



Import Health Standard

Cats and Dogs 2026

CATSDOGS.GEN

12 May 2026

Title

Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs 2026

Commencement

This standard comes into force on 1 July 2026

Revocation

This standard revokes and replaces the *Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs*, dated 7 April 2021, and all prior amendments to that standard.

The amendment history to this standard is set out in *Schedule 1: Document History*.

Issuing Authority

This standard is made under section 24A of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Made at Wellington on 12 May 2026

Janine Collier
Manager, Import Standards and Pathways
Ministry for Primary Industries
(acting under delegated authority of the Director-General)

Contact for further information

This legislation is administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). For more information contact:

Biosecurity New Zealand
Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)
PO Box 2526
Wellington 6140.

Email: animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz

Website: [Import Health Standards \(IHS\)](#)

[Bringing cats and dogs to NZ | NZ Government](#)

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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 cats and dogs into New Zealand.

The identified risk organisms associated with cats and dogs that are managed by this IHS are:

Cats and dogs:

- a) External parasites
- b) Internal parasites
- c) Rabies
- d) Canine influenza

Dogs only:

- a) *Angiostrongylus vasorum*
- b) *Babesia* spp.
- c) *Brucella canis*
- d) Canine transmissible venereal tumour
- e) *Dirofilaria immitis*, *filariosis* (canine heartworm)
- f) *Leishmania infantum* (leishmaniosis)
- g) *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola (leptospirosis)
- h) *Trypanosoma evansi* (surra)

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/transshipment, and before biosecurity clearance can be given.

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

Who should read this standard?

This IHS should be read by importers of cats and dogs.

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 re-shipped 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 a cat or dog will be recovered in accordance with the Act and any regulations made under that Act. All costs involved with documentation, transport, storage and obtaining a biosecurity clearance must be covered by the importer or agent.

Equivalence

The 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.

Transitional facility

Following biosecurity authorisation being given under section 25 of the Act, cats and dogs (other than compliant cats and dogs from Australia and assistance dogs) will proceed directly to the transitional (quarantine) facility named on the import permit.

The documentation will be checked to ensure it meets all requirements noted under general requirements in Part 1: Requirements and Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms of this IHS.

Biosecurity clearance

A biosecurity clearance, under section 26 of the Act, may be issued when cats and dogs meet all the requirements of this IHS, provided the applicable requirements of section 27 in the Act are met.

Inspection

On arrival, all documentation accompanying the consignment will be verified by an inspector.

Document history

Refer to [Schedule 1](#).

Other information

The information contained within a box throughout this document is for guidance and is not part of the statutory requirements.

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 clearance will be issued. These may include but are not limited to the following:

- a) All equipment entering New Zealand with cats and dogs must comply with the [Import Health Standard: Used Equipment Associated with Animals or Water](#).
- b) Containers made of timber must comply with: [Import Health Standard: Woodware from All Countries](#).

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.

Harmonised system (HS) codes

The Harmonised System is an international product numbering classification developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The New Zealand Harmonised System is found here:

<https://www.wcotradetools.org/en/harmonized-system>

Cats and dogs imported using this IHS will be under the following HS Codes:

HS Code	Commodity Description
0106190019	Mammals; live, dogs
0106190029	Mammals; live, other than primates, whales, dolphins, porpoises (order Cetacea), manatees, dugongs (order Sirenia), seals, sea lions, walruses (mammals of the suborder Pinnipedia), camels, other camelids, rabbits and hares.

Dog Control Act 1996

Section 30A(1) of the [Dog Control Act 1996](#) prohibits the importation into New Zealand of any dog that belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more of the breeds or type of dog listed in [Schedule 4](#) of this 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 (MPI). To gain customs clearance, the required documentation must be lodged through the Trade Single Window (TSW) portal.

For more information about TSW refer to [Trade Single Window \(TSW\)](#)

Part 1: Requirements

1.1 Application

- (1) This IHS applies to all imports of the following animals from all countries, territories or regional entities¹:
 - a) Domestic cats (*Felis catus*) and hybrid cats (*Felis catus* crossed with a wild species).
 - b) Domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and hybrid dogs (*Canis familiaris* crossed with a wild species).
- (2) A domestic or hybrid cat or dog is collectively referred to as a cat or dog in this IHS.
- (3) This IHS also applies to bedding that accompanies a cat or dog into New Zealand.
- (4) A cat or dog must not be more than 42 days pregnant on the date of shipment, or arrival in New Zealand if travelling by sea.

Guidance for application

Hybrids

- Bengal cats are eligible for import.
- A hybrid cat or dog (other than Bengal) is likely to be considered new organisms by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). An approval is required from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) before any new organism is brought into New Zealand: [New organisms | EPA](#).

Prohibited dog breeds and types

Dog Control Act 1996

[Section 30A\(1\)](#) of the Dog Control Act 1996 prohibits the importation into New Zealand of any dog that belongs wholly or predominantly to one or more of the breeds or type of dog listed in [Schedule 4](#) of this Act:

Breeds: Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro de Presa Canario

Type: American Pit Bull Terrier

1.2 Incorporation by reference

- (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 (WOAH) *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* (the *Manual*), available at: [Terrestrial Codes and Manuals - WOA](#)
 - b) The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* (the *Code*), available at: [Terrestrial Codes and Manuals - WOA](#)
 - c) The *International Air Transport Association Live Animals Regulations* (LAR), available at [IATA Live Animals Regulations \(LAR\)](#)
 - d) The rabies import requirements for cats and dogs to Australia, found at: [Bringing cats and dogs to Australia - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry](#)
- (2) The following material is incorporated by reference in this IHS under section 142M of the Act:
 - a) [MPI Specified Approvals for Animal Import Health Standards, MPI-STD-SAA](#).

¹ 'Countries, territories or regional entities', are hereafter referred to as 'countries'.

- (3) Under section 142O(3) of the Act it is declared that section 142O(1) does not apply. This means a notice under section 142O(2) of the Act is not required to be published before material that amends or replaces the standards, guidelines or lists incorporated under clauses 1.2(1) and (2) above has legal effect as part of the IHS.

Guidance for incorporation by reference

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

1.3 Definitions

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

1.4 Requirements for clearance

- (1) To obtain biosecurity clearance, a cat or dog must:
- a) Meet clauses 1.5 to 1.18 [Part 1: Requirements](#), as applicable; and
 - b) Meet clauses 2.1 to 2.13 of [Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms](#), as applicable; and
 - c) Be imported from a country that the Chief Technical Officer is satisfied meets clause 1.6 [Exporting Country Systems and Certification](#) requirements; and
 - d) Be accompanied by a model veterinary certificate, or a veterinary certificate that meets the requirements of clause 1.14.2, has been agreed by the Chief Technical Officer, and details the measures in [Part 1](#), and [Part 2](#) of this IHS that the importer will meet; and
 - e) Be accompanied by an import permit where required by clause 1.13.
- (2) To obtain biosecurity clearance, bedding that accompanies a cat or dog during import must meet clause 1.8 (6) and (7) of [Part 1: Requirements](#).

Guidance for requirements for clearance

- For information on clearance procedures check the [MPI website](#) or contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz.

1.5 Identification

- (1) The cat or dog must be permanently and uniquely identified with a microchip.

Guidance for identification

- The microchips that meet *International Standards Organisation (ISO)* specifications 11784 or Annex A of ISO Standard 11785 are recommended. These chips are required for dog registration in New Zealand.
- If the microchip does not meet the ISO specifications, please note that MPI may not have a compatible reader for the chip.
- Refer to clauses 1.7 *Diagnostic tests, vaccines and treatment*, 1.11 *Pre-export identification check* and 2.1 *Rabies* for information on the requirements for scanning and recording microchip numbers before sending a cat or dog to New Zealand.

1.6 Exporting country systems and certification

- (1) Importers may import a cat or dog only if a Chief Technical Officer is satisfied, on the basis of evidence, that the veterinary services of the exporting country are capable of ensuring that the cat or dog imported from that country can meet the requirements of this IHS. These countries are listed in [MPI Specified Approvals for Animal Import Health Standards, MPI-STD-SAA](#) as Category 1, 2 and 3 countries.
- (2) The evidence must include details about the following matters the Chief Technical Officer considers applicable to a cat or dog from that exporting country:
 - a) The ability of the exporting country's Competent Authority to verify the animal health status of cats and dogs 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 national systems and/or programmes and standards in the exporting country for regulatory oversight of the cat and dog population.
 - c) The capabilities 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 Chief Technical Officer has determined that the veterinary services of the exporting country are no longer capable of ensuring that a cat or dog imported from that country can meet the requirements of this IHS.

Guidance for country approval and veterinary certificates

- If the country you intend to import a cat or dog from is not included in the category 1, 2 or 3 country lists, the options available are:
 - Move the pet to a category 1, 2 or 3 country, or
 - Ask the Competent Authority of the non-categorised country to submit a request for country approval. Requests for country approval will be prioritised according to resource availability.
- Refer to [Part 3 for Model Veterinary Certificates](#) which can be used by any country approved to the category indicated on the certificate.
- When negotiation is required, the model certificates can be used by the Competent Authority as a reference to begin country-specific veterinary certificate negotiation.
- All country-specific veterinary certificates agreed between an exporting country's Competent Authority and MPI are included in the table below:

Country	Link to certificate	Date applicable for use

1.7 Diagnostic tests, vaccines and treatment

- (1) The microchip identification of each cat or dog must be verified and recorded by a veterinarian at each required examination, test, vaccination, and/or treatment performed for import into New Zealand.
- (2) The microchip number of the cat or dog must be correctly recorded on all vaccination and treatment records, laboratory results and certification.
- (3) All pre-export and/or surveillance testing required by this IHS must be conducted at:
 - a) A laboratory approved by the Competent Authority of a category 1, 2 or 3 country; or
 - b) The National Animal Health Laboratory in New Zealand; or
 - c) A laboratory in a category 1, 2 or 3 country approved by the EU Commission for rabies testing; or
 - d) A WOAHP rabies reference laboratory in a category 1, 2 or 3 country.

- (4) All laboratory samples must be collected, processed, and stored in accordance with the recommendations in the *Code* and/or the *Manual* or as described in [MPI-STD-SAA](#); and
 - a) All laboratory samples must be taken in a country that the Chief Technical Officer has agreed meets the requirements of clause 1.6 [Exporting Country Systems and Certification](#) of this IHS.
- (5) 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-STD-SAA](#).
- (6) All products and vaccinations required by the IHS are to be administered:
 - a) To meet the specific requirements in [Part 2: Specified requirements for identified risk organisms](#) of this IHS; and
 - b) As per the manufacturer's instructions; and
 - c) By a registered or licenced veterinarian of a category 1, 2 or 3 country (or New Zealand).
- (7) All requirements in this IHS for the administration of a vaccine entail that either:
 - a) The final dose of a primary vaccination course has been administered; or
 - b) The recommended booster to complement the primary course has been administered.
- (8) 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 for diagnostic tests, vaccines and treatment

- MPI lists all approved diagnostic tests, vaccines, treatments and post-arrival testing laboratories in [MPI-STD-SAA](#).
- Where WOAHA recommended diagnostic tests and vaccines are listed, details can be found in the WOAHA *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (the Manual)*, available at: [Terrestrial Codes and Manuals - WOAHA](#)
- A list of the European Commission approved rabies serology laboratories can be found on the EU Commission website: https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/pet-movement/approved-labs_en
- A list of WOAHA rabies reference laboratories can be found on the WOAHA website: [Reference Laboratories - WOAHA](#)
- To calculate the timeframes for the testing, treatments and examinations specified in this IHS, count the day of sampling for testing, or the day of treatment or examination as Day 0, e.g., if a blood sample is taken for a test that must be done in the 30 days before the date of shipment, Day 0 is the date the sample is taken, and Day 30 is the date of shipment from the country of export.
- It is acceptable to take blood samples for testing in a category 1, 2 or 3 country and then test the samples at a laboratory in another category 1, 2 or 3 country. Check that the exporting (certifying) country can certify samples taken, or tests done, in another country.
- Testing found to be non-compliant on arrival will be repeated in New Zealand, which will result in additional costs to the importer, and is likely to extend the quarantine period.

1.8 Transport

- (1) When a cat or dog is being transported by air, transport facilities and arrangements must meet the relevant requirements published in the *IATA Live Animal Regulations*.
- (2) A cat or dog arriving by air must be transported as manifested cargo, except for an assistance dog (if the airline agrees). This includes a cat or dog transiting or transshipping New Zealand.
- (3) A cat or dog travelling by air from a category 2 country must travel in a crate that has been sealed securely with a government-approved seal to ensure that biosecurity is maintained during the journey to New Zealand; and

- a) The crate must be resealed if opened during transshipment. The Competent Authority of the country of transshipment must provide an endorsed document that gives the reason the seal was removed, as well as the original and new government-approved seal number.
- (4) A crate that is not intact on arrival in New Zealand must be made secure before the cat or dog is moved to a transitional facility or forwarded for onward travel.
- (5) A cat or dog travelling from a category 3 country and a cat or dog travelling directly to New Zealand from a category 1 country does not require a government-approved seal on the crate.
- (6) Bedding that accompanies a cat or dog into New Zealand that is capable of harbouring external parasites (including eggs and larvae) must be free from seeds, and either:
 - a) Destroyed on arrival at the place of first arrival (POFA) or transitional facility; or
 - b) Subjected to direct drying until completely dry (i.e., without washing before drying) at a high temperature setting (at least 54°C) for at least 45 minutes, with the following exceptions:
 - i) If the bedding is soiled, it must be washed at a high temperature setting and then dried at high heat (as stated above) for at least one hour.
 - ii) If the bedding is temporarily stored before direct drying and/or washing, 0.5% permethrin must be applied (following the product-specific instructions of the manufacturer).
- (7) Straw or hay bedding is not permitted.

Guidance for transport

- A cat or dog arriving by air can only arrive at Auckland or Christchurch airport.
- With a consideration for animal welfare and due to the timing of vaccination and testing requirements, approximate minimum ages from each category are:
 - 8 weeks of age at the date of shipment from category 1 countries
 - 12 weeks of age at the date of shipment category 2 countries
 - 9 months of age at the date of shipment category 3 countries.
- Advance notification of arrival by air or sea needs to be given to MPI at least 5 working days before the scheduled time of arrival for:
 - A cat or dog (including an assistance dog) from a Category 1 country, send advanced notification using an [Application for Veterinary Inspection](#) form to: australia.dogsandcats@mpi.govt.nz
 - A dog that has been issued an MPI import permit specifically for an assistance dog from a Category 2 or 3 country, send advanced notification using an [Application for Veterinary Inspection](#) form to:
 Auckland: liveanimalsauckland@mpi.govt.nz
 Christchurch: liveanimalschristchurch@mpi.govt.nz
- Any food or water arriving with the animals in open containers will be disposed of on arrival.

1.9 Transit and transshipment

1.9.1 En-route to New Zealand

- (1) A cat or dog must comply with the following:
 - a) Only transit (remain on the same aircraft) or tranship (change aircraft) in a category 1, 2 or 3 country; and
 - b) Not come in contact with other animals; and
 - c) Not leave the international side of the airport; unless being transferred under the supervision of the Competent Authority in the country of transshipment to a government-approved quarantine facility for cats and dogs for the period of transshipment; and

- d) Comply with clause 1.8 (3)(a) *Transport* of this IHS for requirements for replacing the seal on the crate (if applicable).

1.9.2 Through New Zealand

- (1) A cat or dog may only transit or tranship through New Zealand from a category 1, 2 or 3 country and must meet the following requirements:
 - a) A cat or dog must be implanted with a microchip.
 - b) A dog must be treated with a product for heartworm prevention as per clause 2.11 *Heartworm* of this IHS.
 - c) External parasites:
 - i) A cat or dog must be treated by a veterinarian in the 5 days before the date of shipment to New Zealand with a product listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#), for the control of fleas and ticks at the manufacturer's recommended dose and the cat or dog must be found free from visible signs of external parasites at the pre-export veterinary inspection in the 2 days before shipment.
 - d) Internal parasites:
 - i) A cat or dog must be treated by a veterinarian with a product (or combination of products) listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for the control of nematodes (including *Angiostrongylus vasorum* - dogs only) and cestodes (including *Echinococcus* species) at the manufacturer's recommended dose in the 5 days before transshipment through New Zealand.
 - e) Rabies (from category 3 countries only):
 - i) A cat or dog must comply with clause 2.1 *Rabies* of this IHS or the rabies import requirements for entry into Australia.
 - f) Be accompanied by:
 - i) An *MPI Permission to Transit or Tranship* form; and
 - ii) An import permit issued by the Competent Authority in the country of destination (where applicable); and
 - iii) Health documentation issued in the country of origin and required by the country of final destination.
 - g) Transshipment must occur within the validity period of the *MPI Permission to Transit or Tranship* form.
 - h) A cat or dog transshipping for 6 hours or longer must be sent to a transitional facility for cats and dogs.
 - i) Transshipment must not exceed 48 hours, unless otherwise authorised by MPI.

Guidance for transit and transhipment

- Apply online to get a Permission to Transit or Tranship form for travel through New Zealand: MPI Online Import Permit. <https://animalplantimportpermit.mpi.govt.nz/>

1.10 Residency

- (1) A cat or dog must be free from all quarantine restrictions before shipment from the country of export to New Zealand.
- (2) A cat or dog from a category 1 country must be imported directly from a category 1 country.
- (3) A cat or dog from a category 2 country must be certified as resident in the category 2 country of export:
 - a) Since birth or direct importation from New Zealand; or

- b) For at least 6 months before the date of shipment unless the requirements in clause 2.1.3 *Rabies* have been met.
- (4) A New Zealand-origin cat or dog must be accompanied by the veterinary (export) certificate or Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC) used for export from New Zealand.

1.11 Identification check(s)

- (1) Identification check(s) are required for a dog or cat that is not of New Zealand-origin.
- (2) From a category 1 country:
 - a) A cat or dog must have its microchip number verified and recorded by a veterinarian in a categorised country at each examination, test, vaccination and/or treatment required for import into New Zealand.
- (3) From a category 2 country:
 - a) A cat or dog must have its microchip scanned and verified by an official veterinarian in the country of export at least 6 months prior to shipment; or
 - i) A cat or dog that is less than 6 months of age at the date of shipment, must have its microchip scanned and verified by an official veterinarian in the country of export prior to any tests, vaccination or treatments required for import into New Zealand.
 - b) The competent authority of the exporting country must communicate directly to MPI that the pre-export identification check has been performed by an official veterinarian.
- (4) From a category 3 country:
 - a) For an RNATT sample taken between 6 and 12 months prior to shipment, a cat or dog must have its microchip scanned by an official veterinarian in a categorised country before the sample for the RNATT is taken.
 - b) For an RNATT sample taken at least 3 months and less than 6 months prior to shipment, a cat or dog must have its microchip scanned twice by an official veterinarian in a categorised country:
 - i) The first scan must be done at least 6 months before shipment; and
 - ii) The second scan must be done before the sample for the RNATT is taken.
 - c) The competent authority of the exporting country must communicate directly to MPI that the pre-export identification check has been performed by an official veterinarian.

Guidance for the identification checks

- A pre-export identification check is not required for a New Zealand-origin dog or cat that has been overseas for any length of time because they must be accompanied by their original veterinary (export) certificate or Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC) from New Zealand in order to be classified as New Zealand-origin.
- [Appendix 2A](#) and [Appendix 2B](#) has model pre-export identification check forms.
- The blood sample for the RNATT can be taken on the same day as the microchip scan.
- ID checks are also required prior to any tests, vaccination or treatments required for import into New Zealand.

1.12 Pre-export veterinary inspection

- (1) A cat or dog must be inspected by a veterinarian in the 2 days before the date of shipment and be found to be:
 - a) Healthy and fit to travel; and
 - b) Free from visible signs of external parasites, dirt, insects and seeds; and

- c) Free from clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease that may be caused by any of the identified risk organisms in this IHS; and
- d) A dog must be free from evidence of recent dog bites; and
- e) An entire dog (male or female) must be free from any visible signs of canine transmissible venereal tumour on examination of external genitalia (which includes examination of the extruded penis).

1.13 Import permit

- (1) An import permit under section 24D of the Act is required before importation for the following:
 - a) A cat or dog from a category 2 or 3 country (including assistance dogs); and
 - b) A cat or dog arriving on a vessel from a category 1, 2 and 3 country.
- (2) An import permit under section 24D of the Act issued by the Director-General is required for a cat or dog if a Chief Technical Officer has, pursuant to section 27(1)(d)(iii), approved an equivalent measure before import different from that set in this IHS that may be applied to effectively manage risks.

1.13.1 For cats or dogs from a category 2 country

- (1) A signed quarantine booking form must be included as part of the import permit application.

1.13.2 For cats or dogs from a category 3 country

- (1) The following documentation must be included as part of the import permit application:
 - a) Rabies vaccination records/certificate(s).
 - b) Rabies neutralising antibody titration test (RNATT) result(s).
 - c) Category 3 Rabies Certification Form (RCF).
 - d) Signed quarantine booking form.

Guidance for quarantine booking

- The quarantine booking form can be obtained directly from the quarantine facilities and the list of facilities is available on the [MPI website](#).

1.13.3 For assistance dogs

- (1) In addition to clauses 1.13.1 - 1.13.2 above (as applicable), for a dog to be verified as an assistance dog for the purpose of importation, the following documentation must be included as part of the import permit application:
 - a) Evidence of the dog's disability assistance status as recognised by an authorised organisation or a government department.

Guidance for assistance dogs

- Disability assist dogs are trained and certified by organisations authorised under Schedule 5 of the Dog Control Act 1996

1.13.4 For cats or dogs on a vessel

- (1) In addition to clauses 1.13.1 - 1.13.3 above (as applicable), the following documentation must be included as part of the import permit application:
 - a) The name and type of vessel.
 - b) The estimated date of arrival.
 - c) The place of first arrival (POFA).

- d) Documentation to show to the satisfaction of MPI, the countries the cat or dog will have visited in the 6 months before arriving in New Zealand.
- e) Confirmation from a transitional facility that the cat or dog will be picked up at the place of first arrival (POFA) upon arrival and transferred to their transitional facility.

1.13.5 For New Zealand-origin cats or dogs overseas for 30 days or less

- (1) In addition to clauses 1.13.1 to 1.13.4 above (as applicable), the following documentation must be included as part of the import permit application:
 - a) A copy of the veterinary (export) certificate or Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC) used to export the cat or dog from New Zealand.
 - b) A record of treatments administered prior to export from New Zealand, where such treatments are required to support the re-importation of the dog or cat.

Guidance for import permits

- A model *Record of Treatment* can be found in [Appendix 1](#) of this IHS.
- Apply for an import permit online at: [MPI Online Import Permit](#) at least 8 weeks before it is required. Allow 30 working days for processing after all required documents have been received.
- You will need to have all the required supporting documents ready to upload during the electronic application process.
- Refer to the [MPI website](#) or Contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz for further information on applying for an import permit.

1.14 The documentation and declarations that must accompany a cat or dog

- (1) A cat or dog must arrive in New Zealand with the documentation (including declarations) that are specified in and meet the requirements of 1.14.1 to 1.14.11 below.
- (2) All documentation that is required by clause 1.14 to accompany a cat or dog must:
 - a) Be original, unless otherwise stated.
 - b) Be in English or have an English translation that is clear and legible; and
 - c) Be identified with a unique microchip number for each cat or dog, consistent with the veterinary certificate.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.

1.14.1 Import permit

- (1) An import permit (unendorsed copy acceptable), where required by this IHS, is for a single consignment.

1.14.2 Veterinary certificate

- (1) A veterinary certificate from an official veterinarian in the exporting country must include the following:
 - a) A unique consignment identifier, with the certificate number on each page.
 - b) The species, breed, sex (desexed or entire), microchip number and location, and age of each cat or dog.

- c) Name and address of the importer (consignee) and exporter (consignor).
- d) Name, signature and contact details of the official veterinarian.
- e) Certification and endorsement by the official veterinarian that the general requirements outlined in [Part 1: Requirements](#) of this IHS have been met.
- f) 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.

1.14.3 Rabies vaccination records (category 3 countries only)

- (1) Each rabies vaccination record (endorsed copy acceptable) must include:
 - a) Microchip number of the cat or dog.
 - b) Date of administration of rabies vaccination(s).
 - c) Name of vaccine(s) used.
 - d) Date vaccination(s) is valid until (duration of immunity - as per the manufacturer's instructions);
 - e) Batch number and expiry date of vaccine(s).
 - f) Veterinarian's name, signature and associated veterinary clinic.

1.14.4 Laboratory reports

- (1) Laboratory reports (endorsed copies acceptable), as required by this IHS, must include:
 - a) Microchip number of the cat or dog.
 - b) Dates of sample collection and receipt at the laboratory.
 - c) Test type.
 - d) Test result.

1.14.5 New Zealand export certificate or New Zealand Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC)

- (1) For a New Zealand origin cat or dog: The veterinary (export) certificate or Animal Welfare Export Certificate (AWEC) (unendorsed copy acceptable) used to export the cat or dog from New Zealand is required.

1.14.6 Record of treatments given before export from New Zealand for New Zealand-origin short stays

- (1) For a New Zealand-origin cat or dog overseas for 30 days or less: A *Record of Treatment* (endorsed copy acceptable) of the external parasite treatment given before export from New Zealand (as per [Appendix 1](#) of this IHS) is required.

1.14.7 For an entire male or female dog

- (1) A written declaration from the importer (as per [Appendix 3](#)) (unendorsed original acceptable) stating that the dog has not been bred (naturally or artificially), during either of the following periods:
 - a) The 30 days before the sample collection for the *Brucella canis* test and the scheduled date of shipment; or
 - b) For a New Zealand-origin dog overseas for 30 days or less, between export from New Zealand and shipment back to New Zealand; or
- (2) A laboratory report showing that the dog/semen used for mating/inseminating the dog for export tested negative to *Brucella canis* as per the requirements in Clause 2.7 *Brucella canis* of this IHS.

1.14.8 Desexing certificate (dogs only)

- (1) A record (endorsed copy acceptable) (as per [Appendix 4](#)) signed by a veterinarian, must show that the dog has been desexed (if applicable).

1.14.9 For *Babesia rossi* (dogs only)

- (1) A written declaration from the importer (unendorsed original acceptable) confirming that the dog has never resided in or travelled to mainland Africa.

1.14.10 For canine influenza

- (1) A written declaration from the importer (unendorsed original acceptable), for at least 21 days before the date of shipment:
 - a) The cat or dog must not have been kept in a place where there were cats or dogs showing clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease; and
 - b) The cat or dog must not have shown clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease.

1.14.11 For veterinary medicines for use on accompanied animals (if applicable)

- (1) A completed [ACVM 21 declaration form](#) for the importation of veterinary medicines for use on accompanied animals.

1.15 Post-arrival requirements

- (1) Following biosecurity authorisation being given under section 25 of the Act:
 - a) The following animals must be inspected by an MPI official veterinarian and have documentation verified upon arrival in New Zealand:
 - i) A cat or dog from a category 1 country that arrives by air; and
 - ii) An assistance dog from a category 1, 2 or 3 country that arrives by air or sea.
 - b) If, for whatever reason, inspection and documentation verification cannot be done on arrival, a cat or dog must be transferred to a transitional facility for inspection and document verification on the next available working day.
- (2) A cat or dog from a category 1 country that arrives by sea must:
 - a) Be transported directly to the transitional facility named on the import permit by the approved operator or staff member of that facility using a transport method approved by an MPI inspector; and
 - b) Remain at the transitional facility until veterinary inspection and documentation verification is completed on the next available working day, and until all applicable requirements in this IHS have been met.
- (3) A cat or dog from a category 2 or 3 country that arrives by air or sea must be transported directly to the transitional facility named on the import permit by the approved operator or staff member of that facility using a transport method approved by an MPI inspector; and
 - a) The cat or dog must remain in quarantine for a minimum period of 10 days; and
 - b) The cat or dog must be inspected by an MPI official veterinarian within 72 hours of arrival at the transitional facility, and again once the 10-day quarantine period is completed; and
 - c) If an animal is unable to be adequately examined due to health and safety reasons e.g., aggressive behaviour, the cat or dog may only be inspected once during the quarantine period.

Guidance for post-arrival requirements

	Clearance at the border	Transfer to quarantine facility	Minimum 10 days quarantine
From category 1 countries by air	Yes	No	No
From category 1 countries by sea	No	Yes, until inspection in quarantine and document verification on next available working day	No
From category 2 and 3 countries by air and sea	No	Yes	Yes
Assistance dogs from category 1, 2 and 3 countries arriving by air or sea	Yes*	No	No

*Inspection and clearance at the border are subject to arrangements made with MPI official veterinarians.

Guidance post-arrival quarantine facilities

- All cats and dogs, except for compliant cats or dogs from a category 1 country, and compliant assistance dogs are required to go into a transitional (quarantine) facility for at least 10 days.
- The quarantine period may be longer than 10 days if:
 - the quarantine period ends outside normal business hours
 - the import requirements have not been met
 - a cat or dog is unwell or has been exposed to a suspected exotic disease (at any stage during transport or quarantine)
 - a cat or dog is found to have external parasites
 - an aggressive cat or dog cannot be adequately examined.

1.16 New Zealand-origin cats and dogs overseas for 30 days or less

- (1) The model *Short-stay certificate: New Zealand Origin Cats and Dogs Overseas for 30 Days or Less* in Part 3 of this IHS must be completed before shipment from the country of export to New Zealand.

Guidance for New Zealand-origin cats and dogs overseas for 30 days or less

- For a New Zealand-origin cat or dog overseas for 30 days or less: Only the [Model Veterinary Certificate for a New Zealand-Origin Cats and Dogs Overseas for 30 Days or Less](#) needs to be completed, i.e., a category 1, 2 or 3 model veterinary certificate is not required.
- A *Record of treatment given before export from New Zealand* as per [Appendix 1](#) needs to be completed before leaving New Zealand. Retain this document for re-entry into New Zealand.
- Unless specific requirements under the heading, 'New Zealand-origin cats and dogs overseas for 30 days or less' are stated under the clauses in Part 1 and 2 of this IHS, the standard import requirements in that clause apply.

1.17 Assistance dogs

- (1) For a dog to be verified as an assistance dog for the purpose of importation:
- a) The dog must travel to New Zealand with the handler or trainer; and

- b) Evidence must be provided of the dog's disability assistance status as recognised by an authorised organisation or a government department.

Guidance for assistance dogs

- For category 2 and 3 countries, the evidence must be provided at the time of import permit application.
- Notify MPI in advance at least five working days before the scheduled time of arrival.
- If external parasites (live or dead) are found on an assistance dog on arrival in New Zealand, the dog will be transferred to a transitional (quarantine) facility for cats and dogs at the importer's expense, until further external parasite treatment is given, and the dog is found to be free from external parasites. Additionally, any dog found with ticks on arrival will require further testing (if applicable), while the dog is in a transitional (quarantine) facility. Further testing or treatment will result in an extended period in a transitional (quarantine) facility at the importer's expense.
- Refer to the MPI website or contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz for information about bringing in an assistance dog to New Zealand.
- For more information about public access in New Zealand see [Disability Assist Dogs - DIA](#).

1.18 Cats and dogs arriving on a vessel

1.18.1 General requirements

- (1) The cat or dog must remain secured below deck at all times, until transfer to a transitional facility, or veterinary inspection and documentation verification is completed (as applicable), and biosecurity requirements are met.
- (2) Yachts must remain at pole mooring or anchor until the cat or dog is transferred to a transitional facility.

Guidance for cats and dogs on vessels from a category 1 country

- Refer to the [MPI website](#) or Contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz for further information on bringing a cat or dog into New Zealand on a vessel.

1.18.2 From a category 2 country

- (1) If veterinary services are not available or are limited in the country of export, tests, treatments and examinations as set out in [Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms](#) of this IHS must be completed in an MPI-approved transitional facility for cats and dogs upon arrival in New Zealand.

Guidance for cats and dogs on vessels from a category 2 country

- For some Pacific Island countries, 1.18.2 may apply to cats and dogs arriving by air.
- The quarantine period may be extended if tests and treatments are done in a transitional (quarantine) facility on arrival. Ask the facility about the expected period of quarantine.

1.19 Transition period

From 1 July 2026 to 1 April 2027, the requirements of this import health standard for importing cats and dogs may be met by complying with the requirements of the *Import Health Standard for Cats and Dogs*, CATDOG.GEN dated 7 April 2021 in force immediately before the amendments in this import health standard.

Part 2: Specified Requirements for Identified Risk Organisms

A cat or dog must comply with the following measures for identified risk organisms, where required:

2.1 Rabies

2.1.1 From Category 1, 2 and 3 countries

- (1) The cat or dog must be free from clinical signs of rabies in the 2 days before the date of shipment.

2.1.2 From Category 1 and 2 countries

- (1) The country of export must be free from infection with rabies virus (as defined by the *Rabies* chapter of the *WOAH Code*).

2.1.3 From Category 3 countries (rabies absent or well-controlled)

- (1) The cat and dog must be identifiable by microchip and the number verified and recorded by a veterinarian at the time of both rabies vaccination and sample collection for the rabies neutralising antibody titration test (RNATT).
- (2) The cat or dog must be vaccinated or revaccinated for rabies by a veterinarian when the animal was at least 12 weeks of age, in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer with a rabies virus vaccine listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#). The vaccination(s) must remain continuously valid until shipment. In the case of a primary vaccination, the vaccine must be given not less than 6 months before the date of shipment.
- (3) The cat or dog must be subjected to a rabies neutralising antibody titration test (RNATT) listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) on a sample taken by a veterinarian not less than 3 months and not more than 12 months before the date of shipment, with a result of at least 0.5 IU/mL.

Guidance for general rabies requirements

- Ensure a cat or dog has had a pre-export identification check (as per clause 1.11).
- A cat or dog needs to be given a rabies vaccination(s) and have a sample taken for the rabies titration test (RNATT) in a category 1, 2 or 3 country, or New Zealand.
- A 'primary' rabies vaccination is the first vaccination (or course of vaccinations) given or the first vaccination (or course of vaccinations) given if the previous vaccination(s) did not remain continuously valid.
- The term 'remain continuously valid' means the time since the vaccination was given has not exceeded the manufacturer's duration of immunity either before shipment or before another vaccination was given.
- It is recommended to wait 3-4 weeks after the rabies vaccination to allow time to develop an immune response, before taking a sample for the rabies titration test. If a cat or dog has been vaccinated against rabies previously, this may not be necessary.
- A cat or dog from a category 3 country may travel to a non-categorised country in the period between a satisfactory RNATT result and the tests and treatments required for import into New Zealand.

2.1.4 New Zealand-origin cats and dogs returning from a category 3 country

- (1) Either the import requirements in clauses 2.1.3 above must be met; or all of the following requirements must be met:
 - a) The microchip of the cat or dog must be scanned, and the details (date of scanning, number and location) recorded by a veterinarian at the time of both vaccination and sample collection for the rabies neutralising antibody titration test (RNATT); and

- b) The cat or dog must have been vaccinated or revaccinated by a veterinarian, before export from New Zealand, when the animal was at least 12 weeks of age in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, with a rabies virus vaccine listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#). The vaccination(s) must remain continuously valid between the date of export from and shipment back to New Zealand; and
- c) The cat or dog must be subjected to a rabies neutralising antibody titration test (RNATT) listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) on a sample taken by a veterinarian before export from New Zealand and in the 12 months before the date of shipment back to New Zealand with a result of at least 0.5 IU/mL.

Guidance for New Zealand-origin cats and dogs returning from a category 3 country

- A cat or dog travelling to a category 3 or non-categorised country should be vaccinated against rabies and has a rabies titration test (RNATT) done with a satisfactory result (equal to or greater than 0.5 IU/mL before leaving New Zealand. This helps ensure protection against rabies while overseas and puts a cat or dog in the best position to return to New Zealand.
- Rabies vaccinations and rabies titrations tests (RNATTs) done in New Zealand are acceptable for import back into New Zealand.
- Rabies vaccinations that are given and samples taken for the rabies titration test (RNATT) in non-categorised countries are **not** acceptable for import.
- Ensure that rabies titration tests (RNATTs) done in a category 1,2 or 3 country in either:
 - A laboratory approved by the Competent Authority; or
 - A laboratory approved by the EU Commission for rabies testing; or
 - A WOAH rabies reference laboratory.
- The term 'remain continuously valid' means the time since the rabies vaccination was given has not exceeded the manufacturer's duration of immunity after the previous satisfactory RNATT sample was taken.
- Contact the Competent Authority or a pet transporter in the category 3 country that you intend to export a cat or dog from to find out:
 - Who the approved veterinarians are that can prepare a cat or dog for export; and
 - The laboratories are that can test a cat or dog for export.

2.2 External parasites

- (1) The cat must be treated by a veterinarian with a product listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for the control of ticks and fleas:
 - a) The treatment must be given in the 16 days before the date of shipment; and
 - b) The cat must have continuous protection (as per the manufacturer's directions) from ticks and fleas from the date of treatment to the date of shipment; and
 - c) The cat must be certified as free from visible signs of external parasites at the time of the treatment and in the 2 days before the date of shipment.
- (2) The dog must be treated twice by a veterinarian with a product listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for the control of ticks and fleas:
 - a) The first treatment must be given at least 14 days before the date the blood sample is taken for the *Babesia gibsoni* test, and the *Babesia rossi* test (if applicable); and
 - b) The last treatment must be given in the 16 days before the date of shipment; and
 - c) The dog must have continuous protection (as per the manufacturer's directions) from ticks and fleas from the date of the first treatment to the date of shipment; and
 - d) The dog must be certified free from visible signs of external parasites at each treatment and in the 2 days before the date of shipment.

2.2.1 New Zealand-origin animals overseas for 30 days or less:

- (1) In the 5 days before export from New Zealand the cat or dog must be treated by a veterinarian with a product listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for the control of ticks and fleas:
 - a) The cat or dog must have continuous protection (as per the manufacturer's directions) from the date of the first treatment to the date of shipment back to New Zealand; and
 - b) A record of this treatment (refer to *Appendix 1*) listing the name of the product, active ingredient(s), and date of treatment must be signed and dated by a New Zealand veterinarian and must accompany the cat or dog during shipment back to New Zealand.
- (2) The cat or dog must be treated by a veterinarian with a product listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for the control of ticks and fleas in the 16 days before the date of shipment to New Zealand; and
 - a) The cat or dog must be certified free from visible signs of external parasites at treatment and in the 2 days before the date of shipment to New Zealand.

Guidance for external parasites

- Veterinarians administering treatment for internal and external parasites should take into consideration any tolerance/resistance issues when deciding which product to use to prepare a cat or dog for import into New Zealand.
- It is important that a cat or dog is free from external parasites at the time of each treatment. If external parasites are found either at the time of shipment or before shipment, all cats and dogs in the consignment will need to receive another external parasite treatment and be reinspected to ensure they are free from visible signs of external parasites.
- For any dogs in a consignment where ticks (alive or dead) are found, once retreated and free of visible signs of external parasites, they need to wait at least 14 days before retesting for *Babesia gibsoni*, and *Babesia rossi* (if applicable).
- If the external parasite treatments for a dog do not provide continuous protection from at least 14 days before the date of blood sampling for the *Babesia gibsoni* and *Babesia rossi* tests, the external parasite treatment and tests will need to be repeated.
- If fleas or ticks (live or dead) are detected on arrival in New Zealand, all cats or dogs in the consignment will be moved to or kept in a transitional (quarantine) facility for cats and dogs for further treatments and until the animal is found to be free from external parasites. In addition, any dogs in a consignment where ticks are found will undergo further testing for *Babesia gibsoni*, and *Babesia rossi* (if applicable).
- For a New Zealand-origin dog overseas for 30 days or less, if the dog is not compliant with the external parasite requirements in clause 2.2.1, treatments and tests will need to be repeated in the post-arrival transitional (quarantine) facility. This will extend the quarantine period and significantly increase costs to the importer.
- For a New Zealand-origin dog overseas for 30 days or less, the second external parasite treatment does not need to be given if the date of the first treatment given before leaving New Zealand was given in the 16 days before shipment back to New Zealand.

2.3 Internal parasites

- (1) The cat or dog must be treated twice by a veterinarian with a product (or combination of products) listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for the control of nematodes and cestodes (including *Echinococcus* species).
 - a) The first treatment must be given in the 30 days before the date of shipment and at least 14 days before the second treatment; and
 - b) The second treatment must be given in the 5 days before the date of shipment.

2.3.1 New-Zealand origin animals overseas for 30 days or less:

- (1) The cat or dog must be treated by a veterinarian with a product (or combination of products) listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for the control of nematodes and cestodes (including *Echinococcus* species), in the 5 days before the date of shipment back to New Zealand.

2.4 *Angiostrongylus vasorum* (dogs)

- (1) The dog must be treated by a veterinarian with a product listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) effective against *Angiostrongylus vasorum*, in the 5 days before the date of shipment to New Zealand.

2.5 *Babesia* species (dogs)

- (1) The dog must be inspected by a veterinarian and found to be healthy and free from visible signs of ticks and recent dog bites before each of the 2 treatments required under clause 2.2 (2) *External parasites*.

Guidance for *Babesia* species

- If tick/s (live or dead) are detected on arrival in New Zealand, all dogs in the consignment will be kept in a transitional (quarantine) facility for further treatment until found free from external parasites.
- If tick/s are found, the dog will additionally undergo further testing for *Babesia gibsoni*; and, if applicable, testing or treatment for *Babesia rossi*.
- If visible signs of recent dog bites are found on arrival in New Zealand, the dog will be kept in a transitional (quarantine) facility and subject to additional measures: testing for *Babesia gibsoni*; testing for *Babesia conradae*, if imported from the USA; and testing or treatment for *Babesia rossi* if imported from South Africa.
- Additional treatment or testing as described above will extend the quarantine period and significantly increase costs to the importer.
- Contact animal.imports@mpi.govt.nz if there are any concerns prior to export.

2.6 *Babesia rossi* (dogs that have ever resided in or travelled to mainland Africa)

- (1) A written owner declaration is required to confirm that the dog has never resided in or travelled to mainland Africa; or
- (2) For a dog 6 months of age or older:
 - a) The dog must be treated by a veterinarian with a product and by a protocol listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) effective against *Babesia rossi*, in the 16 days before the date of shipment; or
 - b) The dog must be subjected to an IFA or ELISA test and a PCR test for *Babesia rossi* with negative results on samples taken at least 14 days after the first external parasite treatment and in the 30 days before the date of shipment; or
 - c) The dog must be subjected to 3 PCR tests for *Babesia rossi* at intervals of at least 7 days with negative results, with the first sample taken at least 14 days after the first external parasite treatment and in the 44 days before shipment.
- (3) For a dog under 6 months of age:
 - a) The dog must be subjected to 3 PCR tests at intervals of at least 7 days for *Babesia rossi* with negative results, with the first sample taken at least 14 days after the first external parasite treatment and in the 44 days before shipment; or

- b) The dog must be treated with a product and by a protocol listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) effective against *Babesia rossi*, in the 16 days before the date of shipment.

2.6.1 New Zealand-origin dogs overseas (in South Africa) for 30 days or less

- (1) The dog must meet clause 2.2.1 External Parasites: New-Zealand origin animals overseas for 30 days or less.

Guidance for *Babesia rossi*

- For a dog from South Africa that may travel to Australia in the future, ensure that treatment before coming to New Zealand complies with the Australian import requirements.
- If external parasite treatments do not provide continuous protection from at least 14 days before the date of blood sampling for the *Babesia rossi* test, the external parasite treatment and *Babesia rossi* and *Babesia gibsoni* tests will need to be repeated.
- If an owner is unable to confirm whether a dog has resided in or travelled to mainland Africa, treatment or testing for *Babesia rossi* will need to be done before the dog arrives in New Zealand.
- For a New Zealand-origin dog overseas for 30 days or less, if the dog is not compliant with the external parasite requirements in clause 2.2.1, treatments and tests will need to be repeated in the post-arrival transitional (quarantine) facility.

2.7 *Babesia gibsoni* (dogs)

- (1) A dog 6 months of age or older must be subjected to an IFA or ELISA test for *Babesia gibsoni* and a PCR test for *Babesia* spp. or *Babesia gibsoni* with negative results on samples taken at least 14 days after the first external parasite treatment and in the 30 days before the date of shipment; or
- a) The dog must be subjected to 3 PCR tests for *Babesia gibsoni* at intervals of at least 7 days with negative results, with the first sample taken at least 14 days after the first external parasite treatment and in the 44 days before shipment.
- (2) A dog under 6 months of age must be subjected to 3 PCR tests at intervals of at least 7 days for *Babesia gibsoni* with negative results, with the first sample taken at least 14 days after the first external parasite treatment and in the 44 days before shipment.

2.7.1 New Zealand-origin dogs overseas for 30 days or less

- (1) The dog must meet clause 2.2.1 External Parasites: New-Zealand origin animals overseas for 30 days or less.

Guidance for *Babesia gibsoni*

- Dogs confirmed to be infected with *Babesia gibsoni* are not eligible for import, regardless of treatment.
- If external parasite treatments do not provide continuous protection from at least 14 days before the date of blood sampling for the *Babesia gibsoni* tests, the external parasite treatment and the *Babesia rossi* (if applicable) and *Babesia gibsoni* tests will need to be repeated.
- For a New Zealand-origin dog overseas for 30 days or less, if the dog is not compliant with the external parasite requirements in clause 2.2.1, treatments and tests will need to be repeated in post-arrival quarantine.

2.8 *Brucella canis* (dogs)

- (1) A desexing certificate signed by a veterinarian must be provided to confirm that the dog has been desexed; or

- (2) The dog must be from a country that is free from *Brucella canis* as recognised by MPI; or
- (3) The owner must provide a written declaration stating that the entire dog (male or female) was not mated (naturally or artificially) between the 30 days before the sample collection for the *Brucella canis* test and the date of shipment; and
 - a) The entire dog (male or female) must be subjected to a test for *Brucella canis* listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) with a negative result on a sample taken in the 30 days before the date of shipment; or
 - i) the entire dog (male or female) had a positive or inconclusive RSAT or TAT and has been subjected to a cytoplasmic agar gel immunodiffusion test (CPAg-AGID), RSAT or TAT for *Brucella canis* with a negative result on a sample taken in the 30 to 40 days after the first test and in the 30 days before the date of shipment; and
 - b) Veterinary inspection in New Zealand for pregnancy or clinical signs of *Brucella canis* infection will be carried out during quarantine in New Zealand. If pregnancy or infection with *Brucella canis* is suspected, testing will be performed at the owner's expense; or
- (4) The entire dog (male or female) was mated (naturally or artificially) in the 30 days before the date the blood sample for the *Brucella canis* test was taken; and
 - a) must be subjected to a test for *Brucella canis* listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) with a negative result on a sample taken in the 21 days before the date of shipment; or
 - i) the male dog had a positive or inconclusive RSAT or TAT result and has been subjected to a CPAg-AGID, RSAT or TAT for *Brucella canis* with a negative result on a sample taken in the 30 to 40 days after the first test and in the 21 days before the date of shipment; and
 - b) the dog (male or female) that naturally mated the dog for export, or the dog that produced the semen for artificial breeding, must be subjected to a test for *Brucella canis* listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) with a negative result on a blood sample taken in the 21 days before the date of mating/insemination; or
 - i) a sample of the semen used to breed the dog for export must be subjected to a test for *Brucella canis* listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) with a negative result.

2.8.1 New Zealand-origin dogs overseas for 30 days or less

- (1) A desexing certificate signed by a veterinarian must be provided to confirm that the dog has been desexed; or
- (2) The dog must have only been overseas in countries free from *Brucella canis* as recognised by MPI; or
- (3) A written declaration must be provided stating that the entire dog (male or female) was not bred (naturally or artificially) while overseas; or
- (4) For a dog that has been mated or inseminated while overseas:
 - a) The dog (male or female) that naturally mated the dog for export, or the dog that produced the semen for artificial breeding, must be subjected to a test for *Brucella canis* listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) with a negative result on a blood sample taken in the 21 days before the date of mating/insemination; or
 - b) A sample of the semen used to breed the dog for export must be subjected to a test for *Brucella canis* listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) with negative results.

Guidance for *Brucella canis*

- A single positive RSAT or TAT can be subjected to further testing to determine the health status of a dog.
- For an entire dog that has been mated or artificially inseminated, check that the documentation requirements in clause 1.14 have been met before import. See [Appendix 3](#) for model breeding declaration.

- Entire dogs confirmed to be infected with *Brucella canis* are not eligible for import, regardless of treatment.
- Retesting is not feasible for pregnant female dogs. By the time a retest could be carried out, they would be more than 42 days pregnant, which would make them ineligible for travel under Clause 1.1 of the IHS.

2.9 Canine influenza

- (1) Based on a written declaration from the owner, for at least 21 days before the date of shipment:
 - a) The cat or dog must not have been kept in a place where there were cats or dogs showing clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease; and
 - b) The cat or dog must not have shown clinical signs of infectious respiratory disease.
- (2) For dogs from countries that present a risk of canine influenza as listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#):
 - a) The dog must be fully vaccinated against canine influenza using a vaccine listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) between 12 months and 14 days before the date of shipment; and
 - i) The vaccination must remain continuously valid for the entire period in the post-arrival transitional facility; or
 - b) The dog must be subjected to a test listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for canine influenza virus detection, with a negative result on a sample collected in the 10 days before the date of shipment.

Guidance for canine influenza virus

- The term 'remain continuously valid' means that the vaccination has not expired beyond the manufacturer's duration of immunity either before the end of the period in the post-arrival transitional (quarantine) facility or before another vaccination was given.

2.10 Canine transmissible venereal tumour (dogs)

- (1) If the dog is an entire male or female, it must be subjected to an examination of the external genitalia (which in the case of a male dog includes examination of the extruded penis):
 - a) In the 2 days before the date of shipment; and
 - b) On arrival in New Zealand.

2.11 Heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) (dogs)

- (1) If 7 months of age or older on the date of shipment, the dog must be subjected to a test listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for heartworm, with a negative result on a sample taken in the 30 days before the date of shipment; and
- (2) All dogs must be either:
 - a) Treated by a veterinarian with a product listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) for heartworm prevention in the 5 days before the date of shipment; or
 - b) Up to date with a sustained-release injection for heartworm prevention administered by a veterinarian and listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#).

Guidance for heartworm

- A dog that is diagnosed with heartworm whilst in a transitional (quarantine) facility in New Zealand e.g., from a Category 2 Pacific Island country, cannot remain in the facility while

awaiting a negative test. This is due to the amount of time it may take to produce a negative result. A dog infected with heartworm will need to be reshipped from New Zealand.

2.11.1 New Zealand-origin animals overseas for 30 days or less

- (1) All dogs (regardless of age) must be either:
 - a) Treated by a veterinarian with a product for heartworm prevention listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#), in the 5 days before the date of shipment to New Zealand; or
 - b) Up-to-date with a sustained-release injection for heartworm prevention administered by a veterinarian and listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#).

2.12 Leishmania infantum (dogs)

- (1) The exporting country must be free from endemic cases of leishmaniosis caused by *Leishmania infantum* as recognised by MPI and listed in the [MPI-STD-SAA](#); and
 - a) The dog must have been continuously resident in the country of export since birth, or since it was imported from New Zealand; or
- (2) The dog must be certified as showing no clinical signs of leishmaniosis in the 2 days before the date of shipment; and
 - a) be subjected to a test for *Leishmania infantum* listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#), with negative results on a sample taken in the 30 days before the date of shipment; and
 - b) if the dog is vaccinated with a serology-interfering vaccine, the vaccination must remain continuously valid until shipment and evidence of vaccination must accompany the dog.

Guidance for leishmaniosis

- Every dog must be tested for *Leishmania infantum*.
- Dogs confirmed to be infected with *Leishmania infantum* are not eligible for import, regardless of treatment.
- A dog vaccinated against canine leishmaniosis may produce a positive test result, depending on the type of vaccine administered.
- If a veterinarian is taking a sample for a conjunctival PCR test from dogs vaccinated against leishmaniosis, the swab should be rubbed vigorously on the conjunctiva.

2.12.1 New Zealand-origin dogs overseas for 30 days or less

- (1) The dog must be certified as showing no clinical signs of leishmaniosis in the 2 days before the date of shipment.

2.13 Leptospirosis (*Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola) (dogs)

- (1) The exporting country must be free from endemic cases of *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola as recognised by MPI, and listed in the [MPI-STD-SAA](#) document; or
- (2) The dog must test negative for *Leptospirosis interrogans* serovar Canicola in accordance with [MPI-STD-SAA](#) in the 30 days prior to shipment; or
- (3) The dog had a positive test result between 1:100 and 1:400 with the MAT for *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola; and either
 - a) Was vaccinated against Leptospirosis caused by *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola in accordance with [MPI-STD-SAA](#). The vaccination must remain continuously valid until shipment and evidence of vaccination must accompany the dog; or

- b) A second sample is taken at least 14 days after the original sample and the titre is the same or lower than the original; or
- (4) The dog has been treated with an approved course of treatment in accordance with MPI-STD-SAA in the 30 days prior to the date of shipment.

2.13.1 New Zealand-origin dogs overseas for 30 days or less

- (1) The country of export must be free from *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola as recognised by MPI; or
- (2) The dog must comply with clause 2.13 *Leptospirosis* (2) or (3) of this IHS, or
- (3) If the length of stay overseas does not allow testing or treatment for leptospirosis listed in MPI-STD-SAA, to be done before returning to New Zealand, the dog must be tested or treated at the post-arrival transitional (quarantine) facility.

Guidance for leptospirosis

- A dog with a MAT titre result greater than 1:100 may be exported under clause 2.13 (4) after an approved course of treatment.
- Clause 2.13 (3) (a) means that if vaccination against *Leptospira interrogans* serovar Canicola is administered before the blood sample is collected for MAT, evidence of vaccination should be provided together with the MAT result. This test conducted after vaccination, should be either negative or, if positive, shows a low titre (1:100–1:400) indicating that the result is attributable to vaccination rather than an infection.
- MPI recommends that, in the interest of good antibiotic stewardship, the testing option is used whenever possible.
- If the result of the second test shows a rising titre, the dog may be exported under clause (4) using an approved course of treatment.
- Treatment needs to be prescribed by a veterinarian, but the tablets may be administered by the owner/importer. The dates the treatment was given need to be recorded and the prescription (or letter) from the veterinarian who prescribed the drug, retained for import.

Part 3: Model Veterinary Certificates

Category 1: Cats and Dogs from Australia, including Norfolk Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Category 2: Cats and Dogs from Rabies-Free Countries

Category 3: Cats and Dogs from Rabies Absent or Well-Controlled Countries

Short-Stay: New Zealand-Origin Cats and Dogs Overseas for 30 Days or Less

Schedule 1 – Document history

This note is not part of the Import Health Standard but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Date First Issued	Title	Shortcode
24 July 2013	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN
Date of Issued Amendments	Title	Shortcode
28 November 2014	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN
9 March 2018	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN
7 April 2021	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATDOG.GEN
13 August 2020 Internal Consultation	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATSDOGS.GEN
1 September 2021 External Consultation	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATSDOGS.GEN
10 January 2025 Second external consultation	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATSDOGS.GEN
12 May 2026	Import Health Standard: Cats and Dogs	CATSDOGS.GEN

Schedule 2 – Definitions

Bedding

Bedding and other material including soft toys or clothing that accompanies a cat or dog into New Zealand.

Biosecurity Authority

Written authority from an inspector, given under Section 25 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, to move uncleared goods from a transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area to another transitional facility, containment facility or biosecurity control area, or to export those goods from New Zealand.

Competent Authority

The veterinary or other governmental authority of a WOA member country, territory or regional entity having 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 WOA *Terrestrial Code* and the WOA *Aquatic Animal Health Code* in the whole territory.

Consignment

Animals originating from a single premises, with the same exporter and owner as each other, which are travelling on the same flight or ship.

Desexed dog

A male dog that has undergone bilateral orchiectomy or a female dog that has undergone surgical ovariectomy or ovarioectomy.

Entire dog

A dog that has not been desexed.

External parasites

A parasite that lives on the surface of the host's body, e.g., lice, mites, ticks, fleas.

Handler

A person who is matched with an assistance dog for the purpose of being assisted in the course of their daily life.

Internal parasites

A parasite that lives inside the host's body, including roundworms, hookworms, tapeworms and flukes.

Inspector

A veterinarian employed by MPI that is warranted as a biosecurity inspector under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Manifested cargo

Travel includes an international exportation document (cargo manifest) that summarises the air waybill or bill of lading. It does not include excess baggage.

MPI

Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand.

Neuter

Male dogs that have undergone bilateral surgical castration or gonadectomy.

Official Veterinarian

A veterinarian authorised by the Competent Authority of the 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 WOA *Code* Chapter for certification procedures.

Paper-based alternative security features

Physical security elements embedded in or applied to paper documents to help authenticate documents and deter fraud.

WOAH (founded as OIE)

The World Organisation for Animal Health.

The Code

The World Organisation for Animal Health Terrestrial Animal Health Code. Any reference in this IHS to the WOA *Code* is to the most current as found on the WOA website.

The Manual

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals. Any reference in this IHS to the WOA *Manual* is to the most current as found on the WOA website.

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.

Surveillance

The systemic 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 the action can be taken.

Veterinarian

A veterinarian that is registered or licensed to practise veterinary medicine in the country of practise.

Veterinary authority

Means the government authority of a WOA Member, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professions, having 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 WOA *Terrestrial Code* in the whole country, territory or distinct regional entity.

Veterinary certificate

A certificate, issued in conformity with the provisions of the WOA *Code* Chapter for *Certification Procedures*, describing the animal health and/or public health requirements that the animals being exported fulfil.

Appendix 1 (guidance) – Model record of treatments given before export from New Zealand

Below is a guidance on how to structure the treatments record that is required to be completed by a NZ veterinarian for a New-Zealand origin cat or dog that will be on a short stay overseas for 30 days or less. This information needs to be provided to the overseas certifying veterinarian to allow the rabies (if applicable) and external section of the *Short-Stay: New Zealand-origin cats and dogs overseas for 30 days or less* to be completed before shipment back to New Zealand.

I,being a registered veterinarian in New Zealand scanned and verified the microchip number [] and gave this cat/dog the external parasite treatment below in the 5 days before the date of shipment from New Zealand with MPI-approved products. The cat/dog was free from visible signs of external parasites at the time of treatment.

- (1) For the control of ticks and fleas in a cat or dog:

Name of product:
 Active ingredient(s):
 Date of treatment:
 Weight of cat or dog at treatment:
 Date next dose due (based on manufacturer's duration of efficacy):

MPI-approved products for external parasites are listed in [MPI-STD-SAA Specified Approvals for Animal Import Health Standards](#).

Check the importing country's requirements to ensure the external parasite treatment used is acceptable for import.

- (2) **Rabies** (if visiting a category 3 country):

- The microchip of the cat or dog was scanned, and the details (date of scanning, number and location) recorded by a veterinarian at the time of both vaccination and sample collection for the rabies neutralising antibody titration test (RNATT).
- The cat or dog was vaccinated **before export from New Zealand**, when the animal was at least 12 weeks of age in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, with a rabies virus vaccine listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#). The vaccination(s) will remain continuously valid between the date of export from and the date of shipment back to New Zealand.
- The cat or dog was subjected to a rabies neutralising antibody titration test (RNATT) listed in [MPI-STD-SAA](#) on a sample taken by a veterinarian **before export from New Zealand** and in the 12 months before the date of shipment back to New Zealand with a result of at least 0.5 IU/mL.

Registered veterinarian Name: Address: Email:	Signature: Date:
Official Veterinarian Name: Address: Email:	Signature: Date:  [Official Veterinarian signature, Official stamp and date]

Appendix 2A (guidance) – Model pre-export identification check form (category 2 country)

This information must be provided by an official veterinarian employed by the competent authority of the category 2 country of export that the identification check was performed in. The information must be forwarded directly to the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries before an import permit is issued. It can be uploaded to [MPI's Animal & Plant Import Permits website](#) directly.

- ☐ At least 6 months before the date of shipment, I have scanned and verified the microchip number of the animal(s) listed in the table below; or
- ☐ The animal(s) will be less than 6 months of age at the date of shipment, I have scanned and verified the microchip number of the animal(s) listed in the table below before any tests, treatments or examinations were done for export to New Zealand.

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided is true and correct.

Animal details:

Microchip number(s) scanned by official veterinarian				
Sex (male/desexed male/female/desexed female)				
Description (breed, colour, size, distinguishing marks or features)				
Date microchip scanned (day/month/year)				
Import permit application number (if known)				

Official Veterinarian details:

Name	
Competent authority of exporting country	
Address of competent authority	
Exporting country	
Phone number	
Email	
Date (day/month/year)	
Signature of official veterinarian	
Stamp of official veterinarian	

Appendix 2B (guidance) – Model pre-export identification check form (category 3 country)

This information must be completed by an official veterinarian employed by the competent authority of the category 3 country in which the identification check was performed. It must be submitted directly to the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) through the online Animal & Plant Import Permits (APIPs) system after each scanning event, and prior to the issuance of an import permit.

* It is the responsibility of the owner/exporter that the RNATT sample is taken between 6 and 12 months prior to the expected date of shipment.

**It is the responsibility of the owner/exporter that the RNATT sample is taken between 3 and 6 months prior to the expected date of shipment.

Send this information to MPI via the Animal & Plants Import Permits application system after each scanning event.

☐ * For this animal from which the RNATT sample is to be taken between 6 and 12 months prior to the expected date of shipment, I certify that I have scanned the animal's microchip prior to or at the same time of blood sample collection for the RNATT and verified that the microchip number corresponds to the number specified in Section A below.

or

☐ ** For this animal, from which a sample for the RNATT sample is to be taken at least 3 months but less than 6 months prior to expected date of shipment. I certify that:

1: ☐ This is the first microchip scan, conducted at least 6 months prior to the expected date of shipment and I further certify that I have scanned the animal's microchip and verified that the microchip number corresponds to the number specified in Section A below; and

2. ☐ This is the second microchip scan conducted at least 3 months prior to the expected date of shipment. and I further certify that I scanned the microchip prior to, or at the time of blood sample collection and verified that the microchip number corresponds to the number specified in Section A below.

To the best of my knowledge, the information provided is true and correct.

Section A: Animal details

Microchip number(s) scanned by official veterinarian				
Sex (male/desexed male/female/desexed female)				
Description (breed, colour, size, distinguishing marks or features)				
Date microchip scanned (day/month/year)				
Import permit application number (if known)				

Section B: Official Veterinarian details

Name	
Competent authority of exporting country	
Address of competent authority	

Exporting country	
Phone number	
Email	
Date (day/month/year)	
Signature of official veterinarian	
Stamp of official veterinarian	

Appendix 3 (guidance) – Model breeding declaration

I, [name in full], the importer or person acting on behalf of the importer, declare that the dog identified below has **not** been bred (naturally or artificially) between the 30 days before the sample collection for the *Brucella canis* test and the date of shipment to New Zealand, or while overseas if a New Zealand-origin dog overseas for 30 days or less.

Signature:

Date:

Name of dog:

Microchip number:

Appendix 4 (guidance) – Model desexing certificate

I, [name in full], the undersigned veterinarian certifies that the animals described below, has undergone (select applicable) the following procedure on (date) as per the records in
..... (clinic/hospital/institution)

☐ Bilateral orchiectomy

☐ Ovariohysterectomy

☐ Ovariectomy

Name	Species	Breed	Microchip number	Age or date of birth

Veterinarian

Name:

Signature:

Address:

Date:

Email:

Explanatory Note

This note is not part of the Import Health Standard but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Information about publication of standard

This standard is published on the MPI website at [Secondary legislation | NZ Government](#).

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the Legislation Act 2019.

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Instrument ID	
Principal or amendment	Principal
Consolidated version	No
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Replacement empowering Act and provision(s)	Not applicable
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Administering agency	Ministry for Primary Industries
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