



# Import Health Standard

## Soil, Rock, Gravel, Sand, Clay and Water

IHS.SOWTR

21 June 2021

## TITLE

Import Health Standard: Soil, Rock, Gravel, Sand, Clay and Water

## COMMENCEMENT

This consolidated Import Health Standard comes into force on 21 June 2021.

This import health standard amends the Import Health Standard: MPI. STD. SOWTR: Soil, Rock, Gravel, Sand, Clay, Peat and Water, which came into force on 2 October 2018, and consolidates all amendments made up to the commencement of this notice.

The amendment history to this import health standard is set out in Appendix 2.

## ISSUING AUTHORITY

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

Dated at Wellington, 3 June 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 import requirements for the importation of soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and water from all countries, to manage the biosecurity risks which may be associated with these goods.

## Background

The New Zealand Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for effectively managing the import of risk goods.

Import health standards (IHS), issued under the Act, specify requirements to be met for the effective management of imported risk goods that may pose a biosecurity threat to New Zealand. IHS include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit and importation and post clearance, if specified, before biosecurity clearance can be given.

## Who should read this?

This IHS applies to importers of soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay, and water into New Zealand from all countries, and outlines the import requirements.

## Why is this important?

Importers must take all responsible steps to ensure that the goods comply with this IHS (section 16B of the Act).

Goods that do not meet the import requirements described in this IHS will not be provided with biosecurity clearance. The importer will be given the option to treat, reship or destroy the consignment.

## Equivalence

The Chief Technical Officer (CTO) may approve measures different from those set out in this IHS which can be applied to effectively manage risks associated with the importation of these goods.

Equivalence will be considered with reference to the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures 24 (ISPM 24).

## Other information

This is not an exhaustive list of compliance requirements. It is the importer's responsibility to be familiar with and comply with all New Zealand laws. Other legislation which may be relevant to the importation of soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and water is identified below:

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

If a product includes microorganisms which may be subject to a Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) approval, the product must comply with the relevant requirements of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (1996).

## **Other Import Health Standards**

Soil, rock, gravel, sand, and clay imported for the purpose of use as an ingredient in growing media is not eligible for import into New Zealand under this IHS. The requirements for growing media ingredients are prescribed in the IHS: FERTGRO: [Fertilisers and Growing Media of Plant Origin](#).

Ballast water carried by vessels is not eligible for import into New Zealand under this IHS. The requirements for ballast water are prescribed in IHS: [Ship's Ballast Water from All Countries](#).

Note: Additional information to the requirements is included in guidance text boxes.

## Part 1: General Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This Import Health Standard (IHS) applies to soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and water being imported into New Zealand from all countries for the following purposes:
  - a) research, including the isolation and/or propagation of organisms, and analysis;
  - b) consumption; and
  - c) other purposes, subject to specific requirements in Part 2: *Specific Requirements*.

### 1.2 Incorporation of material by reference

- (1) The following documents are incorporated by reference under section 142M of the Act:
  - [ISPM 5. 2017. Glossary of phytosanitary terms. Rome, IPPC, FAO;](#)
  - [ISPM 24. 2017. Guidelines for the determination and recognition of equivalence of phytosanitary measures. Rome, IPPC, FAO;](#)
  - [MPI Biosecurity Organisms Register for Imported Commodities \(BORIC\);](#)
  - [MPI Schedule of Regulated \(Quarantine\) Weed Seeds.](#)
- (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

- (1) All consignments must be packaged securely to prevent leakage.
- (2) All consignments must be clearly labelled with the full description of contents of each package.
- (3) Plants must not be propagated from soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay or water samples.
- (4) Organisms must not be isolated from soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay or water samples without an approval issued under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO) 1996, and a permit to import.

### 1.5 Documentation and Inspection

- (1) All documentation must be in English.
- (2) All documentation will be inspected to verify that it complies with the requirements of this IHS.
- (3) The consignment may inspected on arrival to verify compliance with the requirements of this IHS.
- (4) Inspections must be completed at an MPI approved transitional facility or biosecurity control area, which has been approved by MPI as suitable for inspecting the goods.

## 1.6 Permit to import

- (1) The following goods require a permit to import:
  - a) research samples imported for the isolation and/or propagation of microorganisms;
  - b) water consignments greater than 100L (total volume);
  - c) soil consignments greater than 10kg;
  - d) where an equivalent measure, in relation to disposal or treatment, different to that specified in this IHS, has been approved by a CTO.
- (2) Complete the [application form](#) on the MPI website to apply for a permit to import.
- (3) A copy of the permit must accompany the consignment.

### Guidance

- When water is found as a contaminant on an imported consignment, the contaminant water will be handled as specified in the relevant IHS; treated in accordance with standard [MPI-STD-ABTRT Approved Biosecurity Treatments](#); or as otherwise specified by the inspector.
- Guidance for the IHS for Vehicles, Machinery and Tyres provides information on actions that may occur when water is intercepted as a contaminant on those types of consignments.
- When soil is found as a contaminant on an imported consignment, the contaminant soil will be handled as specified in the relevant IHS; treated in accordance with standard [MPI-STD-ABTRT Approved Biosecurity Treatments](#) or as otherwise specified by the inspector.
- All treatments required for clearance under this IHS are required to be completed by an approved treatment supplier in a transitional facility. A list of [MPI approved treatment suppliers](#), and the scope of their approval, can be viewed on the website.
- For unaccompanied consignments, it is recommended that the importer or their agent, applies for a Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate (BACC) before the consignment arrives in New Zealand.
- Information about submitting a BACC application can be found at the following website: <http://mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/containers-and-cargo/>.
- It is recommended that the importer provide documentation clearly identifying the items to be imported and their intended end use.
- A copy of all relevant documentation associated with the consignment should be submitted with the BACC application.

## Part 2: Specific Requirements

### 2.1 Samples imported for research purposes

**Guidance**

- Import requirements for samples of soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and water imported for research purposes can be found in the [Research Samples \(excluding animal samples\) import health standard](#).

### 2.2 Water for consumption

- (1) This part specifies the requirements for water imported for consumption.
- (2) Non-commercial water must be free from visual contamination.

**Guidance**

- There are no specific requirements for commercially bottled water and drinking water (on ships and aircraft arriving in New Zealand).

### 2.3 Samples imported for purposes other than research or consumption

- (1) This part specifies the requirements for soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and water imported for purposes other than research or consumption.

#### 2.3.1 Soil samples

- (1) Soil samples up to 10kg must be treated on arrival by an MPI approved treatment supplier by either:
  - a) heat treatment; by raising the internal temperature of the soil to either:
    - i) 100°C for at least 25 minutes, at 40% relative humidity;
    - OR
    - ii) 85°C for at least 15 hours, at 40% relative humidity;
  - OR
  - b) irradiation at 50kGy.
- (2) A permit to import is required for importation of soil samples greater than 10kg or where treatment is not a suitable option, which will detail the specific requirements for the samples.

#### 2.3.2 Rock, gravel, sand and clay samples

- (1) Rock, gravel, sand and clay (including commercially packaged sand and clay) must be free from organic material.

#### 2.3.3 Water samples

- (1) Water samples up to 100L (total volume consignment) must be inspected on arrival and found to be free from visual contamination.



- (2) Water treatment is required when:
- a) water is not clear and the importer requests treatment;
  - b) water is found as a contaminant on an object and is likely to have been exposed to mosquitoes;
  - c) water is visibly contaminated with algae or soil.
- (3) Prior to receiving biosecurity clearance, visually contaminated water must be treated by an MPI approved treatment supplier by either:
- a) boiling at 100°C for a minimum of 1 minute.
- OR
- b) chemical treatment by adding calcium hypochlorite at 20mg/L. The water must be agitated for 1 minute and then left to sit for 30 minutes.
- (4) A permit to import is required for importation of water samples greater than 100L (total volume consignment) or where treatment is not a suitable option, which will detail the specific requirements for the samples.

**Guidance**

- There are no specific requirements for importation of distilled water.

## Appendix 1: Definitions

Definitions have the same meaning as defined by the Act and [ISPM 5](#), unless set out below:

**BACC**

Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificate.

**BORIC**

Biosecurity Organisms Register for Imported Commodities: MPI database which informs on the quarantine status for an organism as either regulated or non-regulated for New Zealand.

**Clay**

Layer of earth usually sticky in nature; for clay containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**Gravel**

Mixture of coarse sand and small rock; for gravel containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**ISPM**

International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures.

**IPPC**

International Plant Protection Convention.

**MPI**

Ministry for Primary Industries New Zealand.

**NPPO**

National Plant Protection Organisation is the official organisation established by a government to discharge the functions specified by the IPPC.

**Rock**

Solid mineral material forming part of the surface of the earth; for rock containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**Sand**

Loose granular substance formed from worn down rocks; for sand containing organic material refer to the definitions of soil.

**Sediment**

A naturally occurring particulate material that is broken down by processes of weathering and erosion that can be transported by fluid flow and which eventually is deposited as a layer of solid particles on the bed or bottom of a body of water or other liquid.

**Sludge**

A generic term for solids separated from suspension in a liquid; this semi-solid soupy material usually containing significant quantities of 'interstitial' water (between the solid particles). It can be produced as sewage sludge from wastewater treatment processes or as a settled suspension obtained from industrial processes as a by-product.

**Soil**

Upper layer of earth containing a mixture of organic material, sand gravel, clay, and silt.

For the purposes of this IHS, soil also includes sediment, silt, sludge, clay, gravel, rock and sand contaminated with organic material.

**Water**

For the purposes of this IHS, water also includes ice and snow. Clear water is perfectly transparent and nearly or wholly colourless.

## Appendix 2: Amendment Record

The following table provides a summary of amendments to this Import Health Standard.

| Number | Details  | Date           |
|--------|--|----------------|
| 1      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated IHS short code from “MPI.STD.SOWTR” to “MPI.IHS.SOWTR”.</li> <li>Removal of duplicate numbering for Part 2.4: <i>Soil, rock, gravel, sand and clay for other purposes</i></li> <li>Removal of minor headings Part 2.2.1 and Part 2.2.2</li> <li>Removal of wording “but may be bilingual” from Part 1.4 (1)</li> <li>Reordered definitions into alphabetical order</li> <li>Reworded requirements in Part 2.2.1 (Table 1) for soil and water to replace “according to the relevant TF standard “with“ subject to MPI Standard: Approved Biosecurity Treatments or destroyed subject to MPI Standard 154.02.17: Transitional Facilities for Biological Products.</li> <li>Standardised wording for table headers and options provided in tables.</li> </ul>  | 8 August 2018  |
| 2      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The “why is this important” part was reworded.</li> <li>Reference to ISPM 24 was added to the “Equivalence” Part.</li> <li>“Other information” part was added to the document and included other New Zealand’s legislations (HSNO Act). In addition, references to the other IHSs were moved from Guidance box in Part 1 to this part.</li> <li>ISPMs were referenced separately in “Incorporation by Reference” Part.</li> <li>Part “1.4 General” was created and general requirements outlined in Part 2 “Specific Requirements” were moved to this Part.</li> <li>Part 2 was restructured to clarify the requirements and avoid duplication of the conditions. Errors were fixed and the table formats were removed.</li> <li>The content in Part 2.1 was merged with Part 2.2 of the previous version to create a new Part 2.1 “Samples imported for Research Purposes”.</li> <li>Reference to “ISPM 5” was added to “Appendix 1”.</li> <li>Definition of “Consignment” was removed from “Appendix 1” as this is specified in ISPM 5.</li> <li>The term “Compost” was removed from the “Soil” definition in Appendix 1.</li> <li>Definitions for “Sediment”, Sludge” and “clean water” were added to “Appendix 1”.</li> </ul> | 2 October 2018 |
| 3      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove the import requirements for samples of soil, rock, gravel, clay, sand and water imported for research purposes – now under <a href="#">Research Samples (excluding animal samples) IHS</a></li> </ul>  | 21 June 2021   |