

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR SPECIFIED PROCESSED BEE PRODUCTS

Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993

Date: 13 November 2006

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR IMPORTERS

Update 22 December 2015

The following information relates to the Chief Technical Officer Direction 2015 095 to Biosecurity inspectors for the clearance of bee products from all countries and replaces all previous CTO directions pertaining to this standard.

Replaces Clause 2.6

The import health standard for specified bee products from Australia was revoked in 2009. Bee product imports into New Zealand from all countries are regulated using this import health standard.

Replaces Clause 5.1

The following products require a permit to import:

5.1.1 Bulk untreated bee products not packaged in consumer-ready packaging and containing more than 2% honey, pollen, propolis or royal jelly for further processing at a suitable transitional facility

5.1.2 Medical preparations containing more than 50% honey by weight

Guidance: Samples of honey and other bee products imported for evaluation and subsequent destruction at transitional facilities fall under the import health standard for biological specimens, BIOPRODIC.ALL available at <http://mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/1179>

Replaces Clause 6.3

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining biosecurity direction and/or biosecurity clearance or rejection of consignments.

Replaces Clause 7.2

Refined beeswax may be given biosecurity clearance provided that the product is:

- i. From Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga or Tuvalu and accompanied by a Zoosanitary Certificate issued by the veterinary authority of that country certifying that
 - a) the beeswax comes from that country; and
 - b) the country is free from European Foulbrood caused by *Melissococcus plutonius*.OR
- ii. From any other country and accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration that identifies the product and certifies that the beeswax has been heated to at least 60 degrees Celsius for 2 hours and clarified.

Guidance:

The beeswax may be in blocks which are not commercially packaged but it must be clear to an Inspector that the manufacturer's declaration relates to the consignment of beeswax.

Replaces Clauses 7.3.2 ii

The product must be:

In manufactured packaging clearly indicating that the total amount of honey, bee pollen and/or royal jelly in personal consignments is no more than 2% of the total product weight; or

- a) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the product contains no more than 2% honey; or
- b) A personal consignment of nougat; or

- c) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the product contains no more than 50% honey and that the bee product ingredient has undergone one of the indicated heat treatments¹; or
- d) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the bee product has been immersed in an ethanol solution of at least 40%; or
- e) Accompanied by a permit to import; or
- f) Honey powder in any proportion, provided that the consignment is accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the honey powder has undergone one of the indicated heat treatments¹; or
- g) A personal consignment of commercially prepared and packaged, unopened honey mead.

Replaces Clause 7.4.2 iii

The product must be:

- a) Packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale; or
- b) In manufactured packaging clearly indicating that the total amount of propolis in personal consignments is no more than 2% of the total product weight; or
- c) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the product contains no more than 2% propolis; or
- d) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the propolis has been extracted from or immersed in ethanol solutions of at least 40%; or
- e) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the propolis has undergone one of the indicated heat treatments¹; or
- f) Accompanied by a permit to import: Bulk untreated propolis for further processing must be directed to a bee-proof transitional facility nominated by the importer. The Bulk untreated propolis must be held in an insect proof area as detailed in the facility manual/quality system. The bulk untreated propolis must be encapsulated at the transitional facility listed on the permit. The outer layer of those capsules must not contain any substance that is attractive to bees- including, but not limited to sugar, fruit, honey, pollen or royal jelly.

Replaces Clause 7.4.3 ii

The product must be:

- a) 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 consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale; or
- b) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration stating that the product contains no more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly; or
- c) In manufactured packaging clearly indicating that the total amount of honey, bee pollen and/or royal jelly in personal consignments is no more than 2% of the total product weight; or
- d) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the bee product ingredient has undergone one of the indicated heat treatments¹; or
- e) Accompanied by a permit to import: Bulk untreated bee products for further processing must be directed to a bee-proof transitional facility nominated by the importer. Bulk untreated bee products must be held in an insect proof area as detailed in the facility manual/quality system. The bulk untreated bee product must be encapsulated at the transitional facility listed on the permit. The outer layer of those capsules must not contain any substance that is attractive to bees- including, but not limited to sugar, fruit, honey, pollen or royal jelly.

Replaces Clause 7.4.4 ii

The product must be:

- a) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration stating that the product contains no more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly; or

- b) A personal consignment of commercially manufactured and packaged throat spray (limit twelve bottles per person); or
- c) In manufactured packaging clearly indicating that the total amount of honey, bee pollen and/or royal jelly in personal consignments is no more than 2% of the total product weight; or
- d) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the bee product ingredient has undergone one of the indicated heat treatments¹; or
- e) Accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration specifying that the product contains no more than 50 percent liquid honey and that the bee product ingredient has undergone radiation treatment at a rate of at least 15 kGy. This includes products such as toothpaste, cosmetics and medical preparations that are topically applied. Products for human consumption such as cough syrup and throat lozenges may not be irradiated; or
- f) Accompanied by a permit to import: Bulk untreated bee product ingredients for further processing must be directed to a bee-proof transitional facility. Bulk untreated bee products must be held in an insect proof area as detailed in the facility manual/quality system. The bulk untreated bee product must be encapsulated at the transitional facility listed on the permit. The outer layer of those capsules must not contain any substance that is attractive to bees- including, but not limited to sugar, fruit, honey, pollen or royal jelly.

¹A treatment in which the core temperature of bee product has reached:

- i. 50°C for a minimum of 54 hours; or
- ii. 60°C for a minimum of 10 hours; or
- iii. 65°C for a minimum of 8 hours; or
- iv. 70°C for a minimum of 1 hour and 48 minutes; or
- v. 80°C for a minimum of 22 minutes; or
- vi. 82°C for a minimum of 20 minutes; or
- vii. 90°C or more for a minimum of 5 minutes; or
- viii. 100°C for a minimum of 5 minutes; or
- ix. 130°C for a minimum of 1 second.

Guidance:

- *Bee-proof transitional facilities are under the standard MPI-STD-TFGEN, Annex F (General transitional facility for Uncleared Goods, applying to Clause 5.8 of the Standard for Transitional Facilities for Uncleared Goods*
(<http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/files/regs/stds/bnz-std-tfgen.pdf>)
- *A manufacturer's declaration is prepared by the manufacturer on letterhead paper, dated within the last 12 months and signed by the quality manager or equivalent.*

USER GUIDE

The information in [MAF](#) animal and animal product import health standards is presented in numerically ordered sections with descriptive titles. Sections are grouped into one of four parts, designated alphabetically.

[Part A. GENERAL INFORMATION](#) contains sections of general interest, including those relating to the legal basis for [MAF](#) import health standards and the general responsibilities of every importer of animals and animal products.

[Part B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE](#) contains sections which outline the requirements to be met prior to and during importation. Whether a permit to import is required to be obtained prior to importation is noted, as are conditions of eligibility, and general conditions relating to documentation accompanying the consignment, if necessary.

[Part C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE](#) contains sections describing the requirements to be met at the New Zealand border and, if necessary, in a [transitional facility](#) in New Zealand prior to any consignment being given [biosecurity clearance](#).

PART A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1 IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is the import health standard for the importation of specified processed bee products into New Zealand.
- 1.2 Obtaining [biosecurity clearance](#) for each consignment of specified processed bee products imported into New Zealand is dependent upon the consignment meeting the requirements of this import health standard.
- 1.3 This import health standard may be reviewed, amended or revoked if there are changes in New Zealand's import policy or the animal health status of the originating country, or for any other lawful reason, at the discretion of the Biosecurity Standards Group Manager.

2 IMPORTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2.1 It is the importer or agent's responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with the current version of the relevant import health standard at the time of importation into New Zealand. Current versions of import health standards are available online at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-imports/import-health-standards/search>
- 2.2 The costs to [MAF](#) in performing functions relating to the importation of specified processed bee products shall be recovered in accordance with the Biosecurity Act and any regulations made under that Act.
- 2.3 All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a [biosecurity direction](#) and/or [biosecurity clearance](#) shall be borne by the importer or agent.
- 2.4 Commercial consignments of products imported into New Zealand for human consumption must comply with the Food Act 1981. These requirements are independent of the import health standard requirements and are managed by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA). Importers are advised to consult the NZFSA website: <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/imported-food/index.htm> or contact the NZFSA.
- 2.5 Irradiated foods intended for human consumption are not eligible for import into New Zealand unless they have been through a pre-market safety assessment process conducted by the Food Safety Association of New Zealand. Further information is available from the New Zealand Food Safety Authority website at <http://www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consumers/food-safety-topics/food-processing-labelling/food-irradiation/index.htm>.
- 2.6 This import health standard *does not* include the following bee products from Australia: foundation beeswax and raw beeswax; honey; pollen; raw propolis and royal jelly. The importation of these commodities is covered in the import health

standard for the importation of specified bee products from Australia which is available on the [MAF](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/beeproic.aus.htm) website at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/animals/standards/beeproic.aus.htm>.

3 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Biosecurity clearance

A clearance under section 26 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the entry of goods into New Zealand. (Explanatory Note: Goods given a Biosecurity Clearance by an Inspector are released to the importer without restriction).

Biosecurity direction

Written authority from an inspector, given under section 25 of the Biosecurity Act (1993), to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand.

Inspector

Means a person who is appointed an inspector under section 103 of the Biosecurity Act (1993).

MAF

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Shelf-stable

Not requiring refrigeration or freezing.

Transitional facility

Means (a) any place approved as a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act (1993) for the purpose of inspection, testing, storage, treatment, holding or destruction of uncleared goods; or (b) a part of a port declared to be a transitional facility in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act (1993).

Terrestrial Code

The World Organization for Animal Health (Office International des Epizooties) *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*.

Veterinary Authority

The governmental Veterinary Service that has authority for implementing, supervising and auditing the animal health measures and international veterinary certification processes recommended by the Terrestrial Code.

4 EQUIVALENCE

- 4.1 It is expected that the product will meet the conditions of this import health standard in every respect. If the product does not comply with the requirements, an application for equivalence may be submitted to [MAF](http://www.maf.govt.nz) for consideration prior to importation explaining the the reason(s) why the consignment may be considered of equivalent health status to a consignment complying with this import health standard, and what proposal is made to achieve an equivalent health status.

PART B. IMPORTATION PROCEDURE

5 PERMIT TO IMPORT

5.1 The following products require a permit to import:

- 5.1.1 processed composite foods/food ingredients containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly that have not been baked or fried
- 5.1.2 confectionery containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly that is not boiled
- 5.1.3 refined propolis products that have not been packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
- 5.1.4 dietary supplements containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly that have not been encapsulated and packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
- 5.1.5 medical preparations containing more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly
- 5.1.6 samples of honey and other processed bee products for evaluation and subsequent destruction.

(Refer to clauses 7.3, 7.4 and 7.7 in the [eligibility section](#)).

5.2 Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

5.3 An application for a permit to import can be obtained from:

Animal Imports Team, Pre-Clearance Directorate, Biosecurity New Zealand, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, PO Box 2526, Wellington or email: imports@maf.govt.nz

6 DOCUMENTATION ACCOMPANYING THE CONSIGNMENT

6.1 The consignment shall be accompanied by appropriately completed documentation where specified in section 7 of this import health standard.

6.2 Documentation shall be in English, but may be bilingual (language of exporting country/English).

6.3 It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that any documentation presented in accordance with the requirements of this import health standard is original (unless otherwise specified) and clearly legible. Failure to do so may result in delays in obtaining [biosecurity direction](#) and/or [biosecurity clearance](#) or rejection of consignments.

7 ELIGIBILITY

7.1 **Refined beeswax products such as beeswax polish, candles, crayons, ear candles, fire logs, lubricants and surf wax** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided all of the following requirements are met:

- i. The product must be commercially prepared and packaged
- ii. The product must be manufactured into products
- iii. The product must not be foundation beeswax or any other product associated with the beekeeping industry.

7.2 **Refined beeswax** may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) from *any country* provided the following requirement is met:

- i. The product must be accompanied by a [Manufacturer's Declaration](#) that identifies the product and certifies that the beeswax has been heated to at least 60 degrees Celsius for 2 hours and clarified.

Note:

1. The beeswax may be in blocks which are not commercially packaged, but it must be clear to an Inspector that the Manufacturer's Declaration relates to the consignment of beeswax.

7.3 **Processed composite foods, food ingredients and beverages containing honey:**

7.3.1 **Baked or fried foods containing honey and boiled confectionery containing honey** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided the following requirement is met:

- i. The product must be [shelf-stable](#).

Note:

1. Examples of baked or fried foods containing honey may include baby rusks, baked muesli bars, baklava, brownies, cakes, biscuits, bread, breakfast cereals, chips, crackers, halvah, honey roasted nuts, muffins, snacks and teiglach.
2. Examples of boiled confectionery containing honey may include boiled sweets, caramels, chocolate and fudge.
3. Nougat is not boiled confectionery and must comply with clause 7.3.2.

7.3.2 **Other processed composite foods, food ingredients and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) containing honey** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) or [biosecurity direction](#) provided all the following requirements are met:

- i. The product must be commercially prepared and packaged
- ii. The product must be:
EITHER a. accompanied by either a manufacturer's declaration certifying that the product contains less than 2% honey
OR b. accompanied by a permit to import.

7.4 **Dietary supplements and medical preparations:**

7.4.1 **Refined bee venom products** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided all the following requirements are met:

- i. The product must not contain honey, pollen or royal jelly
- ii. The product must be commercially prepared and packaged.

7.4.2 **Refined propolis products** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided all of the following requirements are met:

- i. The product must not contain honey, pollen or royal jelly
- ii. The product must be commercially prepared
- iii. The product must be:
EITHER a. packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
OR b. accompanied by a permit to import.

7.4.3 **Dietary supplements containing honey, pollen or royal jelly** from *any*

country may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) or a [biosecurity direction](#) provided all of the following requirements are met:

- i. The product must be commercially prepared
- ii. The product must be:
 - EITHER a. 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 consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale
 - OR b. accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration stating that the product contains no more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly
 - OR c. accompanied by a permit to import.

7.4.4 **Medical preparations such as antibiotic ointments, breath sprays, cough syrups, healing creams, medicated plasters, toothpaste, and throat lozenges containing honey, pollen or royal jelly** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) or a [biosecurity direction](#) provided all the following requirements are met:

- i. The product must be commercially prepared
- ii. The product must be:
 - EITHER a. accompanied by a manufacturer's declaration stating that the product contains no more than 2% honey, pollen or royal jelly
 - OR b. accompanied by a permit to import.

Note:

1. Dietary supplements given a direction to a transitional facility may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided they are encapsulated and packaged in consumer-ready packages for direct retail sale.

7.5 **Cosmetics containing honey, pollen or royal jelly** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided the following requirement is met:

- i. The product must be commercially prepared

Notes:

1. Examples of cosmetics that may contain honey, pollen or royal jelly include products such as cleansing products, shampoo, creams and emulsions, packs or masks, and lip preparations.
2. Dermatological preparations and medicinal treatments containing honey to aid healing, prevent or reduce infection are defined as medicinal preparations and must meet the conditions outlined in clause 7.4.4 of this import health standard.

7.6 **Honey from Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu** may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided all of the following requirements are met:

- i. The product must be accompanied by zoosanitary certification issued by the [veterinary authority](#) of the exporting country which certifies that:
 - the honey originates from that country;
 - the country is free from European foulbrood caused by *Melissococcus pluton*.

- 7.7 **Samples of honey and other processed bee products for evaluation and subsequent destruction** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided all of the following requirements are met:
- i. The product must be commercially prepared and packaged
 - ii. The product must be accompanied by a permit to import
- 7.8 **Honey of New Zealand origin** from *any country* may be given a [biosecurity clearance](#) provided all of the following requirements are met:
- i. The product must be commercially prepared and packaged
 - ii. The product must be within its original sealed packaging on arrival
 - iii. The country of origin (New Zealand) must be clearly identifiable on the packaging
 - iv. For commercial consignments the product must be accompanied by the export certificate used to export the honey from New Zealand.

PART C. CLEARANCE PROCEDURE

8 BIOSECURITY CLEARANCE AND DIRECTION

- 8.1 An inspector may inspect consignments upon arrival in New Zealand to check that they meet the conditions of [eligibility](#) stated in section 7 of this import health standard.
- 8.1 Providing that the consignment meets the conditions of [eligibility](#), the consignment may, subject to sections 27 and 28 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, be given a [biosecurity direction](#) pursuant to section 25 to the [transitional facility](#) named in the permit to import, or a [biosecurity clearance](#) pursuant to section 26 of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

PART D. ZOOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

- 9.1 None required except for honey from Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu. Refer to clause 7.6 of this import health standard.