BIOSECURITY NEW ZEALAND EXPORT CERTIFICATION STANDARD

Technical Requirements: Phytosanitary Inspection

REVIEW	This Biosecurity New Zealand standard is subject to periodic review.
ENDORSEMENT	This Biosecurity New Zealand standard is hereby endorsed.
Director PreClearance Biosecurity New Zealand	
Date	1 June 2006

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

This standard is one of a set of standards that comprise the Biosecurity New Zealand export phytosanitary certification system.

This export certification system operates through the delegation of authority by Biosecurity New Zealand to authorised Independent Verification Agencies (IVAs) and approved Organisations to carry out certification services and activities on behalf of Biosecurity New Zealand.

The standard "System Overview and Requirements" provides an overview of the policies and general requirements for Biosecurity New Zealand's Export Certification system.

Biosecurity New Zealand has developed standards and technical requirements for the delegation of authority for the provision of phytosanitary export certification services and activities.

The series of export certification standards can be found on the Biosecurity New Zealand websites:

http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/commercial-exports/forestry-exports/export-certification-standards

http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/plants/stds

1.2 Purpose

This document specifies the minimum technical requirements for completion of plant and forestry phytosanitary inspections on behalf of Biosecurity New Zealand.

1.3 References

Refer to Appendix 1, Biosecurity New Zealand Export Certification Standard: System Overview and Requirements.

1.4 Definitions

Refer to Appendix 1, Biosecurity New Zealand Export Certification Standard: System Overview and Requirements.

2. GENERAL PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS

Suppliers seeking approval to provide phytosanitary inspection activities shall operate an approved system in compliance with the Biosecurity New Zealand Export Certification Standard: "Organisation Requirements" or "IVA Requirements," and meet the technical requirements of this standard.

2.1 Identification of lots for inspection

Suppliers shall document procedures on how:

i. Homogenous lots are identified for inspection;
ii. Lots with production site Additional Declarations clearances are identified; and
iii. The integrity of these lots maintained.

2.1.1 Identification of seed lines

All arable seed lines seeking varietal certification must be identified in accordance with Biosecurity New Zealand Standard "Seed Certification". Other seed lines shall meet the requirements of section 2.1

2.2 Sampling of plant products

Suppliers shall document a sampling plan to establish and confirm the phytosanitary status of the lot.

All sampling plans shall ensure:

i. Units of plant product are taken at random from throughout a lot;
ii. Sample size is at least the minimum number of units from which a decision can be made;
iii. Samples are selected from a homogenous lot;
iv. Once the sample size is selected, the total sample is inspected unless the Maximum Pest Limit (MPL) acceptance number has been exceeded.

2.2.1 Sampling options

The following options exist for the sampling of plant products:

i. Importing country's sampling plans

An importing country's specified sampling plan may be used.

ii. Equivalent sampling plan to that specified by an importing country

The supplier shall document a sampling plan that provides at least a 95% confidence level that the level of specified actionable pests within the lot does not exceed a MPL of 0.5%. (See Appendix 1, Table 1).

iii. Importing country's phytosanitary requirements and sampling plans are unknown

Where an importing country phytosanitary requirements are unknown the supplier shall document a sampling plan that provides at least a 95% confidence level that the level of pests within the lot does not exceed a MPL of 5.0%.(See Appendix 1, Table 2).

When this sampling plan option is adopted, the optional clause "They are deemed to be free from other pests" applies. Under these circumstances the generic "default" MPL within Section 2.4 (ii) shall be used in the design of sampling plans.

2.2.2 Arable seeds sampling plans

The ISTA sampling methods and sample sizes are accepted by Biosecurity New Zealand for use in seed phytosanitary certification.

2.3 Inspection

The supplier shall document procedures for the inspection of plant products to establish and confirm the phytosanitary status of the lot for compliance to the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country.

All inspections procedures shall ensure:

i. Inspection includes both the product and the packaging used;
ii. The same or equivalent inspection methodology as known to be applied by the Importing country;
iii. Inspections are undertaken utilising facilities and equipment specified by the importing country and utilise the following:
    a) A minimum light level of 1000 lux at the point of which product is held for inspection;
    b) Equipment utilised for inspection is accurately calibrated;
    c) Technical aids and reference material are available to inspection personnel to facilitate the inspection process and identification of pests.

2.4 Decision making

The supplier shall document procedures as to how a decision will be made on a 'lots' compliance:

To a specific country(s) known phytosanitary requirements.
Where an importing country's phytosanitary requirements are not known, the following default MPLs shall be used:
For all plant products excluding logs and seed for sowing
≤ 5.0% plant products infested by plant pests and
≤ 25g soil per inspection sample.

Note: There is no MPL for seed for sowing.

For logs
≤5.0% plant products infested by plant pests and
Soil clumps ≤5 mm in thickness and ≤25 mm in diameter.

Where doubt exists over the identification of a pest, positive identification by an approved supplier of plant pest identification services is required. A list of approved suppliers of pest identification services is on the Biosecurity New Zealand website:

http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/exports/plants/orgs

2.5 Management of non-conforming product

The supplier shall document procedures for the management of non-complying plant products to meet one or both of the following options:

i. Removal of quarantine pests;
ii. Diversion to an alternative market – domestic or importing country where the pests identified are not a quarantine concern.

2.5.1 Removal of quarantine pests

i. Arable Seed

For the purposes of addressing the variation between importing countries phytosanitary requirements, the New Zealand Seed Quality Management Authority (SQMA) requires all lines of seed where any live insects are found to undergo appropriate post-harvest treatments.

The following industry agreed treatment schedule is to be applied: Fumigate the seed lot with methyl bromide at 27g/m^3 at 15 degrees C (or higher temperature) for 24 hours (CTP of 650 is required).

The supplier seeking approval to undertake seed treatment shall document procedures in accordance with the Biosecurity New Zealand standard "Requirements to become an approved Organisation for the provision of official treatments", specifically Sections 2.6, 2.7, 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.2, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, and Appendix 3 1.0.

ii. Other Plant Products

Where quarantine pests are identified within a lot, the lot may be subjected to:

a) A process that eliminates or removes the quarantine pest from the lot with the subsequent new lot being subjected to an inspection; or

b) Treatment by an approved treatment supplier.

Suppliers seeking approval to undertake treatments shall document procedures in accordance with the Biosecurity New Zealand standard "Requirements to become an approved Organisation for the provision of official treatments", specifically Sections 2.6, 2.7, 4.1.1, 4.1.3, 4.2, 4.3, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, and Appendix 3 1.0.

2.6 Identification of market access status

A supplier shall document their process of identifying how an export consignment has been inspected and found to be in compliance with the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country of destination.

2.7 Post inspection product security

Cross reference to Organisation Requirements Section 3.8.3.2.

2.8 Records

Suppliers shall maintain records of:

i. Inspections which are uniquely identified, dated and traceable to the site of inspection. Inspection records shall identify:
   a) Product type inspected;
   b) Line/grower/packing period;
   c) Time of sampling;
   d) Lot size;
   e) Sample size;
   f) Date of inspection;
   g) Date of inspection
   h) Number and type of quarantine pests found per sample;
   i) Country/crop MPL, combination (as appropriate) used in the decision making process resulting from the inspection;
   j) Action taken as a result of the inspection; and
   k) Inspector's name and validation.

ii. Equipment calibrations where applicable;
iii. Security checks undertaken while plant product(s) are stored within registered facility(s); and
iv. Non-approved Organisations that are supplied with plant products eligible for phytosanitary certification.

All inspection and equipment calibration records shall be maintained for a minimum of 2 years.

2.9 Staff competency requirements

Staff carrying out sampling shall be competent in the following areas:

i. Demonstrable ability to follow written procedures.

Inspection staff shall be competent in the following areas:

i. Demonstrable ability to follow written procedures;
ii. Demonstrable ability to detect pests or symptoms; and
iii. Demonstrable ability to decide on the significance of the findings.

Staff involved in post inspection product security measures shall be competent in the following areas:

i. Demonstrable level of ability to follow written procedures; and
ii. Demonstrable ability to confirm/verify the maintenance the phytosanitary integrity of the export consignment to ensure substitution and pest contamination post inspection has not occurred.

APPENDIX 1

Table 1 Maximum pest limits (MPL) 0.5%

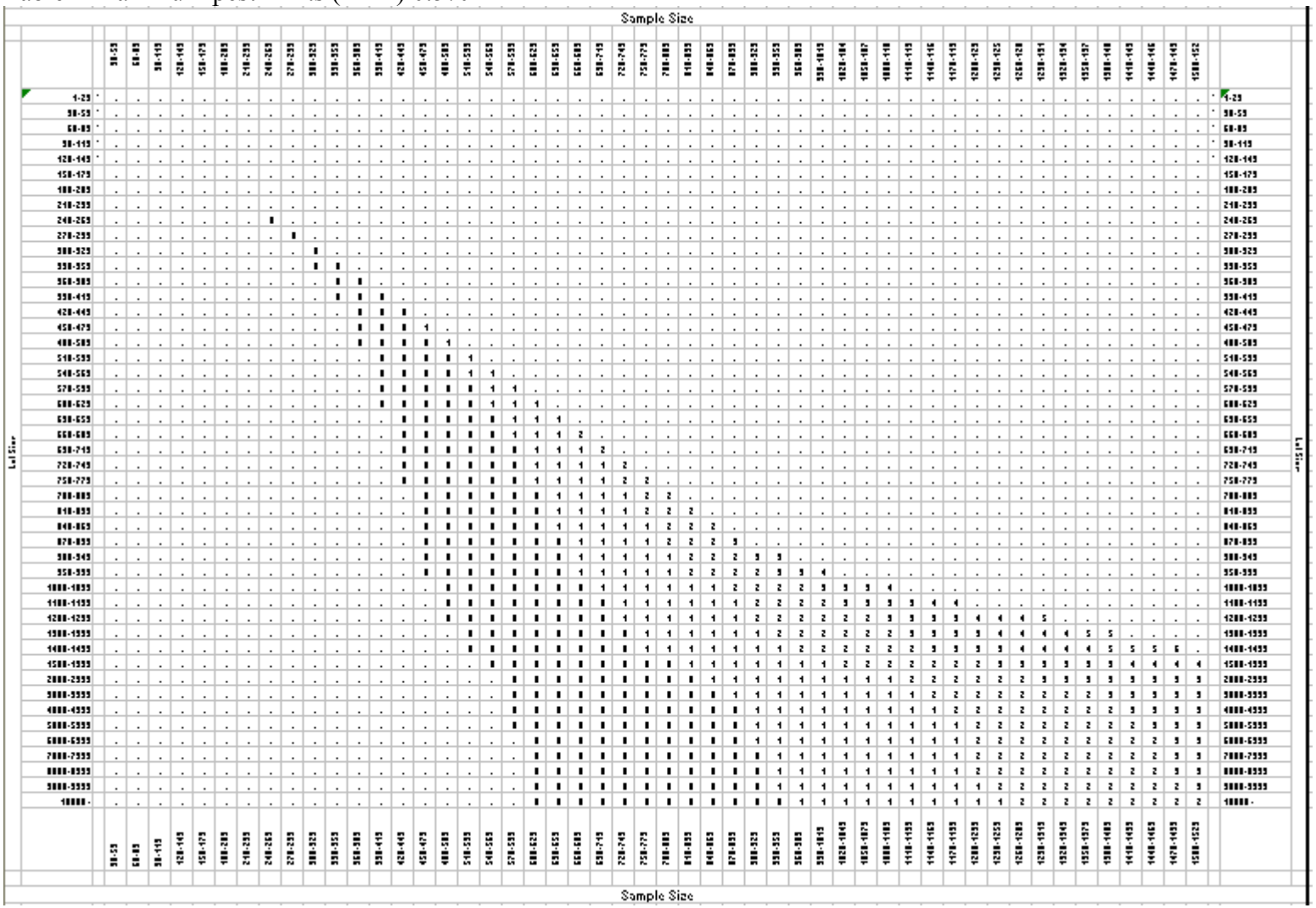

Table 2 Maximum pest limits (MPL) 5.0%