



Importing prescribed foods from Australia

April 2013

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the Australian Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) work collaboratively on activities under the Trans Tasman Cooperation Arrangement to align imported food programmes. The co-operative arrangement supports the enhanced Closer Economic Relations (CER) agenda agreed by Prime Ministers of both countries and has resulted in a number of initiatives to reduce existing barriers to trans-Tasman trade.

Update

As a result of work undertaken in 2011 New Zealand removed the requirements for food safety import inspection on a range of 'prescribed foods' produced, manufactured and imported into Australia.

The only products imported from Australia that currently require a MPI Food Safety Permit are:

- [Bovine Meat and Bovine Meat Products](#) (127 KB PDF)
- [Bivalve Molluscan Shellfish \(BMS\)](#) (92 KB PDF)

Prescribed Foods

Prescribed Foods are foods that normally require a Food Safety Permit from MPI. For more details refer to:

[Prescribed Foods](#)

The following prescribed foods, when imported into New Zealand from Australia are not subject to MPI Food Safety import clearance requirements. Importers do not need to apply for a Single Use Permit for clearance. This applies to products grown, harvested, and produced in Australia and to products imported into Australia and cleared by the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS). Note that MPI Biosecurity requirements still apply.

- raw milk cheeses (Roquefort, and raw milk extra-hard hard grating cheeses. Gruyere, Sbrinz and Emmental cheese manufactured from raw milk)
- soft cheese and grated cheese
- fish – species susceptible to production of histamine
- fish – manufactured fish products (surimi and marinara mix)



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- fish – smoked (vacuum packed)
 - fermented meat products, meat paste and pate
 - peanut butter
 - peanuts and pistachio nuts
 - desiccated coconut
 - hijiki seaweed
 - tahini or crushed sesame seeds or any products containing these
 - crustaceans – lobsters, crabs, bugs and their products
 - crustaceans – shrimps and prawns
 - spices - pepper, paprika and cinnamon

Prescribed Foods that require a MPI Food Safety inspection

The following prescribed foods, when imported into New Zealand from Australia, will still continue to require an import permit and are subject to MPI inspection requirements:

- bivalve molluscan shellfish
- bovine meat and bovine meat products
- All prescribed foods which are trans-shipped through Australia (i.e. product is not 'cleared' for sale in Australia)

Import clearance requirements (import options and procedures) for the prescribed foods listed above are set down in the 'Imported Food Requirements' (IFR's) at:

[IFRs & advisories](#)

Future changes to import clearance requirements for foods from Australia

MPI, DAFF, AQIS and FSANZ are committed to delivering upon the CER agenda as agreed by the Prime Ministers of both countries. Future changes to the import clearance requirements resulting from this work will be updated in each Imported Food Requirement.



Related link

[Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Agreement \(TTMRA\)](#)