



# Import Health Standard

## Research samples (excluding animal and human samples)

[Subtitle]

30 March 2021

Draft for  
Consultation

## TITLE

Import Health Standard: Research samples (excluding animal and human samples)

## COMMENCEMENT

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

## REVOCATION

This import health standard revokes and replaces the following:

- a) Parts 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 of the [PLANTMATERIAL.IHS: Dried and Preserved Plant Material, and Plant Material for Research import health standard](#)
- b) Part 2.1 of the [IHS.SOWTR: Soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, and water import health standard](#)
- c) Part 1.7 of the [GCFP.IHS: Grain and seeds for consumption, feed or processing import health standard](#)
- d) Part 1.8 of the [155.02.05: Seeds for Sowing import health standard](#)
- e) Part 4.13 of the [152.02: Importation and Clearance of fresh fruit and vegetables into New Zealand](#)
- f) Part 2.4 (7) of the [IHS.FERTGRO: fertilisers and growing media of plant origin](#)

## ISSUING AUTHORITY

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

Dated at Wellington, 30 March 2021

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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 requirements that must be met when importing samples of plants, plant materials, inorganic matter, organic matter (excluding animal and human matter), water, and microorganisms associated with them for research into New Zealand.

## Background

An IHS issued under the New Zealand Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) specifies the requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with importing risk goods, including the risks from incidentally imported new organisms. IHSs include measures that must be applied in the exporting country before the risk goods are exported. IHSs also include requirements that must be met by importers during importation, including while the risk goods are in transit to New Zealand and held in a transitional/containment facility.

Post-clearance conditions may also be specified in an IHS.

## Who should read this?

This IHS should be read by anyone involved in importing samples of samples of plants, plant materials, inorganic matter, organic matter (excluding animal and human matter), water, and microorganisms associated with them for research into New Zealand or anyone who has an interest in importing those samples.

## Why is this important?

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that risk goods comply with the requirements of the relevant IHS. Risk goods that do not comply with the requirements of an IHS may not be cleared for entry into New Zealand and may be directed for treatment, re-export, destruction or further action deemed appropriate by a Chief Technical Officer (CTO). The pathway may be suspended if certain types of viable regulated pests or weed seeds are intercepted on the consignment. Importers should take all responsible steps to ensure that the goods comply with this IHS (section 16B of the Act). Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

## Equivalence

A CTO may consider an application for an equivalent phytosanitary measure to be approved, different from that provided for in this IHS, to maintain at least the same level of protection assured by the current measure(s).

Equivalence will be considered with reference to the [International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures \(ISPM\) 24: Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures](#).

## Document History

Refer to Appendix 2 for the amendment record for this IHS.

## Other information

This is not an exhaustive list of compliance requirements, and it is the importer's responsibility to be familiar and comply with all New Zealand laws, particularly the following:

### **Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act (1996)**

Imported goods that may be, or may contain, a substance defined as a hazardous substance under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996, may require an approval from the [Environmental Protection Authority \(EPA\)](#).

Imported goods that are, or contain, a new organism (e.g. plants and microorganisms, including seeds, spores, pollen, cells or other propagules) where those new organisms are essential and integral to that importation (i.e. intentionally imported) may require a HSNO approval from the EPA.

### **Trade in Endangered Species (TIES) Act (1989)**

The importation of plants and plant products of some plant species is regulated under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES](#)), to which New Zealand is a signatory. The Trade in Endangered Species (TIES) Act (1989) implements the CITES in New Zealand.

A permit or certificate issued by the Department of Conservation may be required to import specimens of species covered by the TIES Act. Importers are advised to contact the [Department of Conservation](#) for further information.

### **Domestic and international transport requirements**

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure that the exporter is informed of the international and domestic requirements concerning the safe handling, transport and labelling of risk goods.

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## Part 1: General Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to the import of research samples, including samples derived from plants, plant materials, inorganic matter, organic matter (excluding animal and human matter), water, and microorganisms associated with them for research (hereafter referred to as 'research samples'), from all countries into New Zealand.
- (2) The following items are out of the scope of this IHS and are eligible for import under other IHSs:
  - a) [Test kits except those that contain viable microorganisms](#)
  - b) [Materials derived from animals \(including invertebrates\)](#)
  - c) [Human samples](#)
  - d) [Axenic culture of microorganisms](#)

#### Guidance

- If the import requirements of this IHS cannot be met, it might be possible to import research samples under a different IHS:
  - [Cut flowers and foliage \(155.02.04\)](#)
  - [Dried and preserved plant products \(PLANTMATERIAL.IHS\)](#)
  - [Fresh fruit and vegetables \(152.02\)](#)
  - [Grains/seeds for consumption, feed or processing \(GCFP.IHS\)](#)
  - [Fertilisers and growing media of plant origin \(IHS.MPI..FERTGRO\)](#)
  - [Nursery stock \(155.02.06\)](#)
  - [Poles, piles, rounds and sleepers \(IHS:PPRSWOOD\)](#)
  - [Sawn wood \(IHS:SWOOD\)](#)
  - [Seed for sowing \(155.02.05\)](#)
  - [Truffles for propagation \(MPI.IHS.TUBER\)](#)
  - [Soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, and water \(IHS.SOWTR\)](#)

### 1.2 Incorporation by reference

- (1) The following documents are incorporated by reference under section 142M of the Act:
  - a) [HSNO approval code NOC002466 \(application code NOC04018\)](#)
  - b) [Index Herbariorum](#)
  - c) [ISPM 5. 2017. Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms](#)
  - d) [MPI Plant Biosecurity Index](#)
  - e) [Official New Zealand Pest Register \(ONZPR\)](#)
  - f) [The International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) Dangerous Goods Regulations \(DGR\)](#)
- (2) Under section 142O(3) of the Act, it is declared that section 142O(1) does not apply, that is, a notice under section 142O(2) of the Act is not required to be published before material that amends or replaces any material incorporated by reference has legal effect as part of those documents.

### 1.3 Definitions

- (1) Definitions are listed in Appendix 1.

## 1.4 General requirements

- (1) Research samples must be free of animal and human material unless that material is also eligible for importation under an applicable IHS.
- (2) Research samples that constitute, or contain, intentionally imported viable organisms must be accompanied by a description of those organisms including, where applicable, the scientific name and taxonomic authority.
- (3) Research samples must be securely packaged to prevent escape of quarantine pests that maybe present in the consignment.
- (4) Packaging materials must be inert, clean, and free from contaminating materials.
- (5) Packages must be clearly labelled to identify the general nature of the contents (e.g., plant material, water, soil, microorganisms), along with the names and contact details of the recipient and sender.
- (6) Required documentation must be attached to the external of the package so that the primary package does not have to be opened to access the documentation.

## 1.5 Permit

- (1) A permit is required where specified in Part 2: *Specific Requirements* of the IHS.

### Guidance

- A permit will specify:
  - whether the research samples are eligible for biosecurity clearance on arrival;
  - whether the research samples should be directed to a transitional facility or containment facility on arrival, the standard(s) that facility must comply with, and physical containment level, where applicable;
  - any special conditions necessary to show the requirements of this IHS are met; and
  - any special conditions that effectively manage the biosecurity risk.
- To apply for an import permit, fill out the [Application for a Permit to Import](#), and send it to Plant Imports at [plantimports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:plantimports@mpi.govt.nz).

## 1.6 Biosecurity clearance

- (1) Research samples are eligible for biosecurity clearance if the relevant clearance requirements set out in this IHS are met.

## Part 2: Specific Requirements

- (1) Research samples may be imported under one of the following categories:
  - a) Laboratory specimens ([Part 2.1](#))
  - b) Herbarium specimens ([Part 2.2](#))
  - c) Trade samples ([Part 2.3](#))

### 2.1 Laboratory specimens

- (1) A permit is required for importation of laboratory specimens (Refer to [Part 1.5](#)).
- (2) Laboratory specimens that constitute or contain any organisms that fall into one or more of the following categories must be imported into a containment facility or transitional facility that will manage the biosecurity risk as provided for in the permit:
  - a) unwanted organism; or
  - b) regulated pest; or
  - c) an organism which is listed as “entry prohibited” in the MPI Plant Biosecurity Index; or
  - d) unidentified organism; or
  - e) new organism (unless incidentally imported).
- (3) Laboratory specimens that contain an organism that falls into one or more of the categories listed in Part 2.1 (2) must be packaged according to Packing Instruction 650 of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Dangerous Goods Regulations and land transport regulations.
- (4) Propagation of microorganisms from laboratory specimens that contain an organism that falls into one or more of the categories listed in Part 2.1 (2) must only be carried out in:
  - a) a containment facility or transitional facility approved in accordance with the standard: [Facilities for microorganisms and cell cultures 2007a](#); or
  - b) a containment facility or transitional facility that will manage the biosecurity risk as provided for in the permit.
- (5) Propagation of plant material must only be carried out in:
  - a) a containment facility or transitional facility approved in accordance with the standard: [Facilities for microorganisms and cell cultures 2007a](#); or
  - b) a containment facility approved in accordance with the standard: [Containment facilities for plants: 2007](#); or
  - c) a containment facility or transitional facility that will manage the biosecurity risk as provided for in the permit.

#### Guidance

- Processed or preserved laboratory specimens without viable organisms (e.g. plant material preserved in formalin, microscopic slides, gamma radiated soil) are not considered ‘risk goods’ and do not need to meet the requirements of this IHS.
- Laboratory specimens containing non-regulated organisms may be eligible for biosecurity clearance on arrival. The full list of regulated and non-regulated pests for New Zealand can be found in the [Official New Zealand Pest Register \(ONZPR\)](#).
- The physical containment level for research using laboratory specimens with new organisms (including genetically modified organisms) or unwanted organisms might be specified in the HSNO approval or the unwanted organism permission.
- The physical containment level for research using laboratory specimens containing regulated pests may be specified in the permit.



- Packing Instruction 650 of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations says that risk goods must be triple-packaged, with the packaging constructed and closed to prevent any loss of contents during transportation.
- When laboratory specimens are no longer required, the specimens and any material or waste from the laboratory specimens (including biological material) may be:
  - rendered nonviable to be eligible for biosecurity clearance; or
  - rendered non-viable and disposed in accordance with the relevant facility standard, any approval, and/or permission granted; or
  - re-exported following an MPI inspector's authorisation; or
  - granted biosecurity clearance if plant samples meet the requirements specified under the IHSs for importing of nursery stock (155.02.06) or seed for sowing (155.02.05) following an MPI inspector's authorisation.

## 2.2 Herbarium specimens

- (1) A permit is required for importation of herbarium specimens (Refer to [Part 1.5](#)).
- (2) Herbarium specimens must:
  - a) be free from live insects; and
  - b) be free from soil; and
  - c) only be imported from:
    - i) registered herbaria on [Index Herbariorum](#); or
    - ii) qualified botanists.
- (3) The outer package of imported herbarium specimens must be labelled as:
  - a) 'Herbarium Specimens'; and
  - b) with the direction that the package should not be opened at the border.
- (4) The scientific names of herbarium specimens must be:
  - a) provided in full; and
  - b) linked to either the herbarium accession numbers or collectors' details/identifiers.
- (5) Material from herbarium specimens must not be propagated or multiplied.
- (6) Herbarium specimens that contain viable plant pathogens must:
  - a) be packaged in accordance with packing instruction No. 650 of the IATA Dangerous Goods Regulations and Land Transport Regulations, and packages shall only be opened within the transitional facility or containment facility; and
  - b) be imported into and maintained within an area in a transitional facility or containment facility where there are no living or propagated plants; and
  - c) undergo mandatory cold treatment at -18°C for seven consecutive days before the inner layer of the packaging is opened.
- (7) Herbarium specimens that contain new organisms must be imported under a HSNO Act approval.
- (8) Herbarium specimens are eligible for biosecurity clearance if they do not contain new organisms or viable plant pathogens. Herbarium specimens must be accompanied with a declaration specifying:
  - a) that the specimens before packaging were without visible symptoms and signs of harbouring plant pathogens or pests.

### Guidance

- The HSNO Act approval NOC002466 covers importation of a wide range of herbarium specimens.

- Partially dried herbarium specimens or herbarium specimens that do not meet the requirements of Part 2.2 (3) may be eligible for import under Part 2.1 of this IHS.
- When importing herbarium specimens, it is recommended to use a registered courier company. Using a courier company means you can track the movement and receipt of your specimens, which is not possible through the mail system.

## 2.3 Trade samples

- (1) A permit is not required for importation of trade samples.
- (2) Trade samples of the following commodities are eligible for importation:
  - a) fruits and vegetables; and
  - b) seeds and grains; and
  - c) coco peat (coir pith, coir peat).
- (3) Trade samples must not contain any of the following:
  - a) an unwanted organism; or
  - b) an organism that is listed as “entry prohibited” in the MPI Plant Biosecurity Index; or
  - c) a new organism.
- (4) Propagation of/from any material imported as a trade sample is prohibited.
- (5) Trade samples must be labelled as ‘Trade Samples’.
- (6) Trade samples and the package in which the samples are contained must be free of visually detectable quarantine pests.
- (7) Inspection must occur within an approved transitional facility or biosecurity control area appropriate for the inspection of trade samples.

### 2.3.1 Trade samples of fruits and vegetables

- (1) Trade samples of fruits and vegetables must not exceed 30 kilograms of any particular commodity per consignment.
- (2) Trade samples of fruits and vegetables must be free of any visible signs of pest infestation or disease infection.
- (3) On arrival, trade samples of fruits and vegetables must be directly transported to a transitional facility approved for inspection of fruits and vegetables under the [Standard for transitional facilities for general uncleared risk goods](#).
- (4) Trade samples of fruits and vegetables must undergo 100% inspection at the transitional facility by a MPI inspector.
- (5) Trade samples of fruits and vegetables and packaging must be destroyed in accordance with the facility standard and to the satisfaction of the MPI inspector within 48 hours of importation.

#### Guidance

- To ensure timely inspection of trade samples of fruit and vegetables, please notify MPI at least 48 hours before your samples are expected to arrive.

### 2.3.2 Trade samples of grains and seeds

- (1) Trade samples of grains and seeds must be derived from a species eligible for import under the [Grains/seeds for consumption, feed or processing import health standard](#).
- (2) Trade samples of grains and seeds must be free of any visually detectable live regulated pests.

- (3) Trade samples of grains and seeds must be directly transported to a transitional facility approved for holding or processing grains and seeds under the [Standard for transitional facilities for general uncleared risk goods](#).
- (4) Upon completion of the testing, trade sample of grains and seeds must be rendered non-viable and the packages must be destroyed in accordance with the facility standard.

### **2.3.3 Trade samples of coco peat (= coir pith, coir pith)**

- (1) Trade samples of coco peat must not exceed 5 kilograms per consignment.
- (2) On arrival, trade samples of coco peat must undergo 100% inspection by a MPI inspector.
- (3) To be eligible for biosecurity clearance, trade samples of coco peat must be free of visually detectable seeds, soil, animal material, plant material and live regulated pests.

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## Appendix 1: Definitions

Definitions have the same meaning as defined by the Act and ISPM 5. *Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms*, unless set out below:

### **Herbarium specimens**

Herbarium specimens are processed (e.g. dried, mounted, preserved) samples from four kingdoms (Plantae, Mycenaes, Protista and Cyanobacteria).

### **Index Herbariorum**

It is a detailed directory of the public herbaria of the world and the staff members associated with them.

### **Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)**

The national plant protection organisation of New Zealand.

### **Non-regulated**

means that a CTO has assessed the organism and found it is either present in New Zealand, or unlikely to ever establish in New Zealand, or unlikely to cause significant harm if it does become established.

### **Plant Biosecurity Index**

It is an MPI listing which identifies the import approval status for importing plant species into New Zealand.

### **Permit**

A document issued by the Director-General pursuant to section 24D(2) of the Act.

### **Plant materials**

Plant materials include cells, tissue cultures, seeds, fruits, vegetables, cuttings, bulbs, flowers, tubers, foliage, wood, pulp, and timber.

### **Primary packaging**

Primary packaging is the packaging in direct contact with the product itself which contain, protect and/or preserve the product, particularly against contamination.

### **Qualified botanists**

Qualified botanists have the training and skills to collect, prepare and package herbarium material in accordance with recognised herbarium practices.

### **Regulated**

means that a CTO has assessed the organism to be of potential importance to New Zealand and not yet present here, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled, or a vector for another organism that is regulated. The CTO identifies actions required to manage any risk of entry and establishment from specific regulated organisms.

### **Research**

Research refers to testing, analysis, activities undertaken to evaluate a trade sample, or teaching.

### **Trade sample**

A portion or piece of a good imported for sensory evaluation, assessment and testing for future trade.

## Appendix 2: Document History

No.	Date of Issued Amendments	Section amended	Amendment(s) Description
1.			

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