

Bringing food boxes from Tonga

The new process

Biosecurity New Zealand have recently changed the process for bringing food boxes into New Zealand from Tonga.

Previously all boxes had to be inspected upon arrival by Quarantine Officers to ensure items were allowed into New Zealand. Now when you travel to New Zealand food items you take should now be checked by Tonga MAFFF inspectors before you leave Tonga.

Take your food box between three to one hours prior to departure to MAFFF Airport office at Fua'amotu International Airport. **Boxes won't be inspected less than an hour before departure.** The MAFFF inspectors will check all your items in your box. Any items that are prohibited will need to be either disposed of or can be taken away with you.

MAFFF inspectors will supervise passengers wrap the box once cleared to travel, and apply "passed inspection" stickers to the box. QQMD will transfer the box to the check in counter at the terminal for checking in.

Ensuring you only pack approved items will mean you get through border control faster in New Zealand.

What items are allowed?

To have your box approved by MAFFF inspectors and cleared for arrival in Auckland, you must ensure you have only approved foods packed. If food is approved, a compliance sticker will be issued by MAFFF staff for arrival in Auckland meaning the mandatory inspection of food may not be required.

Some approved foods include:

- » Green de-husked coconuts
- » **Peeled** fresh root crops
- » Cooked root crops
- » Cooked taro leaves (no meat)
- » Fish
- » Kava powder
- » Other food items but check with MAFFF first

Biosecurity New Zealand will still randomly inspect items issued with Compliance stickers as part of its border checks. MAFFF may charge an inspection fee, please check with local authorities in Tonga.

What if my food isn't an approved item?

If food is not considered one of the approved foods items, you will either have to leave the item in Tonga, or in some cases a Phytosanitary certificate may be issued and items will require inspection by Biosecurity staff in Auckland.

What items are prohibited?

There are some items that Biosecurity New Zealand won't allow into New Zealand. Strictly prohibited food and goods that cannot be taken to New Zealand includes:

- » Breadfruit (cooked or fresh)
- » Fresh fruits and vegetables – items not covered by an Import Standard
- » Honey
- » Fresh cut flowers and all lei materials – not covered by an Import Standard
- » Whole plants and/or cuttings

These are to protect both our horticultural and agricultural industries, and our natural environment from pests and diseases.

Foods and goods that are restricted entry into New Zealand under CITES

Many endangered species are banned to come into New Zealand under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) agreement, Deciding not to buy goods made from endangered species, you can help save these rare plants and animals from extinction.

New Zealand is party to the CITES agreement. It covers items like:

- » Coral, clam, queen conch, turtle and tortoise shells, giant clam and tortoise meat.

Find out more about endangered species by visiting the:

- » [Department of Conservation website](#)
- » [CITES website](#)

For more information

Visit www.mpi.govt.nz/Tonga

Call MAFFF: 24257

Visit MAFFF Head Office: Hala Vuna, Queen Salote Wharf, Nuku'aloa.