



28 February 2013

To whom it may concern,

Nomenclature changes to New Zealand Export Certificates and Official Seals and Devices

On 30 April 2012, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) changed its name to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). This was to reflect the new functions of the Ministry following the New Zealand Government's decision to merge MAF with the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) and the Ministry of Fisheries (Mfish). These functions cover the horticulture, agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry and food sectors, and include protecting New Zealand primary industries from biological risk.

MPI is the New Zealand competent authority for **all sanitary and phytosanitary matters**, including those relating to food safety, animal and plant life and health. Given its broad functions and areas of accountability, MPI is the gateway to government for all of New Zealand's primary industries.

The New Zealand Government advised all trading partners last year of changes required to all sanitary and phytosanitary export certificates (official assurances) and associated security devices (e.g. security paper, official seals, signatory seals (official stamps) and official devices) as a result of the new name of the New Zealand competent authority. These changes take effect from **1 March 2013**.

This letter provides an overview of the information already supplied to importing countries by the New Zealand government.

Changes to Export Certificates

Sanitary and phytosanitary export certificates issued by the New Zealand Government will be changing from 1 March 2013 to reflect the new name of New Zealand's primary regulator of food safety, animal and plant life and health.

References to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA), or the Ministry of Fisheries (Mfish) will be removed from export certificates issued from the 1 March 2013 and replaced with the words 'New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries', 'Ministry for Primary Industries' or 'MPI'.

The export certificates affected by this change include:

- animal products (human consumption, animal consumption and inedible product)
- food and beverages
- live animals and germplasm
- plant and plant products
- illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fish catch certificates

There will be no changes to the attestations provided by the New Zealand government.

Changes to Security Paper

Export certificates are issued on paper that contains special security features to prevent fraudulent use.

Security paper and security features for sanitary export certificates for animal products (meat, dairy, seafood, non-edible etc), and IUU fish catch certificates will remain unchanged, and will continue to include a watermark referring to “New Zealand SPS Certificate”. From 1 March 2013, live animals/germplasm export certificates will also utilise the same security paper as animal products.

Other export certificates, including phytosanitary certificates for plants and plant products, grade certificates, and OECD varietal certificates for seed will be issued on a new security paper. This security paper is green with New Zealand government in wavy lines in the background. When the original certificate is scanned or photocopied, multiple prints of ‘COPY’ appear across the certificate. An additional security feature of a fern hologram (in silver) has been added to the bottom left corner.

Changes to Security Devices

In addition to the changes to export certificate, all references to ‘MAF’, ‘NZFSA’ or ‘Mfish’ on official seals (i.e. container bolt seals, Tyden seals, Mega Lock seals applied to shipping containers, and official carton seals) will be replaced with ‘MPI’ from 1 March 2013.

Two new of signatory seal (official stamps) will be used when signing and stamping export certificates and other types of assurances (e.g. registration/free sale certificates). Both stamps are green, include the words “Ministry for Primary Industries” and contain the New Zealand coat of arms. One stamp also includes the words “official seal” and is individually numbered and allocated to MPI official certifiers/authorised persons. The second stamp is not numbered and does not include the words “official seal”.

Transitional Period

There will be a transition period during which both the old and new export certificates will be in use. This is due to export certificates issued prior to 1 March 2013 being in the current format, whereas certificates issued from 1 March 2013 will be in the new format, and reflects the shipping times from New Zealand to other countries.

Old official seals and official devices will also be in circulation after 1 March 2013. This is unavoidable as product sealed prior to 1 March 2013 with old carton seals and then chilled or frozen, cannot be replaced with new seals, as these will not permanently adhere to chilled or frozen product cartons.

Additional information regarding the changes to export certification and associated security devices is available from MPI's website at www.mpi.govt.nz/about-mpi/international-trade/changes-to-new-zealand-export-certificates.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Neil McLeod', is centered below the closing. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Neil McLeod
Manager
Market Access Coordination