

Guideline to Indonesia's food safety regulation for fresh food of plant origin

“Food safety control over the import and export of fresh food of plant origin” Regulation No. 27/Permentan/PP.340/5/2009

1. Scope

Compliance with maximum residue limits for agrichemicals and heavy metals in imported Fresh Food of Plant Origin (FFPO).

2. Options for meeting import requirements (Chapter I, Article 6)

Four options for meeting Indonesia's requirements are described below. In the short term, only (c) and (d) are likely to be available to NZ exporters. Option (c) appears to be the best option. In the longer term, NZFSA is working towards acceptance of New Zealand's FFPO system under options (a) or (b).

(a) Recognition of the FFPO safety system of the country of origin (Chapter II, Pt 1)

The FFPO safety system can be recognised for categories of FFPO, as listed in Attachment III of the regulation. The information requirements are quite exhaustive (Attachment III of the regulation), down to the detail of participating production sites. This information must be submitted by NZFSA, and will involve at least two meetings of officials and an audit in New Zealand of the system.

(b) Equivalence agreement (Chapter II, Part 2)

This is effectively a mutual recognition agreement, encompassing elements of the “recognition” process (a, above) with NZ also recognising Indonesia's food safety system. Refer Attachments IV and II of the regulation.

(c) Recognition of the FFPO safety control in the FFPO production site (Chapter II, Part 3)

Where there is no system in place as described in a & b, above, the food safety procedures applied to individual production sites can be recognised by Indonesia. Producers submit applications directly to Indonesian authorities, or via an importer. The application is evaluated by Indonesian authorities, and does not appear to require an audit visit unless the outcome of the evaluation identifies “uncertainty about the conformity and accuracy of the submitted information”.

The process for application, and information required, is described in Attachment V of the regulation. The categories of fresh produce that can apply for such recognition are listed in Attachments I and II of the regulation. NZFSA believes it would be beneficial for there to be coordination between industry groups or exporters submitting descriptions of their systems, and is prepared to assist with this.

(d) Importation without recognition/equivalence (Chapter 3, Part 4)

If no recognition or equivalence arrangement is in place fresh produce may still be imported into Indonesia but will require certification and undergo inspection and testing of every consignment in Indonesia while the consignment is held. Refer Section 4, below for details.

3. Importation process under recognition/equivalence (Chapter III, Part 1)

All imports of FFPO under recognition/equivalence (2a-c, above) must be:

- accompanied by FFPO information (described below)
- through a designated port of entry
- notified and submitted to a plant quarantine officer at the entry point for FFPO safety control.

FFPO information includes:

- name and address of the owner/representative;
- name and address of sender;

- date and place of conveyance;
- date and place of entry;
- mode of transportation;
- FFPO identity (the general or scientific name, brand, weight per package, and producer);
- type and amount of FFPO, packing and labeling;
- production site; and
- purpose of import.

Much of this information is contained on the phytosanitary certificate and other shipping documents, but a separate form is provided (refer Attachment VI of the regulation) and should be used.

A plant quarantine officer will reconcile documentation with the consignment and where these align, the consignment will be released. Where recognition/equivalence arrangements are in place, monitoring and residue testing of imported consignments will still be undertaken. Where violations of MRLs are detected the importer will be required to recall produce and NZFSA will be notified of noncompliance.

The cost of monitoring and testing under recognition/equivalence arrangements is borne by the Indonesian Agriculture Quarantine Agency. Where there are 3 instances of noncompliance (MRLs exceeded or documentation not matching up with consignments) the recognition/equivalence arrangement may be suspended.

4. Importation process where there is no recognition/equivalence (Chapter III, Part 1)

Where no recognition/equivalence arrangement is in place, imports must be:

- accompanied by certificates/documents of FFPO safety (see below)
- accompanied by FFPO information (described below)
- through a designated port of entry
- notified and submitted to a plant quarantine officer at the entry point for FFPO safety control.

Certificates/documents of FFPO safety must accompany the consignment or be provided by the importer within 14 days (produce will not be released until this is provided). "FFPO information" must also be provided, as described in Section 3, above. The regulation indicates that these documents must be issued by NZFSA, however the scope of certification and whether approved testing laboratories can provide such certification remains to be clarified. Regardless, there will need to be a system to link the consignment to the certificate (traceability) and such a system is not in place at present.

A plant quarantine inspector will reconcile the certificate and documentation with the consignment. If the documentation aligns with the makeup and packaging of the consignment processing will proceed to the next stage. If not, the consignment will be refused entry.

Consignments passing the documentation check will then be sampled and tested in the laboratory prior to release of the consignment. Rejected produce must be reshipped within 14 days, or destroyed.

The cost of testing is borne by the importer.

5. MRLs

Maximum residue limits for crops are provided in Attachment I of the regulation, and contaminant maximum limits are provided in Attachment II of the regulation. Contaminants include pesticides and heavy metals.