

**MAF BIOSECURITY AUTHORITY  
(PLANTS) STANDARD  
155.02.04**

**IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD  
FOR CUT FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE**

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## **REVIEW**

This MAF Biosecurity Authority (Plants) Standard is subject to periodic review. Amendments will be issued to holders of controlled copies to ensure the standard continues to meet current needs.

Last Review:	February 2000
Next Review:	To be advised

## **ENDORSEMENT**

Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this document is hereby issued as an import health standard for the clearance of fresh cut flowers and foliage for decorative purposes.

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R J Ivess  
Director, Plants Biosecurity

Date:

## AMENDMENT RECORD

Amendments to this document will be given a consecutive number and will be dated.

Please ensure that all amendments are inserted, obsolete pages removed, and the record below is completed.

<b>Amendment No.</b>	<b>Entered By</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	J. Downs	29 March 2000
2	J. Downs	16 June 2000
3	J. Downs	8 February 2002
4		
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## DISTRIBUTION

Holder(s)	Address	Copy No.
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## INTERNET

MAF Biosecurity Authority Standard 155.02.04 Import Health Standard for Cut Flowers and Foliage is replicated at the following Internet address:

<http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/imports/plants/standards/155-02-04.pdf>

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 SCOPE

This document describes the phytosanitary requirements for the importation and clearance of fresh cut flowers and foliage, for decorative purposes, into New Zealand and is divided into the following standards:

- *MAF Biosecurity Authority (Plants) Standard 155.02.04: Import Health Standard for Cut Flowers and Foliage* (“Section I”).
- *MAF Biosecurity Authority (Plants) Standard 152.09.05: Clearance of Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage in New Zealand* (“Section II”).

The primary purpose of this document is to consolidate the import health standards (pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993), and operational standards for the clearance of cut flowers and foliage and provide a practical medium for the development and revision of specific country/commodity import health standards in accordance with current MAF procedures.

## 1.2 REFERENCES

The following Acts, Regulations and MAF Biosecurity Authority standards are referred to, or complement, the implementation of this standard:

- *Annex 1 to this Standard: Categorised Pest Lists for Fresh Cut Flowers and Foliage.*
- *The Biosecurity Act 1993.*
- *MAF Biosecurity Authority Standard 152.01.S: Requirements for Suppliers of Inspection Services at the Border.*
- *MAF Biosecurity Authority Standard 152.04.03F: Appendix V, Fresh Produce Inspection Facilities.*
- *MAF Biosecurity Authority Standard 152.11.02: Treatment Efficacy.*
- *MAF Biosecurity Authority Standard BMG-STD-PESTI : Requirements for the Diagnosis and Reporting of Organisms Intercepted at the Border, or Within Transitional Facilities.*

## 1.3 DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this MAF Biosecurity Authority standard the following definitions and abbreviations apply:

### **Additional declaration**

A statement that is required to be entered on a phytosanitary certificate which provides specific phytosanitary information pertinent to the phytosanitary condition of a consignment.

### **Approved inspection facility**

A place approved by a MAF Biosecurity Authority CTO, or delegate, in accordance with *MAF Biosecurity Authority Standard 152.04.03F: Appendix V, Fresh Produce Inspection Facilities*. Such facilities are also approved transitional facilities under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

### **Consignment**

One or more lots imported by one importer, on one conveyance at one time and covered by one phytosanitary certificate.

**Note 1:** Commercial consignments are unaccompanied consignments covered by an airway bill/bill of lading intended for resale.

**Note 2:** Private consignments are accompanied consignments imported as personal property.

**Note 3:** Unaccompanied private consignments are consignments covered by an airway bill/bill of lading and imported as personal property.

### **Chief Technical Officer (CTO)**

The Director, Plants Biosecurity (DPB) and/or the Director, Forest Biosecurity (DFB) of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Biosecurity Authority.

### **Devitalisation**

Post harvest treatment which destroys the reproductive capability of parent plant stock.

### **Entry (of a pest)**

Movement of a pest into an area where it is not present, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

### **Establishment**

Perpetuation, for the foreseeable future, of a pest within an area after entry.

### **Fresh cut flowers and foliage**

Fresh cut flowers and foliage includes fresh flowers, stems and foliage harvested for decorative purposes that cannot be readily propagated. It does not include roots, fruit or soil that may be associated with fresh cut flowers and foliage.

**Homogeneous**

An identifiable lot of produce which has undergone a known and documented process or production method resulting in uniformity of pest contamination at a specific level.

**Import health standard**

A document issued pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 on behalf of a CTO permitting entry to New Zealand of a specific product under certain conditions.

**Infested unit**

An individual fresh flower, single piece of foliage or stem carrying any regulated or non-regulated organism.

**Inspector**

A person appointed as an inspector under section 103(1) of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

**Introduction**

Entry and establishment of a pest.

**IPPC**

Abbreviation for the International Plant Protection Convention, as deposited in 1951 with the FAO in Rome and as amended (November 1997).

**Lot**

The number of units of a single commodity (i.e. species), identifiable by such things as its homogeneity of composition and origin which forms part of a consignment.

**MAF Biosecurity Authority**

The section within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry which is responsible for regulatory functions.

**Management representative**

The designated single point of technical and service quality accountability as nominated by the supplier. This person shall act as the contact between the NA (BI) and the supplier.

**Maximum allowable prevalence (MAP)**

The level of infestation that is the threshold, above which phytosanitary actions based on inspection would be applied.

**NA, IO (PI)**

Abbreviation for National Adviser, International Operations (Plant Imports), MAF Biosecurity Authority.

**Non-regulated pest**

Non-regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would not be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected.

**National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO)**

Official service organisation established by Government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.

**NZ MAF**

Acronym for the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

**Pathway**

A series of activities that, when carried out according to documented procedures, form a discrete and traceable export system.

**Pest**

Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plant or plant products.

**Pest list**

A list of organisms known to be associated with a specific product in a specific country.

**Pest proof container**

A container or device of sound durable construction which when closed eliminates the possibility of pests escaping from or entering into its contents.

**Phytosanitary certificate (PC)**

A certificate issued by the authority of an exporting country, in accordance with the requirements of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), which verifies that the requirements of the relevant import health standard has been met.

**Propagatable**

The ability of the imported plant material to readily reproduce and be disseminated without manipulation (e.g. propagatable cuttings, adventitious roots, seeds).

**Regulated organisms (FAO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms 1996)**

Regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected.

**Secure area**

A pest proof area, container or device which can be effectively sealed to ensure the contents cannot be tampered with or removed without the permission of an Inspector. This would be within an approved transitional facility.

**Supplier**

The organisation, or part of the organisation, that is contracted by MAF Biosecurity Authority to deliver services, in accordance with an accredited system, to meet appropriate standards.

**Transitional Facility**

Any facility approved in accordance with section 39 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 for the purpose of inspection, storage, treatment, quarantine, holding or destruction of uncleared goods.

**Unit**

An individual fresh flower, single piece of foliage or stem as appropriate.

**Working day**

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday except for recognised national public holidays.

## **1.4 EXPLANATION OF PEST CATEGORIES**

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has categorised organisms associated with plants and plant products into regulated and non-regulated organisms as specified below. Organisms (including weeds) associated with each commodity will appear on a separate pest list which will be attached to each import health standard as an Appendix.

### **Regulated Organisms**

Regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected. These will include new organisms as defined by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. Regulated organisms are sub-divided into the following groups:

#### **Quarantine: Risk group 1 pests**

Risk group 1 pests are those regulated pests (FAO Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, 1996) which on introduction into New Zealand could cause unacceptable economic impacts on the production of a commodity/commodities and/or the environment.

#### **Quarantine: Risk group 2 pests**

Risk group 2 pests are those regulated pests which on introduction into New Zealand could cause a major disruption to market access (some importing countries require specific pre-export phytosanitary treatments) and/or significant economic impacts on the production of a particular commodity/commodities and/or the environment.

#### **Quarantine: Risk group 3 pests**

Risk group 3 pests (e.g. economically significant species of fruit flies) are those regulated pests, which on entry into New Zealand, would cause a major disruption to market access for a wide range of New Zealand commodities and/or have significant economic impacts on their production and/or the environment (some importing countries prohibit the entry of the host commodity). An official surveillance system is required for such pests in New Zealand.

### **Regulated non-quarantine pests**

A regulated non-quarantine pest (denoted by “reg.” on the pest list) is a pest whose presence in a consignment of plants for planting, affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact, and is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party (Revised IPPC definition, Rome 1997). These pests would be under official control by the use of a Government operated or audited certification scheme.

## **Regulated non-plant pests**

Regulated non-plant pests are those organisms which, although not pests of plants or plant products, may be associated with plants or plant products in international trade, and may have an affect on human or animal health (e.g. black widow spider) and thus fall under the jurisdiction of other biosecurity agencies. The categorisation of these organisms and their associated import restrictions will be applied in accordance with the requirements of the relevant departments.

## **Vectors of associated quarantine pests**

In the context of this import health standard, vectors are those organisms which are able to transmit regulated pests into New Zealand. To prevent the transmission of vectored quarantine organisms to susceptible commodities in New Zealand, it is necessary to prevent the entry of their vectors. Vectors (denoted by "vect." on the pest list) will be categorised as risk group 1 even if they are present in New Zealand, unless they are risk group 2 pests in their own right. If the vectored organism is not present in the exporting country then the associated vector(s), if present in New Zealand, will be categorised as a non-regulated non-quarantine pest(s).

## **Vectored organisms**

Vectored organisms (denoted by "VO" on the pest list) are those quarantine pests, that are able to enter New Zealand via a vector associated with the imported commodity.

## **Strains of pests**

Where there is documented evidence that a pest associated with the imported commodity has a different host range, different pesticide resistance, vectors a different range of organisms, or is more virulent than that of the same species present in New Zealand, then the different strain (denoted by "strain" on the pest list) of that pest will be categorised accordingly as a risk group 1 or 2 regulated pest.

## **Unidentifiable organisms**

Should identification of an organism not be possible within the required time frame, the organism will be categorised as a regulated pest (either risk groups 1, 2, or 3) until such time as shown otherwise.

## **Unlisted organisms**

Should an organism be intercepted that is not included on the pest list for that commodity, it will be categorised into the appropriate risk group and action taken accordingly.

### **Non-regulated organisms**

Non-regulated organisms are those organisms for which phytosanitary actions would not be undertaken if they were intercepted/detected. Non-regulated organisms are sub-divided into the following groups:

#### **Non-regulated non-quarantine pests**

Non-regulated non-quarantine pests are those pests already present in New Zealand and are not under official control.

#### **Non-regulated non-plant pests/organisms**

Non-regulated non-plant pests/organisms are not pests of plants and are not of concern to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry or any other New Zealand Government department.

#### **Contaminants (including soil)**

Consignments contaminated with soil, or other potential carriers of regulated pests (e.g. leaf litter) will not be permitted entry if the level of contamination is above the acceptable tolerance.

## 2. PHYTOSANITARY REQUIREMENTS

### 2.1 GENERAL

All cut flowers and foliage are prohibited entry into New Zealand unless they are listed in Appendix 1 to this standard.

A completed phytosanitary certificate issued by the exporting country's national plant protection organisation must accompany all consignments of fresh cut flowers/foliage exported to New Zealand.

The phytosanitary certificate shall contain all information as detailed on the "model phytosanitary certificate" (Annex 1, Revised text of International Plant Protection Convention, November 1997) where there is more than one species of cut flower.

#### General

- a unique certificate number
- exporting plant protection organisation
- importing plant protection organisation

#### Description of Consignment

- name and address of exporter
- declared name and address of consignee
- number and description of packages
- distinguishing marks
- place of origin
- declared means of conveyance
- declared point of entry
- name of produce and quantity declared
- botanical name of plants

#### Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment

- date
- treatment
- chemical and active ingredient
- duration and temperature
- concentration

#### Additional information

- additional declaration(s) specified for the commodity(s) concerned
- official stamp of the national plant protection organisation
- signature of authorised officer
- name of authorised officer
- place of issue
- date of issue

## **2.2 GENERAL PRE-EXPORT PHYTOSANITARY ACTIONS**

Before an export phytosanitary certificate is to be issued, the exporting country's national plant protection organisation must be satisfied that the following activities, for each consignment have been undertaken.

**For regulated organisms (except risk group 2 pests), either of the following activities apply:**

- Inspected and/or tested in accordance with appropriate official procedures and found to be free of any visually detectable regulated pests specified by NZ MAF.

OR

- Been sourced from a pest free area, as verified by official detection survey, for those regulated organisms specified by NZ MAF for which there is no practical means of inspection or testing.

AND

**For risk group 2 pests, either of the following activities apply:**

- Undergone an appropriate pest control for those risk group 2 quarantine pests specified by NZ MAF.

OR

- Been sourced from a pest free area, as verified by official detection survey for those risk group 2 quarantine pests as specified by NZ MAF.

AND

**For propagatable commodities:**

- Been rendered non-propagatable

## **2.3 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PREVALENCE (MAP)**

The MAP for visually detectable regulated organisms on cut flowers/foilage is as follows:

“At a 95% confidence level, that not more than 0.5% of the units in the consignment are infested (this equates to an acceptance level of zero units infested by regulated organisms in a sample size of 600 units)”.

## **2.4 INSPECTION OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

NZ MAF requires that the exporting country's national plant protection organisation sample and inspect the consignment according to official procedures for all visually detectable regulated pests specified by NZ MAF.

(Refer Annex 1: Categorised Pest Lists for Cut Flowers and Foliage).

Should regulated pests be detected, the consignment must be either rejected for export or undergo a treatment effective against the detected pest.

## **2.5 TESTING OF THE CONSIGNMENT**

Testing of the consignment prior to export to New Zealand for regulated pests which are not visually detectable is not (generally) required for fresh cut flowers/foilage from exporting countries.

## **2.6 TRANSIT REQUIREMENTS**

All fresh cut flowers/foilage must be packed and shipped in a manner to prevent contamination by regulated pests.

The package should not be opened in transit. However, where a consignment is either stored, split up or has its packaging changed while in another country (or countries) *en route* to New Zealand, a “Re-export Certificate” is required.

Where a consignment is held under bond, as a result of the need to change conveyances, and it is kept in the original shipping container, a “Re-export Certificate” is not required.

## **2.7 INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL IN NEW ZEALAND**

NZ MAF will check the accompanying documentation on arrival to confirm that it reconciles with the actual consignment.

NZ MAF requires, with 95% confidence, that not more than 0.5% of the units in a consignment are infested with visually detectable regulated quarantine pests. To achieve this, NZ MAF will sample and inspect 600 units with an acceptance level of zero infested units (or equivalent), from the (homogeneous) lot.

## **2.8 SPECIFIC COUNTRY:COMMODITY REQUIREMENTS**

Specific phytosanitary requirements and additional declarations to the phytosanitary certificate for each country:commodity combination have been detailed in Appendix 1 to this standard.

## **2.9 ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN ON THE INTERCEPTIONS/DETECTION OF ORGANISMS/CONTAMINANTS**

If regulated organisms are intercepted/detected on the commodity, or associated packaging, the following actions will be undertaken as appropriate:

### **2.9.1 Quarantine: Risk Group 1 Pests**

If a risk group 1 pest is intercepted, the importer will be given the option of:

- treatment (where possible) of the consignment at the importer's risk and expense,
- re-sorting (specific conditions apply) of the consignment,
- reshipment of the consignment,
- destruction of the consignment.

### **2.9.2 Quarantine: Risk Group 2 Pests**

If a risk group 2 pest is intercepted, the importer will be given the option of:

- treatment (where possible) at the discretion of the Director, Plants Biosecurity and immediate feedback to the national plant protection organisation of the exporting country with a request for corrective action,
- reshipment of the consignment,
- destruction of the consignment.

### **2.9.3 Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests**

Actions for the interception/detection of regulated non-quarantine pests will be in accordance with the contingencies implemented for that pest if detected in New Zealand.

### **2.9.4 Regulated Non-Plant Pests/Unwanted Organisms**

Actions for the interception/detection of regulated non plant pests/unwanted organisms will be in accordance with the actions required by the relevant biosecurity agency.

### **2.9.5 Vectors of Associated Quarantine Pests**

Actions for the interception of "vectors" will generally be the same as for risk group 1 quarantine pests.

### **2.9.6 Vectored Organisms**

Vectored organisms will be controlled by treatment of the associated vector.

### **2.9.7 Strains of Pests**

Actions for "strains" of pests will generally be the same as for risk group 1 quarantine pests.

### **2.9.8 Non-Regulated Non-Quarantine Pests**

No action is undertaken on the interception of non-regulated non-quarantine pests.

### **2.9.9 Non-Regulated Non-Plant Pests/Organisms**

No action is undertaken on the interception of non-regulated non plant pests/organisms.

### **2.9.10 Contaminants**

Lots with more than 25 grams of soil per 600 unit sample shall be treated, reshipped or destroyed.

Interception of extraneous plant material (e.g. leaves, twigs) in the 600 unit sample will result in the lot being held until an assessment has been made in comparison with the risk of importing the part(s) of the plant species concerned.

### **3. ADDITIONAL DECLARATIONS TO THE PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE**

#### **General requirements**

All consignments of fresh cut flowers/foilage must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate attesting that the consignment has been inspected and/or tested in accordance with appropriate official procedures and is considered to be free from quarantine pests specified by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The phytosanitary certificate must also attest that the consignment conforms with the current phytosanitary requirements of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The following additional declaration to the phytosanitary certificate applies:

**{AD1} This is to certify that the cut flowers/foilage described herein have been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and are considered to be free from the quarantine pests specified by New Zealand MAF and to conform with the current phytosanitary requirements of New Zealand MAF, including those for regulated non-quarantine pests.**

Note: If the phytosanitary certificate is in accordance with the model phytosanitary certificate annexed to the revised (1997) text of the FAO IPPC the above additional declaration is not required.

#### **Specific requirements**

Where the plant material is propagable (as shown in relevant country:commodity schedules) the material must be subject to an appropriate devitalisation treatment rendering the material non-propagable. The following additional declaration to the phytosanitary certificate will apply.

**{AD2} The [commodity] has been subject to an approved devitalisation treatment rendering it non-propagable.**

Full details of the devitalisation treatment must be included in the “Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment” area of the phytosanitary certificate. Details of the date, active ingredient, concentration, treatment duration and temperature must be recorded.