



NIUE QUARANTINE SERVICE

## **Import Health Standard for Sea Containers**

For All Matters relating to the interpretation and amendment of this standard, please contact

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Ministry of Natural Resources  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries  
Fonuakula  
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For all matters relating to the operation of this standard, including inspections, audits and treatments, please contact the Niue Quarantine Office at Fonuakula, Alofi.

Issuing Authority

This standard is issued in accordance with the Section 4 of the Niue Quarantine Act 1984

This import Health Standard outlines the minimum requirements that must be met when importing sea containers and associated packaging into Niue.

## **THE STANDARD**

### **1 Introduction**

A quarantine clearance (pursuant of the Niue Quarantine Act 1984), may only be issued when a container meets the requirements of this import health standard

### **2 Non-Compliance**

A container that does not meet the requirements of this standard will not be given a quarantine clearance under the Act and will be directed by a Quarantine inspector as per section 6 of the Act for further action as considered appropriate to manage the quarantine risks. The Quarantine Inspector in accordance of the act and in concurrence with the director may order the container to be removed from the island and back onto the ship if the container does not meet the IHS for containers to Niue (Part 1 Section 5 of the Act).

### **3 Biosecurity Requirements**

All containers imported into Niue must be clean and free of pests and any quarantine contamination. Inspections or checks to verify this must be carried out by a Quarantine inspector. All containers that do not originate from New Zealand must be fumigated by methyl bromide prior to loading bound for Niue. It is important to notify the Niue Quarantine Service regarding the required dosage for the methyl bromide treatment. However, it is also important to note that the Niue Quarantine service may require fumigation of containers from New Zealand depending on the pest risks relating to New Zealand at any given time or the container's travel schedule. For containers that originate from outside of New Zealand, they are required and must be fumigated with methyl bromide at a required rate agreed upon by the Niue Quarantine Service.

#### **3.1 Special Consideration**

The Director in accordance with the Act may grant special consideration in allowing a container into Niue provided that appropriate protocols are in place to treat the container. The director may also grant access if the container provides an acceptable risk that is considered safe for Niue.

The above special privilege is for the discretion of the director and taking into consideration a risk analysis that would be undertaken by the Niue Quarantine Service.

### **4 Information**

The information stated below is required for all containers arriving in Niue and must be sent to and received by NQS at least 2 months prior to container arrival

- Container number
- Container type
- Country of Origin
- Port of Loading
- Importer Details
- Exporter Details
- Quarantine Declaration
- Complete and accurate description of the cargo or tariff code, including all packaging

The information will be assessed by NQS to determine the regulatory interest of a container and subsequent actions to be taken. Containers with absent or incomplete information will be deemed of high regulatory interest.

### **5 Ports**

A container must not be removed from the first port of discharge – including inland depots or movement transshipment designated homestead until all container information is received and assessed by NQS and directions actioned by NQS. Containers for transshipment by sea must be inspected and checked at the first port of discharge where they will remain on that port until its transportation.

## **6 Transportation**

For all uncleared containers being transported from a port to homestead or business area for devanning, treatment or other action, the importer or importers agent must provide all relevant information and NQS directions about the container to the transporter operator and the business area or homestead.

## **7 Transitional Facilities**

No person is permitted to open or devan a container until notification of NQS requirements has been received at the transitional facility. Containers must be devanned at the transitional facility in the presence of a NQS Inspector or an approved accredited person, (i.e. Customs, Freight Agent, Police).

## **8 Inspection requirements**

### **8.1 Wood Packaging and other restricted packaging material**

All wood packaging material must be actioned as per the NQS standard as defined in ISPM 15. Restricted or other contaminated packaging must be segregated, secured and treated as per this standard.

### **8.2 Detection and management of biosecurity pests and contamination**

Biosecurity contamination, e.g. soil, plant products and restricted packaging material etc., found on or in a container during routine checks must be secured in a quarantine bin or other container and NQS notified. When live organisms e.g. insects, mobile animals or egg masses etc., are found they must be secured and NQS notified immediately on phone number 4032.

## **9 Definitions and Terms**

For the purpose of this standard and other related document, terms used that are defined in the Niue Quarantine Act 1984 have the meanings set out there. The following definitions also apply:

### **Quarantine Pest and Contamination**

Animals, insects or other invertebrates(alive or dead, in any life cycle stage, include egg casings), organic material of animal origin(including blood bones, hair, flesh, secretions, excretions), viable or non-viable plants or plant products (including fruit, seeds, leaves, twigs, roots, bark), other organic material (including fungi, soil or water where these are not the manifested cargo being imported.

### **Check**

A visual examination by an accredited person to detect the presence of biosecurity pests and contamination. Such a check is to be carried out during the routine handling and movement of containers and as per the accredited persons training.

### **Inspection**

A visual inspection by NQS inspector to detect the presence of biosecurity pests and contamination. An inspection does not require magnification but may require additional lighting if the inspection is carried out at night or within a building.

***Packaging material***

Material used to brace or hold cargo within a container such as pallets, cases, crates, boxes, drums and cartons, dunnage and wedges

***Restricted packaging material***

Packaging that includes soil, peat moss, used sacking material, hay, straw, chaff and any material contaminated with the above. Wood packaging is also included – materials such as cases, crates and pallets and wood used to separate, brace, protect or secure cargo in transit.