



# Import Health Standard

## Zoo Rhinoceroses

ZOORHINO.SPE

30 March 2023

Draft for  
Consultation

## TITLE

Import Health Standard: Zoo Rhinoceroses

## COMMENCEMENT

This Import Health Standard comes into force on [Effective Date]

## REVOCATION

This Import Health Standard revokes and replaces the following:

- a) *Import Health Standard for White Rhinoceros from Australia, ZOORHIIC.AUS, 25 May 2011*
- b) *Import Health Standard for the Importation of White Rhinoceroses into New Zealand from the Republic of South Africa, ZOORHIC.SAF, 15 July 1999.*

## ISSUING AUTHORITY

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

Dated at Wellington, 30 March 2023

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<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Part 1: Requirements</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Application	6
1.2 Incorporation by references	6
1.3 Definitions	6
1.4 Requirements for authorisation into containment	6
1.5 Exporting country systems and certification	7
1.6 Pre-export isolation	7
1.7 Diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatment	8
1.8 Transport	9
1.9 Import permit information	9
1.10 Documentation that must accompany goods	10
<b>Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 Rabies (rabies virus)	12
2.2 Q fever ( <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> )	12
2.3 Tuberculosis ( <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> )	12
2.4 Trypanosomosis ( <i>Trypanosoma vivax</i> )	12
2.5 External parasites	13
2.6 Internal parasites	13
2.7 Seeds	13
<b>Schedule 1 – Document history</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Schedule 2 – Definitions</b>	<b>15</b>

## Introduction

This introduction is not part of this Import Health Standard (IHS), but is intended to indicate its general effect.

## Purpose

This IHS specifies the minimum requirements that must be met when importing zoo rhinoceroses into New Zealand. Zoo rhinoceroses include both white rhinoceroses (*Ceratotherium simum*) and black rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis*).

The risk organisms associated with zoo rhinoceroses that are managed by this IHS are:

- a) Rabies (rabies virus)
- b) Rift Valley fever (Rift Valley fever virus)
- c) Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*)
- d) Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*)
- e) Trypanosomosis (*Trypanosoma vivax*)
- f) External parasites
- g) Old world screwworm (*Chrysomya bezziana*)
- h) Internal parasites
- i) Seeds

## Background

The Biosecurity Act 1993 (the Act) provides the legal basis for excluding, eradicating, and effectively managing pests and unwanted organisms.

Import health standards issued under the Act set out requirements to be met to effectively manage biosecurity risks associated with importing goods. They include requirements that must be met in the exporting country, during transit, and before biosecurity clearance can be given.

Guidance boxes are included within this IHS for explanatory purposes. The guidance included in these boxes is for information only and has no legal effect.

A guidance document also accompanies this IHS providing information on how requirements may be met.

## Who should read this Import Health Standard?

This IHS should be read by importers of zoo rhinoceroses.

## Why is this important?

It is the importer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of this IHS are met. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may not be cleared for entry into New Zealand and/or further information may be sought from importers. Consignments that do not comply with the requirements of this IHS may be reshipped or destroyed under the Act or tested/treated in accordance with this IHS before release or equivalence determined. Importers are liable for all associated expenses.

The costs to MPI in performing functions relating to the importation of zoo rhinoceroses will be recovered in accordance with the Act and any regulations made under the Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage, and obtaining a biosecurity clearance must be covered by the importer or agent.

## Equivalence

A chief technical officer (CTO) may issue a direction under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that measures different from those set out in this IHS may be applied to effectively manage risks associated with the importation of these goods.

If an equivalent measure is approved, an import permit may be issued under section 24D(2) of the Act if the Director-General considers it appropriate to do so. The details of the CTO direction on equivalence will be included as notes in the special conditions section of the permit to inform the inspector's assessment of the commodity.

MPI's preference is that the exporting country's Competent Authority makes equivalence requests. Equivalence requests can be lodged with [animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz).

## Transitional facility

Any containers not intact on arrival will be required to be made secure before the consignment is moved to the transitional facility. Any material which has leaked from the container will be destroyed at the port of entry.

Following biosecurity authorisation being given under section 25 of the Act, the zoo rhinoceroses will proceed directly to the transitional facility named on the import permit, which must be approved under the [Facility Standard: Zoo Animals Transitional Facilities](#) (MPI-STD-ZOO), dated December 2018, and located within a containment facility that is approved under the [Standard for Zoo Containment Facilities](#), dated April 2018. Animals must remain in the transitional facility for a minimum of seven days.

At the transitional facility all documentation accompanying the consignment will be verified by an inspector. The documentation will be checked to ensure it meets all relevant requirements noted in *Part 1: Requirements* and specified requirements (veterinary certification) and in *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms* of this IHS. The inspector will verify the microchips and that the animals are visibly free from signs of infectious or contagious disease, external parasites, and seeds.

## Biosecurity authorisation into containment

Zoo rhinoceroses are restricted organisms so will not be given biosecurity clearance. On authorisation from the biosecurity inspector, they may be moved from the transitional facility, but must remain in the containment facility approved under the [Standard for Zoo Containment Facilities](#).

## Document history

Refer to Schedule 1.

## Other information

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

## Import health standards

Other relevant IHSs must also be complied with before biosecurity authorisation will be issued. These may include the following:

- a) All equipment entering New Zealand with the zoo rhinoceroses must comply with the [Import Health Standard for the Importation into New Zealand of Equipment Associated with Animals or Water](#).
- b) Containers made of timber must meet the requirements of the: [IHS: Woodware from All Countries](#).

## CITES

It is the responsibility of the importer to ensure that the consignment is accompanied by any permit(s) required to meet the legislation of the country of origin and the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) <http://www.cites.org>. See the Department of Conservation for further details <https://www.doc.govt.nz/cites>.

The importer is advised to clarify the status of the species of animal in relation to international agreements on their trade before export. Material arriving in New Zealand without the relevant CITES permits may be subject to seizure by the New Zealand Department of Conservation.

Any requirement for CITES or other conservation-related documentation must be met by the exporter and importer.

## Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and new organisms

Importers of new organisms must meet all requirements of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996.

Before an inspector can authorise a new organism to go to a containment facility, the EPA must have given approval for importation of that organism into containment in accordance with the HSNO Act.

## Trade Single Window (TSW) and Customs clearance

All goods imported into New Zealand need to be cleared by the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) and the Ministry for Primary Industries. To gain customs clearance, the required documentation must be lodged through the Trade Single Window (TSW) portal.

For more information about TSW please visit <https://www.customs.govt.nz/business/trade-single-window/>

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## Part 1: Requirements

### 1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to all imports of the following zoo rhinoceros species from Australia, the European Union, Singapore, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America into New Zealand:
  - a) White rhinoceroses (*Ceratotherium simum*)
  - b) Black rhinoceroses (*Diceros bicornis*)

### 1.2 Incorporation by references

- (1) The following international standards are incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
  - a) The World Organisation for Animal Health *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, available at: [Terrestrial Manual Online Access - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
  - b) The World Organisation for Animal Health *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, available at: [Terrestrial Code Online Access - WOA - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
  - c) *International Air Transport Association Live Animals Regulations*: a copy is available to read, free of charge, at MPI, Pastoral House, 25 The Terrace, Wellington
  - d) *Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 6*, available at: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2006L03643> (this is equivalent to the *New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C*)
- (2) The following material is incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
  - a) *MPI Approved Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards* (MPI-STD-TVTL)
- (3) 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 the standards, guideline or lists incorporated under clauses 1.2(1) and (2) above has legal effect as part of this IHS.

#### Guidance

- Incorporation by reference means that standards, guidelines, or lists are incorporated into the IHS and they form part of the requirements.

### 1.3 Definitions

- (1) For the purposes of this IHS, terms used that are defined in the Act have the meanings set out there. The Act is available at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/>.
- (2) See Schedule 2 for additional definitions that apply.

### 1.4 Requirements for authorisation into containment

- (1) To obtain authorisation into zoo containment facility, zoo rhinoceroses must:
  - a) Have been resident in one or more approved, licensed, or registered zoos or wildlife parks in the exporting country since birth or for at least the 12 months immediately before export;

- b) Be free from quarantine restrictions imposed by the exporting country for at least 90 days before the date of export;
- c) Originate from premises that are under direct veterinary supervision and provide separation from other animal populations not of an equivalent health status. The zoo or wildlife park premises must follow a documented health monitoring programme that includes necropsies and microbiological and parasitological testing that would be effective in monitoring for diseases of biosecurity concern identified in *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms* of this IHS;
- d) Meet the requirements of clauses 1.6-1.10 of *Part 1: Requirements* and *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms* of this IHS;
- e) Be imported from a country that the CTO is satisfied meets the export country systems and certification requirements of clause 1.5 of this IHS;
- f) Be accompanied by a veterinary certificate that meets the requirements of clause 1.10.2, has been agreed by a CTO, and details the measures in *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms* of this IHS that the exporting country will meet; and
- g) Be accompanied by an import permit as required by clause 1.9.

## 1.5 Exporting country systems and certification

- (1) Importers may import zoo rhinoceroses only if a CTO is satisfied, on the basis of evidence, that the Veterinary Services of the exporting country are capable of ensuring that zoo rhinoceroses imported from that country can meet the requirements of this IHS.
- (2) The evidence must include details about all of the following, that the CTO considers applicable to the zoo rhinoceroses from that exporting country:
  - a) The ability of the exporting country's Competent Authority to verify the animal health status of zoo rhinoceroses in the exporting country, zone, or compartment, with respect to the risk organisms identified in *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms*.
  - b) The adequacy of the exporting country's national systems and/or programmes and standards in the exporting country for regulatory oversight of the zoo industry.
  - c) The capability of the exporting country's Competent Authority to support the issue of veterinary certificates as required by this IHS.
- (3) Importers may not import from a country where a CTO has determined that the Veterinary Services of the exporting country are no longer capable of ensuring that zoo rhinoceroses imported from that country can meet the requirements of this IHS.

### Guidance

- The evidence will be obtained during evaluation of the Veterinary Services of the Competent Authority of the exporting country in accordance with section 3 of the World Organisation for Animal Health *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*), titled *Quality of Veterinary Services*.
- Once a CTO is satisfied with the exporting country's evidence for exporting systems and certification, MPI and the Competent Authority may commence negotiation of the country-specific veterinary certificate.
- For the CTO to be satisfied with the evidence provided an in-country or desk-top audit may be carried out at any time, including before the first shipment of the commodity.
- See *Guidance Document* for more information about exporting country systems and certification, and for a list of currently approved countries and country-specific veterinary certificates.

## 1.6 Pre-export isolation

- (1) The animals destined for export must be held in pre-export isolation, for a minimum period of 30 days before the date of export.



- (2) During pre-export isolation the animals must be isolated from other animals not of an equivalent health status.
- (3) Individual health records must be kept for animals on the premises during the pre-export isolation period and must be available to the Official Veterinarian. Any health problems during the pre-export isolation period must be reported to MPI.
- (4) The pre-export isolation premises must be approved and supervised by an Official Veterinarian and should be free of grass and other pasture.
- (5) Before the animals enter pre-export isolation, the premises must either:
  - a) Be thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with an acaricide; and
    - i) Bedding must be removed every 10 days; and
    - ii) The premises must be thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with acaricide each time the bedding is removed; or
  - b) Be thoroughly cleaned and sprayed with a long lasting acaricide repeated as per the manufacturer's recommendations; and
    - i) Bedding must be removed every 10 days.
- (6) Feed used in pre-export isolation must be free from evidence of contamination with ticks and seeds.
- (7) All bedding used in pre-export isolation must be clean and free from evidence of contamination with ticks and seeds.
- (8) The animals must be identified (by reading their microchips) and examined by an Official Veterinarian in the 72 hours before they leave the pre-export isolation premises for the port of export. The animals must be fully weaned, not in the last third term of pregnancy, free from clinical evidence of infectious disease, and fit for travel.

## 1.7 Diagnostic tests, vaccines, and treatment

- (1) All pre-export and/or surveillance testing required by this IHS must be:
  - a) Conducted by a laboratory approved by the Competent Authority of the exporting country; or
  - b) Conducted by a laboratory approved by the Competent Authority of any other country approved under this IHS to export zoo rhinoceroses to New Zealand.
- (2) All laboratory samples required by this IHS must be collected, processed, and stored in accordance with the recommendations in the *Code* and/or the *Manual*, or as described in MPI Approved *Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards* (MPI-STD-TVTL).
- (3) All diagnostic tests and vaccines that are required to be used or undertaken by this IHS must be those that have been approved by MPI for that purpose and documented in MPI Approved *Diagnostic Tests, Vaccines, Treatments and Post-arrival Testing Laboratories for Animal Import Health Standards* (MPI-STD-TVTL).
- (4) All products and vaccinations required by this IHS to be administered to meet the specific disease requirements in *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms* must have been administered according to the manufacturer's instruction in a country that a CTO has agreed meets the requirements of clause 1.5.
- (5) Where products required by this IHS have been administered, the product name, manufacturer, active ingredients (where applicable), and the dose and date of the treatment must be recorded on the veterinary certificate.

**Guidance**

- See *Guidance Document: Zoo Rhinoceroses* for more information about tests.

## 1.8 Transport

- (1) In the case of transport by:
  - a) Air: the transport facilities and arrangements must meet the relevant requirements in the *International Air Transport Association: Live Animal Regulations*.
  - b) Sea: the transport facilities and arrangements must have been inspected and meet the requirements of the *Australian Marine Orders Part 43, Issue 6* (which is equivalent to the *New Zealand Marine Rules Part 24C*).
- (2) No animals other than those that meet the import requirements for entry into New Zealand are permitted to be transported with the zoo rhinoceroses on the aircraft or ship.
- (3) Transshipment in any third country may not occur unless it is preapproved by MPI and recorded on an import permit under section 24D. In the case of transshipment through countries where there is a risk of insect borne pathogens, the air stalls must be covered by insect-proof netting and the cargo hold sprayed with an effective insecticide during transit. The netting must be disinfected after arrival in New Zealand.
- (4) The vehicles in which the zoo rhinoceroses will be transported to the port of departure must be cleaned and disinfected before loading.
- (5) The crates or pens used for transporting the zoo rhinoceroses to New Zealand must be new or if previously used must be cleaned and disinfected.
- (6) If the zoo rhinoceroses are transported by air, the cargo space of the aircraft where the animals are to be transported must be sprayed before departure with an insecticidal spray approved by the Competent Authority of the exporting country.

**Guidance**

- Any containers not intact on arrival will be made secure before the consignment is moved to the transitional or containment facility. Any material which has leaked from the container will be destroyed at the port of entry.

## 1.9 Import permit information

- (1) An import permit under section 24D of the Act is required before consignments of zoo rhinoceroses are imported from Australia, the European Union, Singapore, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

**Guidance**

- Apply for the import permit at the following weblink under *Zoo Animals*:  
<https://animalplantimportpermit.mpi.govt.nz/>
- Ensure you have a letter of approval from the MPI inspector confirming the transitional facility can accept the import.

## 1.10 Documentation that must accompany goods

- (1) All documentation that is required by this clause 1.10 to accompany zoo rhinoceroses must, unless otherwise stated:
  - a) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible; and
  - b) Be original.
- (2) Documentation that is in a paper format must, unless otherwise stated, be endorsed on every page by the Official Veterinarian with their original stamp, signature, and date or be endorsed in the space allocated and all pages have paper based alternative security features.
- (3) Documentation that is in an electronic format must, unless otherwise stated, be transmitted directly from the Competent Authority of the exporting country to MPI, using an electronic system approved by MPI for that purpose.

### Guidance

- Copies of all documents that are required to accompany the goods should be submitted to the MPI inspector at the airport/port of arrival at least seven days before arrival to avoid delays at the border.
- Transport companies should also contact the MPI inspector within 24 hours of departure of the animals.
- Please email the applicable arrival point:
  - Auckland: [liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz)
  - Christchurch: [liveanimalschristchurch@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liveanimalschristchurch@mpi.govt.nz)

- (4) The consignment must arrive in New Zealand with the documentation specified in clauses 1.10.1 to 1.10.3 below:

### 1.10.1 Import permit

- (1) An import permit (copy acceptable), as required by this IHS, is for single consignments.

### 1.10.2 Veterinary certificate

- (1) A veterinary certificate from the exporting country's Competent Authority, which must include the following:
  - a) A unique consignment identifier;
  - b) The import permit number;
  - c) The description, species, and microchip number;
  - d) Name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor);
  - e) Name, signature, and contact details of the Official Veterinarian;
  - f) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the general requirements outlined in *Part 1: Requirements* of this IHS have been met; and
  - g) Certification and endorsement by the Official Veterinarian that the relevant requirements outlined in *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms* of this IHS have been met except for those requirements that a CTO has agreed during negotiation under clause 1.5 as not being required for a country-specific veterinary certificate.

### Guidance

- If equivalent measures have been negotiated and agreed to with MPI, and a CTO has, before import, issued a direction under section 27(1)(d) of the Act that is different from those in this standard in the form of a negotiated veterinary certificate, a country-specific veterinary certificate must accompany the consignment.

- See *Guidance Document: Zoo Rhinoceroses* for more information about equivalence and country-specific veterinary certificates.

### 1.10.3 Laboratory reports

- (1) Original laboratory reports, copies of laboratory reports endorsed by the Official Veterinarian, or a tabulated summary of laboratory results endorsed by the Official Veterinarian of all tests required by *Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms* of this IHS, which must include:
- a) Unique microchip number identification for each animal, consistent with the veterinary certificate;
  - b) Dates of sample collection;
  - c) Test type; and
  - d) Test result.

#### Guidance on microchips

- If the microchip does not meet International Organization for Standardization (ISO) specifications 11784 or Annex A of ISO Standard 11785 specifications, it is the importer's responsibility to ensure that the microchip can be read upon entry to New Zealand. This may mean that the importer will need to provide a microchip reader (at the importer's expense) for the chip to be read. Microchip numbers must be unique. Microchip numbers starting with 999 are not unique.

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## Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms

- (1) Zoo rhinoceroses must comply with the following measures for identified risk organisms, if applicable.

### 2.1 Rabies (*rabies virus*)

- (1) Each animal must have been resident since birth or for at least six months before shipment in a rabies-free country as agreed by MPI and showed no clinical signs of rabies on the day of shipment; or
- (2) Each animal must have:
- a) Been kept for the six months before shipment in premises where separation from wildlife maintenance hosts was maintained, and where there has been no case of rabies for at least 12 months immediately before shipment; and
  - b) Showed no clinical signs of rabies on the day before or on the day of shipment.

### 2.2 Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*)

- (1) Each animal must have been resident since birth in a Q fever-free country as recognised by MPI and showed no clinical signs of Q fever on the day of shipment; or
- (2) Each animal must have:
- a) Been resident for at least the 12 months before shipment at zoo premises where no clinical, epidemiological, or other evidence of Q fever has occurred in any animal species during the previous 2 years; and
  - b) Been tested for Q fever within the 30 days before shipment, with an MPI-approved test with negative results.

### 2.3 Tuberculosis (*Mycobacterium bovis*)

- (1) Each animal must have been resident since birth in a *Mycobacterium bovis*-free country as agreed by MPI and showed no clinical signs of tuberculosis on the day of shipment; or
- (2) For the 12 months before shipment, each animal must have resided at zoo premises where no clinical, epidemiological, or other evidence of *Mycobacterium bovis* has occurred in the previous 5 years. During this time, the animals must have been protected from contact with any reservoir of *Mycobacterium bovis* and showed no clinical signs of bovine tuberculosis on the day of shipment; or
- (3) Each animal destined for export must be subjected to MPI-approved testing for *Mycobacterium bovis* with negative results.

### 2.4 Trypanosomosis (*Trypanosoma vivax*)

- (1) Each animal must have:
- a) Been resident since birth in a *T. vivax*-free country, zone, or compartment or imported from a *T. vivax* free country, zone, or compartment as agreed by MPI; and
  - b) Showed no clinical signs of *T. vivax* on the day of shipment; or
- (2) Each animal must have been resident, for at least six months before shipment, at zoo premises where no clinical, epidemiological, or other evidence of *T. vivax* has occurred in any animal species in the previous two years and showed no clinical signs of trypanosomosis on the day of shipment; and
- a) During pre-export isolation,

- i) A blood sample drawn from a peripheral vein must be tested for *T. vivax* using an agent identification test and serological test, both with negative results; or
- ii) Following a positive serological test, a blood sample from a peripheral vein must be tested negative for *T. vivax* using an agent identification test, and a second blood sample taken at least 21 days after the first must be tested for *T. vivax* by a serological test and show no increase in titre.

## 2.5 External parasites

- (1) Within the 30 days prior to export, each animal must be treated twice, at least 14 days apart, with an external parasiticide effective against lice, ticks, and fleas; and
- (2) Each animal must be inspected and found to be free of external parasites before shipment.

## 2.6 Internal parasites

- (1) Within the 30 days prior to export, each animal must be treated twice, at least 14 days apart, with an anthelmintic effective against cestodes, nematodes, and trematodes.

## 2.7 Seeds

- (1) Feed and bedding material in pre-export isolation must be free from evidence of seeds. Before departure to New Zealand, each animal must be certified as being free from visible contamination with seeds.
- (2) On arrival in New Zealand, the animals must be held in a transitional facility for one week, during which time all dung must be collected and destroyed.

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## Schedule 1 – Document history

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
20 February 2023 Internal Consultation	Import Health Standard: Zoo Rhinoceroses	IHS ZOORHINO.SPE
30 March 2023 External Consultation	Import Health Standard: Zoo Rhinoceroses	IHS ZOORHINO.SPE
Date of Amendments	Title	Shortcode

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## Schedule 2 – Definitions

### Compartment

An animal subpopulation contained in one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or specific diseases for which required surveillance, control, and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

### Competent Authority

The Veterinary or other Governmental Authority of the World Organisation of Animal Health Member, that has the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards, and recommendations in the *Code* in the whole territory.

### External parasite

Organisms which live on the surface of the host, including mites, lice, ticks, fleas, and flesh-eating larvae.

### Inspector

An MPI Official Veterinarian warranted as a Biosecurity Inspector under the Biosecurity Act.

### Internal parasite

Organisms which live inside the host, including roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms, and flukes.

### MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.

### Official Veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of a country to perform certain designated official tasks associated with animal health and/or public health and inspections of commodities and, when appropriate, to certify in conformity with the provisions of the *Code* Chapter for certification procedures.

### Surveillance

The systematic ongoing collection, collation, and analysis of information related to animal health and the timely dissemination of information to those who need to know so that action can be taken.

### Transshipment

An animal changes aircraft during travel to, or through, New Zealand.

### Transit

An animal remains on board the aircraft during travel to, or through, New Zealand.

### Veterinary Certificate

A certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the World Organisation for Animal Health *Code* Chapter for certification procedures, describing the animal health and/or public health requirements which are fulfilled by the exported commodities.

### WOAH

The World Organisation for Animal Health.



**Zone**

Means a part of a country defined by the Veterinary Authority, containing an animal population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status with respect to an infection or infestation for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention or control.

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