

MOVING TO NEW ZEALAND

– WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Please read the following information before packing your household/personal effects.

Border agencies

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) along with the New Zealand Customs Service and the Department of Immigration, have specific requirements for people moving personal effects/household possessions to New Zealand.

The following is a guide put together by MAF Biosecurity New Zealand – please refer to the New Zealand Customs and Department of Immigration websites for further information in those areas.

The importance of Biosecurity

MAFBNZ is responsible for protecting the natural resources, plants, animals and people of New Zealand from the introduction of pests and diseases. With more people than ever wanting to visit or move to New Zealand the risk of unwanted pest and disease introduction increases. Pests and diseases can cross our border in personal and household effects, so to prevent this there are strict rules about what people are allowed to send or bring to New Zealand.

MAFBNZ assess all shipments of goods coming into the country by checking documentation and, when necessary, examining the goods. If risk items are found these may be treated, reshipped, or destroyed (at the owner's cost)¹.

Packing your personal effects

Strict biosecurity laws mean there are some items you cannot bring to New Zealand, and some other items will require inspection on arrival.

Using a professional moving company, freight forwarder or import agent to help you move can be beneficial, as they can provide assistance with MAFBNZ requirements.

If belongings are arriving in an air freight container, it should meet the requirements in the Import Health Standards for Air Containers². If they are arriving in a sea container then the container must meet the requirements of the Import Health Standard for Sea Containers³.

Having an accurate and easily understood manifest of your belongings will help MAFBNZ to assess these quickly when they arrive in New Zealand. Not packing some items, or packing goods for inspection together, will help to save costs and time.

Restricted and prohibited items

Do not pack these goods as they may be seized unless accompanied by official certification:

- Any packets of food
- Honey, pollen, propolis, honeycombs and other bee products.
- Plants, bulbs, cuttings, corms, rhizomes or tubers, commercially packed seeds and seeds for planting.
- Prohibited packaging such as straw or used fresh food cartons.
- Items restricted under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) such as coral, ivory, snakeskin or whale bone items, turtle shell and some sea shells.



Items that must be declared

The following may require inspection and in some cases certification from the country of origin:

- Fresh or dried fruit, vegetables, mushrooms or fungi.
- Any meat, fish, shellfish or poultry.
- Ingredients used in cooking, all milk products, cheese, eggs or egg products, and milk based baby foods.
- Hunting trophies or stuffed animals.
- Traditional or herbal medicines or remedies, health supplements and homeopathic remedies that include animal or plant products.
- Dried flower arrangements or Christmas decorations made from plant material.
- All wooden items, drums, carvings, spears and masks, items stuffed with seeds or straw, made of bamboo, cane, coconut or straw, or hair, fur, unprocessed wool, skin, feathers and bone.
- All outdoor, camping, sports equipment, hiking boots and other sporting footwear that could be contaminated with soil, seeds or water.
- Grooming and veterinary equipment, bee-keeping equipment, saddles, bridles, bird cages and pet beds.
- Gardening equipment and outdoor furniture.

There may be other items that you have to declare, contact us if you are unsure about something. If an item requires treatment you will have to pay for this service. Any goods that can not be imported will be destroyed or reshipped.



Required documentation

All personal effects being shipped to New Zealand must have:

- A combined Customs and Quarantine declaration <http://www.customs.govt.nz/NR/rdonlyres/5944F998-A14B-456E-8455-CDE8D5F9FEA9/0/nzcs218.pdf>
- A detailed inventory of goods (numbered boxes can help with this)
- A completed sea container Quarantine Declaration (for full container loads) <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/forms/containers-declaration>
- Valid treatment certificates for goods that have been fumigated, heat treated or cleaned
- A Bill of Lading, Arrival notice, or Air Way Bill

You will be informed of any additional documentation that may be needed.

For New Zealand Customs and Immigration document requirements please refer to those agencies.

Clearance of goods

An Inspector will assess documentation presented to MAFBNZ for possible risk goods. An inspection of your personal effects may be required. If the shipment is a full sea container load an inspection of the sea container is mandatory and will be carried out by an Accredited Person or a MAFBNZ inspector.

If an inspection is required this must be at a Transitional Facility and you must notify MAFBNZ of the location. Full container loads of effects may be eligible for delivery to a private residence if being shipped with an agent or moving company approved to the MAFBNZ equivalent system. For more information contact MAFBNZ, your moving company, freight forwarder or customs agent. Other conditions may also apply and MAFBNZ will advise you of these at time of application. Keys may be required for any locked trunks, suitcases or vehicles.

Timber packaging

Timber packaging such as boxes or pallets is subject to biosecurity requirements and must be declared⁴. Wood packaging must have been fumigated or heat treated before use and must be declared in the Quarantine Declaration (for full container loads) regarding container cleanliness.



Personal vehicles

Vehicles and other machinery such as jet skis, lawn mowers or chainsaws are also subject to biosecurity requirements. Before shipping, vehicles should be cleaned thoroughly inside and out, including underneath and around the wheels and wheel arches. If steam cleaning ensure the whole car including the engine is cleaned. All vehicles are inspected on arrival. If these are contaminated they will be directed for treatment and re-inspection (charges apply).

For information on complying with safety regulations refer to the New Zealand Transport Agency website. For information on vehicle tax refer to the New Zealand Customs Service.

Inspection and treatment charges

MAFBNZ charges are based on the number of items inspected and will include a travel fee to the place of inspection. A schedule of fees is contained in the Biosecurity Costs Regulations and all importations are required to pay a Biosecurity System Entry Levy⁵. Any charges for the treatment of goods are billed separately by the authorised treatment provider. MAFBNZ charges are separate to charges billed and services provided by your moving company, freight forwarder or customs agent.

Bringing your pets to New Zealand

The requirements for bringing pets into New Zealand depend on the type of animal, where it is from and if there is an existing import health standard for the animal⁶. Disease concerns mean that not all types of pets are allowed into New Zealand.

For more information on bringing pets to New Zealand go to: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/enter/personal/pets>

Phone contact details

General Enquiries: **0800 00 83 33**

MAFBNZ Clearances: **0800 22 20 18**

All overseas enquiries: **+ 64 4 894 0100**

For other MAFBNZ contact details go to: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosec/org/structure/clearance>

Useful links

Importing to New Zealand <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/imports>

New Zealand Customs Service <http://www.customs.govt.nz>

Immigration New Zealand <http://www.immigration.govt.nz>

New Zealand Transport Agency <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/>

Search for Import Health Standards <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search>

¹See <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/regs/trans/treat>

²See <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/non-organic/standards/152-07-01i.htm>

³See <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/non-organic/standards/seaco.htm>

⁴Information on ISPM15 (timber packaging) regulations available at: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/imports/forests/standards/non-viable-forest-produce/wood-packaging-ihs.htm>

⁵<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/searchquick.aspx>

⁶See <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/ihs/search>

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.BIOSECURITY.GOV.T.NZ