territory containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.]

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