

Meeting the rules for exporting

A guide to the honey and bee
products export chain

Based on requirements
as at 26 June 2023



DISCLAIMER

While MPI has made every effort to ensure that the information in this guide is complete, MPI is not liable for loss resulting from reliance on the guide or any errors or omissions in it.

This guide is not legal advice.

Document history

Amendment date	Section changed	Change(s) description
September 2017	Exporter section	Amendments to export certification and export non-conformances.
September 2017	All sections	Minor amendments to all sections; Storage levy added to table on page 17.
February 2018	All sections	General Export Requirements (GREX) for Bee Products added. To find the full GREX go to the MPI website and search “APN General Export Requirements for Bee Products”. Storage and Transporter section removed.
June 2019	All sections	New pricing as at 1 July 2019
September 2020	All sections	Minor amendments to all sections, links updated, reference to transition periods from Feb 2018 rule changes removed, prices updated. Reference to renewals added, e-commerce information added.
July 2021	All sections	Broken links updated.
July 2022	All sections	Broken links updated. New pricing as at 1 July 2022.
June 2023	Registration requirements	Fees updated.

This guide outlines MPI’s requirements for exporting bee products

Why we have created this guide

We want to make it easier for beekeepers, operators and exporters to understand MPI’s requirements when exporting bee products.

Who should use it

This guide is designed for small to medium sized businesses that are new to the bee products export chain. It may also be a useful reference for established businesses.

Structure of the guide

We have set out three distinct areas of the export chain. The areas are beekeeper, operator and exporter of bee products. This guide contains an overview of the requirements for each.



Beekeeper
page 4



Operator
page 7



Exporter
page 20

Use the following icons throughout this guide to help you decide what you may need to do.



Important
steps



Helpful
tips



Contacts



Fill out
form



Each area of the export chain has different requirements. If you operate across more than one area, you will need to check all the requirements that may apply to you.



Beekeeper

A beekeeper keeps bees to produce honey or other bee products, including live bees for export.

What do beekeepers need to do?

Below are the key MPI requirements for beekeepers who produce bee products for export.



Register your apiary sites with the AFB Management Agency

You must be registered with the AFB Management Agency under the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan (AFBPMP). This is a requirement of the Biosecurity Act 1993 to help eliminate American Foulbrood in New Zealand. For more information on the AFBPMP visit: www.afb.org.nz



List as a beekeeper with MPI if your bee products are being exported

Listing is an annual requirement and is in addition to registering with the AFB Management Agency for the purpose of managing AFB (see page 4).



If you are not listed with MPI, your honey cannot be exported, nor can any honey which is blended with your honey.

You do not have to list if you have:

- Already registered with MPI or your local council to sell bee products; or
- A written exclusive supply contract with a Risk Management Programme (RMP) operator and this is referred to in the operators RMP.



How to list as a beekeeper with MPI

To list as a beekeeper you need to complete the [AP14 Beekeeper listing application form](#) on the MPI website.

Application	Processing time-frame	Fee payable (GST incl)
AP14 Beekeeper listing	20 working days	\$155.25
AP14 Renewal of beekeeper listing	20 working days	\$77.63 per annum



These time-frames are standard application processing times only. Time-frames may vary.

Email your completed form to: approvals@mpi.govt.nz



Traceability and record-keeping

Permanently mark all honey boxes

All boxes of honey presented for extraction must be marked with your unique AFBPMP beekeeper identification code, or another code which achieves equivalent or better identification. The same identification code can be used for all boxes on that site.

Maintain records for each apiary site

Records must be kept for each apiary site for four years. [Part 4.1 of the General Requirements for Export \(GREX\)](#) sets out the specific traceability requirements for beekeepers.

Provide a harvest declaration

You must prepare a harvest declaration and provide this to the operator who first processes the product. Your harvest declaration must be based on the MPI template, unless you are already registered with MPI or your local council to sell bee products, and you prepare a harvest declaration which contains the same information as the official MPI template



The MPI [template harvest declaration form](#) is available on the MPI website. Part 4.2 of the GREX sets out requirements for the harvest declaration.



Ensure your bee products are fit for purpose

It is your responsibility as a beekeeper to ensure that the bee products you produce are fit for purpose. This involves ensuring:

- Bees are fed honey only during the harvest season. The 'harvest season' is defined on page 28 of this guide;
- Bee products prepared or packed for trade are free of extraneous objects, materials, and substances not expected to be presented;
- Bee products do not exceed any applicable regulatory maximum permissible limits for residue and contaminants; and
- Hives are free from any clinical signs of AFB.

Part 3.1 of the GREX sets out the requirements for ensuring your honey is fit for purpose.



Operator

An operator owns or controls a bee product processing or storage business.

As an operator you might:

- Extract, cream, blend and/or package bee products for commercial sale;
- Also be known as a transporter, manufacturer, extractor, supplier or storage operator.

What do operators need to do?

Below are the key MPI requirements for operators who process or store bee products for export.



**Operate under a risk-based measure**

As an operator you must employ a risk-based measure when processing or storing bee products for export.



A risk-based measure is a programme or plan that helps you manage risks when processing or storing bee products.

The different risk-based measures available are summarised below and explained in more detail in the following pages.

1. If an export certificate is required, you must have a registered Risk Management Programme (RMP). Transporters can use a Regulated Control Scheme (RCS) template as an alternative to an RMP. Both RMP and RCS programmes are requirements under the Animal Products Act 1999, and are registered with MPI.
2. If an export certificate is not required, you may register under one of the following:
 - A RMP or RCS for transporters; or
 - A National Programme; or
 - A custom Food Control Plan (FCP).

The National Programme and custom FCP are requirements under the Food Act 2014, and are generally registered with your local council.



In the following pages the RMP chain refers to every step of the export process, from processing to export. This means that to be eligible for markets that require an export certificate, the product must be handled by operators who hold an RMP (or RCS for transporters).

**Operating under a Risk Management Programme (RMP)****Why are RMPs required?**

To get an export certificate, your bee products must be processed and stored under a registered and verified RMP. Your RMP sets out how you identify and manage risks in your operation to ensure your products are fit for the intended purpose.

You have three options when developing an RMP:

1. Use an industry agreed template which has been recognised by MPI (the simplest option); or
2. Write your own RMP based fully on an operational code recognised by MPI (The benefit of option 1 and 2 is that MPI can waive the requirement for the RMP to be evaluated by an independent person recognised by MPI. This could save you a lot of money and time); or
3. Write your own custom RMP (the most complex option)
This option will be necessary if your products or processes are not covered by a template or code described in option 1 or 2. This will cost you more and take you longer to develop, but you have full flexibility and control over the products and processes you want to include.

**Use an industry agreed template which has been recognised by MPI**

Templates can be found on the MPI website at [RMP codes of practice, templates and plans](#). Download the relevant template, fill it in, and submit it with the relevant fee and application form to MPI approvals.

**Write your own RMP based fully on an operational code recognised by MPI**

Operational codes recognised by MPI cover the requirements you will need to meet to register your RMP. Operational codes can be found on the MPI website page [RMP codes of practice, templates and plans](#). Read the code, write your RMP referencing the relevant section of the RMP for each product, process and procedure you use (refer to the [MPI RMP manual](#)). Submit your completed RMP with the relevant fee and application form to MPI approvals.



Developing a custom RMP

If your operation includes processes or products not covered in the Bee Products OC, you will need to register a custom RMP.

You may use the OC RMP templates as a guide and add your customised processes or products. If you do not want to use one of the OC RMP templates, you can create the RMP yourself. You can use the RMP manual to help you do this. The [RMP manual](#) is available on the MPI website.

You may also choose to use an independent RMP consultant to help you through the process. Here is the full [list of RMP consultants](#) on the MPI website.

Validating and evaluating a custom RMP

You will need to validate your custom RMP (or customised parts) with a verifier. Part four of the RMP manual explains the validation process. Questions about custom RMPs should be directed to a verifier.

Once validation has been completed by a verifier you need to have your RMP evaluated by an independent evaluator.

If you have based your RMP on one of the templates, the evaluator will only evaluate the customised parts. If you have created a fully custom RMP, the evaluator will need to evaluate the whole document. Here is a [list of evaluators](#) on the MPI website.

Secure a verifier before you register your RMP

Before you register your RMP, contact AsureQuality (AQ) about securing a verifier to check your premise. If AQ is unable to verify your RMP, contact MPI Verification Services (MPI VS). You can find contact details at the bottom of the [Animal Exports – recognised agencies and authorised or recognised persons](#) page on the MPI website.

When you send your application pack to MPI, you will need to provide a letter from AQ or MPI VS saying they will be your verifier. Verification costs are set by the verifier and are additional to the RMP application fee.

To find a list of verifiers visit the [Getting your RMP verified](#) page on the MPI website.



Registering your RMP

You will need the following documents to complete your RMP application pack:

1. Completed RMP template document.
2. Site plan of the premises.
3. Letter from your verifier (AQ or MPI VS).
4. AP4 RMP application form and fee.

Go to the [AP4 RMP application form](#) on the MPI website. Send the completed list of items above to approvals@mpi.govt.nz

All applications are checked to see if they are complete and ready for assessment. If your application is incomplete you will be asked to submit any missing information. Be sure to submit a complete application to avoid delays in processing.

Once your RMP application has been accepted, allow up to 20 working days for MPI to process and register it.

Once you are registered with MPI, a verifier regularly checks that your operation is following your registered RMP. This ensures that you are managing your risks, and that you deliver products that are fit for the intended purpose. To find out more about getting your RMP verified go to the [Getting your RMP verified](#) page on the MPI website.

Risk-based measures for transporting bee products for markets that require an export certificate

When transporting bee products intended for export with an export certificate, transport operators must register and operate under:

- A Regulated Control Scheme (RCS); or
- A registered RMP with a Transport Supporting System scope included.

Regulated Control Scheme

If you choose to operate under a RCS you will need to fill out the transport RCS template. By complying with the requirements and procedures in the template, you meet the requirements of the transport RCS.

Before your completed template can be registered with MPI, it needs to be checked by a verifier, who will visit your operation and provide a verification report.





Once your RCS has had its initial verification you need to apply to MPI to register as a RCS transport operator. Register by completing the [AP16 Registration of Transport Service Operator form](#).

All this information can be found on the MPI website. The website provides information on the RCS for transport operators, templates, a list of verifiers, and application forms. Go to the [Regulated control schemes for transport operators](#) page on the MPI website.

RMPs with a Transport Supporting System scope

You can extend your existing processing or storage RMP to include the Transport Supporting System, but this will only cover bee products that don't require temperature control. For more information on how to add transport operations to your RMP go to the Risk Management Programmes for transport operators page on the MPI website.

If you have a processing or storage RMP that covers transport activities and you wish to use other transport operators that do not have their own RMP or RCS programme you must specify the names and details of the transport sub-contractors covered by your RMP.



An operator that includes transport activities in a RMP is unable to transport bee products directly between third-parties. The limited scope of transport activities means you can only transport bee products in your registered vehicle to or from your own RMP.

Operating under a National Programme or Food Control Plan Overview of the National Programme and custom FCP

If the bee products you are processing are exported to markets that do not require an export certificate you can operate under the Food Act 2014. This means you may use a National Programme or a custom FCP, rather than a RMP.

If you are also producing other food as part of your business, use the ["My Food Rules"](#) tool available on the MPI website.



Operating under the Food Act 2014 means you can't process bee products that are destined for markets that require an export certificate.



Single-site National Programmes will need to be registered with your local council. Multi-site National Programme operations that are in different council areas can be registered with MPI. You can find out how to do this by visiting the respective websites or contacting MPI or your local council directly.

Registering your National Programme or custom FCP

For more information on the National Programme and custom FCPs, including how to register, go to the MPI website and search for the following:

- "National Programme"; and/or
- "Steps to a Custom Food Control Plan".



Businesses that only sell via e-commerce and only store manufacturer packaged honey do not need to register a risk based measure. E-commerce is the selling of products online, often direct to a customer. Some destination markets have specific e-commerce requirements. In general, however, if you manufacture, store, or transport products to be sold online to overseas customers you will need to meet the same requirements as traditional trade.



Operators must source their bee products from a listed beekeeper or a risk-based measure operator

Beekeepers do not have to list if they have:

- Their own risk-based measure; or
- A written exclusive supply contract with a RMP operator, and the contract is referred to in the operator's RMP.

It is the responsibility of the operator to check that the source of the bee products meet the necessary export requirements.

If bee products are extracted before the beekeeper is listed, the products may not be allowed to be exported. This includes any other bee products that the products are mixed with. To find beekeepers who are listed with MPI, go to the [Listed Beekeepers](#) page on the MPI website.



Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs)

What are OMARs?

OMARs are MPI's way of notifying any steps that must be met in addition to New Zealand requirements for exporting to particular markets. These requirements are known or agreed upon with governments of the export markets. OMARs help to facilitate access to overseas markets for New Zealand exporters.



You can view OMARs if you have a registered RMP or are a registered exporter with MPI. To apply for access to view OMARs go to the MPI website and search "Overseas Market Access Requirements".

Check destination requirements

You need to check the OMARs for any additional processing or listing requirements. For example, if you process bee products for export to the European Union (EU) you will need to be listed for the EU and have your premises audited.

You will find 'Honey and Bee Products' requirements under the 'Animal Products' section of the OMARs. Make sure you read the 'General' section, as well.

If you cannot find information on bee products in the OMARs, then it may be that no specific requirements for that market are known to MPI at this time. Ask your exporter if they can provide you with any information.



Traceability and record keeping

Providing eligibility documentation for markets that require an export certificate

RMP operators are required to provide evidence of where their bee products are from, and how they have been handled and processed. Eligibility documents are raised in MPI's Electronic Certification system (E-cert) to prove that the product has remained in the RMP chain. These documents are used as supporting evidence when raising an export certificate.

If you process or store animal products for a market that requires an export certificate, you must enter information into E-cert whenever the products move between premises.

To find more information about how to get access, how it works and when the E-cert system should be used, go to the [Animal Products \(AP\) E-cert](#) page on the MPI website.



You may also find the [Guidance on using AP E-Cert](#) page useful. It contains lots of useful resources on exporting animal products and how to use the AP E-cert system.

Mānuka honey export certification

Operators of premises of final control must ensure that all final eligibility documents they raise in E-cert for consignments of honey labelled as mānuka honey include:

1. A required validated laboratory test result proving that each batch of honey in a consignment is mānuka honey; and
2. In the product description field, the exact mānuka honey statement intended for any resulting export certificates. Mānuka honey must meet the [MPI definition for mānuka honey](#).



A premise of final control means the last place the bee products are physically located before they are transferred to a port for export. These premises must be operating under a risk-based measure.



Providing transfer documents for bee products that do not require an export certificate

Transfer documents are required for all bee products that are intended for export to countries that do not require an export certificate. The operator of the premise of final control must provide the transfer documents to the exporter and keep a copy for four years.

When a consignment of bee products is transferred from one premise to another, the sending operator must provide a transfer document to the receiving operator.

- If both operators have active RMPs then the transfer document must be in the form of an eligibility document generated in the E-cert system.
- If you operate under the Food Act 2014 you can use a transfer document. To find a transfer document go to the [Transfer document template](#) on the MPI website.
- Part 4.4 of the [GREX](#) sets out the requirements surrounding transfer documents.



Ensure your beekeeper supplies a harvest declaration

If you are the first to process bee products for export, you must ensure you are supplied with a harvest declaration for every delivery of bee products. You must keep a copy of these for at least four years.

- Part 4.2 of the [GREX](#) sets out the harvest declaration requirements for beekeepers.
- You can find the [harvest declaration template](#) on the MPI website.



Provide a manufacturer's declaration

Some markets require a manufacturer's declaration as supporting evidence alongside an export certificate. This is a statement from the processor certifying that specific batches of product were produced to the standards set by the export market.

The requirements for a manufacturer's declaration vary between markets. Declaration requirements may be stated in the OMARs and should also be checked with your exporter.

As an operator you must ensure that when your bee product is intended to be sold as honey, nothing else is added to the product after extraction.



Meet all labelling requirements

Domestic labelling requirements

If you package bee products, you need to comply with the labelling requirements in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. To find more information on the Food Standards code go to the [Applying labelling and composition requirements](#) and the [NZ Honey Labelling Guide](#) on the MPI website.

To find exemptions to labelling requirements go to the [Honey and Bee product labelling and composition requirements](#) page on the MPI website.



You can contact a labelling consultant for advice on domestic labelling requirements. To find a list of labelling consultants, go to the [Honey and Bee product labelling and composition requirements](#) page on the MPI website.



Destination market labelling requirements

Some destination market labelling requirements can be found in the OMARs. Registered exporters or RMP operators can apply for access to view OMARs via the MPI website. To view OMARs, or apply for access, go to [Overseas market access requirements \(OMARs\)](#) page on the MPI website.

Mānuka honey labelling

Operators who process honey for export must not use the word mānuka or any other term that implies that the honey consists of mānuka unless it meets the [MPI definition for mānuka honey](#). Part 5 of the [GREX](#) sets out the definition of mānuka honey and information surrounding its labelling and export certification.

Honey can only be tested to the definition at laboratories recognised by MPI under the Animal Products Act 1999.

To search for laboratories that can conduct these tests go to the [Search for recognised laboratories directory](#) on the New Zealand Food Safety website. In the 'activities' box search '10.04' for DNA tests and '10.05' for chemistry tests. You must keep a copy of any test results for at least four years.



Other requirements

Listing for destination markets

Some markets only accept imported products from approved operators.

Lists of eligible operators are created and maintained through MPI contact with overseas authorities. Where these requirements exist they will be set out in OMARs.

Annual processor levy

If you are processing or storing bee products for export and operating under a RMP, MPI will charge you an annual levy to cover the cost of:

- Developing requirements and standards for the honey and bee product industry; and
- Negotiating access to export markets; and
- Monitoring residues under the bee products Regulated Control Scheme (RCS).



Registration requirements

From 26 June 2023

Application	Processing time-frame	Fee payable (GST incl)	Notes
RMP registration 	20 working days	\$310.50 per application plus assessment charge after 180 minutes	Required when exporting to overseas markets that need an export certificate
RMP processor levy for bee products		\$2,950.99 per annum. Operators that process wholly or partly for export	
RMP storage levy for bee products		\$238.40 per annum	
MPI National Programme Registration	20 working days	MPI multi-site National Programmes cost \$116.48 + a further \$155.25/hr or \$38.81/15min after 1 hour. Renewal of National Programme \$77.63 + \$155.25/hr after 30min	Talk to your local council for information on registering a single-site National Programme
Custom FCP Registration	20 working days	\$349.31 + \$155.25/hr after 2hr 15min	

Time-frames stated above are standard application processing times only. Time-frames may vary.

To find out more about fees and charges go to the [Fees and charges for exporting honey and bee products](#) on the MPI website.





Exporter

An exporter exports animal product from New Zealand, whether for reward or for purpose of trade (Animal Products Act 1999).



Bee products are animal products. Animal product exporters are regulated in New Zealand under the Animal Products Act 1999.

What do you need to do?

Below are the key MPI requirements for an exporter of honey bee products.



Exporters are responsible for making sure their products are eligible for export. Some markets require an export certificate, which will change the need for some of the requirements above. The requirements are explained on the following pages.



Bee products can be sourced from either a listed beekeeper or a risk-based measure operator

Exporters need to source bee products from beekeepers who are listed with MPI. These rules changed 5 February 2018 to include all beekeepers producing honey for export to any market.

To find beekeepers who are listed with MPI, go to the [Honey, bee product and beekeeper registers and lists](#) page on the MPI website.

To find RMP operators go to the [Registers and lists for RMPs](#) page on the MPI website. You will need to check if the operator has an exclusive supply contract with a beekeeper.



Registering as an exporter

If you want to export any animal products, including honey, live bees or bee products, you must register with MPI as an exporter, or use the services of a registered exporter.

If you register with MPI as an exporter, your registration must be renewed each year, including payment of the annual fee.



To register, complete the [AP1 exporter registration form](#), which is available on the [Register as a honey and bee products exporter](#) page on the MPI website. AP1 forms are available online as both PDF and Word documents.



Send the completed form to approvals@mpi.govt.nz along with the with the confirmation that you have paid the registration fee.

You can also [complete and submit the form online](#) using your RealMe login.

Alternatively you can use the services of a registered exporter

To find a list of exporters go to the Registered Exporters database on the Food Safety New Zealand website.



Overseas Market Access Requirements

What are OMARs?

[Overseas Market Access Requirements \(OMARs\)](#) are MPI's way of notifying any steps that must be taken in addition to New Zealand requirements for exporting to particular markets. These requirements are known or agreed upon with governments of the export markets. OMARs help to facilitate access to export markets for New Zealand exporters.

It is important that you meet the requirements outlined in the OMARs, otherwise your products may not be allowed access into the export market. You also potentially risk more serious consequences, such as loss of access for your product, or other New Zealand products.



OMARs can be found on the MPI website and are password protected. If you are an MPI registered exporter or have an MPI registered RMP, you can apply for access to view the OMARs. To apply for access to view OMARs go to the [Request to access animal product OMARs](#) on the MPI website.

Once you have been granted access, MPI will email you a username and password, so you can view OMARs and other animal product notices.

Check destination market requirements

You need to check for any changes to regulatory or commercial requirements in your export market before you export your products. This can be done by checking the OMARs and consulting with your importer.



You are responsible for ensuring that your bee products comply with both New Zealand requirements and any relevant OMARs.

You will find 'Honey and Bee Products' requirements under the 'Animal Products' section of the OMARs. Make sure you read the 'General' section, as well.

If you cannot find information on bee products in the OMARs, then it may be that no specific requirements for that market are known to MPI at this time. Ask your importer or in-market agent if they can provide you with any information.



Ensure bee products stay under a risk-based measure

If an export certificate is required, bee products cannot leave the RMP chain

As the exporter, you must ensure that your bee products remain under the continuous control of RMP premises (or Regulated Control Scheme (RCS) for transporters). This means that the bee products must be processed, stored and transported under the RMP chain.



The RMP chain refers to every step of the export process, from processing through to export. This means that to be eligible for markets that require an export certificate, the product must be handled by operators who hold an RMP (or RCS for transporters).

Unless an exemption applies, if your bee products leave the RMP chain between processing and export you will be unable to export to destination markets requiring an export certificate.

If an export certificate is not required, you can source bee products that have been produced under any of the following risk-based measures:

- A RMP chain (which includes a RCS for transporters); or
- A National Programme; or
- Food Control Plan (FCP).



Sourcing bee products that were produced under a RMP can enable wider market access.

To find a list of RMP operators go to the [Registered Risk Management Programmes database](#) on the Food Safety New Zealand website.

Alternatively, you can ask your operator if they are registered correctly.



You will need to make sure your product meets both New Zealand and destination labelling laws

It is your responsibility to ensure that your labelling meets the requirements of both New Zealand and the export market.

MPI's New Zealand honey labelling guide will help you to meet the rules of the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. To find the labelling guide go to [A guide to New Zealand honey labelling document](#) on the MPI website.

To find exemptions to labelling requirements go to the [Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Bee Products](#) document on the MPI website.

You can contact a labelling consultant for advice on domestic labelling requirements. To find a list of labelling consultants go to the [Food Act and food labelling consultants](#) on the MPI website.

While MPI can advise on known or agreed destination market labelling requirements, you should discuss any other labelling requirements with your importer. Some OMARs also contain useful labelling information.

Some markets may also require a manufacturer's declaration

A manufacturer's declaration is a statement from the operator specifying that specific batches of product were produced to appropriate standards.

The requirements for this may vary, depending on the destination market requirements. Declaration requirements may be stated in the OMARs. Ask your operator about obtaining a manufacturer's declaration, if required.



Ensure the correct documentation is provided throughout the supply chain

Providing eligibility documentation for markets that require an export certificate

RMP operators must provide evidence of where the product is from and how it has been handled and processed. You can apply for eligibility documents in MPI's Electronic Certification system (E-cert) to prove that the product has remained in the RMP chain. These documents are used as supporting evidence when raising an export certificate.

To find more information about who should use E-cert, how it works and when the E-cert application should be used, go to the [Animal Products \(AP\) E-cert guidance](#) page on the MPI website.

Providing transfer documentation for bee products that do not require an export certificate

For markets that do not require an export certificate, you must ensure the operator of the premises of final control provides you with transfer documents. You must keep a copy of the transfer documents for four years.



A premise of final control means the last place the bee products are physically located before they are transferred to a port for export. These premises must be operating under a risk-based measure.



Mānuka honey export certification

When raising export certificates in E-cert for mānuka honey, you must provide:

1. Validated laboratory test results proving that each batch of honey in a consignment is mānuka honey; and
2. The exact mānuka honey statement intended for the export certificate in the product description field.



Raising an export certificate when it is required by the destination market

You will need to raise an export certificate for each consignment you send. Use E-cert to apply for an export certificate. Alternatively, you can use an agent who can use your exporter ID to apply for export certificates on your behalf.

To find more information about how to get access, how it works and when the E-cert system should be used, go to the [Animal Products \(AP\) E-cert](#) page on the MPI website.

Registration requirements

Application	Processing time-frame	Fee payable (GST incl)
Exporter Registration	20 working days	\$155.25 per annum
E-cert application	2 working days	N/A
Verification of E-cert for movement between RMPs	24-48 hours	See verifier agency
Issue of an export certificate	1-3 working days	\$38.81, plus an hourly rate of \$155.25 after the first 15 min

Time-frames stated above are standard application processing times only. There is also a cost with using the system based on time taken to raise each certificate by the user.

To find out more about fees and charges go to the [Fees and charges for exporting honey and bee products](#) page on the MPI website.



Export non-conformance

If you export bee products, you must report any exports that do not conform to requirements to MPI within 24 hours.

Export non-conformances can have a serious impact on trade and compromise New Zealand's reputation as a trusted producer of food and food-related products.

Examples of export non-conformances

You must notify MPI if the products you have exported, or are about to export, fall into any of these categories:

1. They are not fit, or are no longer fit, for their intended purpose. This may be as a result of any event that occurred or could have occurred prior to entry into the destination market, regardless of when the event was detected.
2. They are refused entry by the government of the destination market.
3. They do not meet, or no longer meet, relevant requirements notified or made available under section 60(a) of the Animal Products Act 1999.
4. They do not have, or no longer have, the required export certificate.



If you are not sure if you have an export non-conformance, send an email to Food.Assurance@mpi.govt.nz with "Export Non-Conformance - Query" in the subject line.

For more information on export non-conformances go to the [Honey export non-conformance](#) page on the MPI website.

Any extra requirements

You must ensure your bee products comply with both New Zealand domestic regulations as well as the destination market requirements.

Industry bodies, New Zealand Customs, and importing countries' official websites may also have further information regarding exporting and other requirements that you may need to meet.



Glossary of key terms

Bee products

Honey, honeydew, bee venom, bee pollen, bees wax, propolis, royal jelly, and any other product collected by, or derived from honey bees, intended for human or animal consumption.

Consignment

A quantity of bee products delivered at one time, which may consist of a batch, a portion of a batch, several batches, or portion of batches.

E-commerce

The selling of products online, often direct to a customer

Export certificate

In this document MPI uses the term export certificate as a form of official assurance. Other terms for official assurance are health certificate, sanitary certificate and veterinary certificate.

Exporting

Sending food products overseas whether for commercial or non-commercial (personal) purposes.

Harvest declaration

A declaration made by a beekeeper about the bee products intended for export.

Harvest season

The specific period when honey supers are present on beehives primarily for the purpose of honey collection and the bees are producing, or are reasonably expected to produce, honey during that period.

Official assurance

A statement from the New Zealand Government to the government of an export market, attesting that products being exported from New Zealand are fit for the intended purpose, meet New Zealand domestic standards, and any specific market access requirements negotiated between New Zealand and the export market.

Premises of final control

The final premises operating under a risk-based measure, where a consignment is physically located before it is transferred to a port of export.

Risk-based measure

A Risk Management Programme, a National Programme 1, 2 or 3, or a Food Control Plan.

Glossary of legislation and standards

- Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code
- Animal Products Act 1999
- Animal Products Notice - General Export Requirements for Bee Products
- Bee Products - Operational Code
- Biosecurity Act 1993 - American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan (AFBPMP)
- Food Act 2014
- Food Hygiene Regulations 1974

Glossary of acronyms

- AFBPMP - American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan
- APN - Animal Products Notice
- AQ - AsureQuality
- E-cert - Electronic Certification system
- FCP - Food Control Plan
- FSANZ - Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- GREX - General Export Requirements for Bee Products
- MPI - Ministry for Primary Industries
- OC - Operational Code
- OMARs - Overseas Market Access Requirements
- RCS - Regulated Control Scheme
- RMP - Risk Management Programme

Exporter Regulatory Advice Service

We are a service to help exporters

The Exporter Regulatory Advice Service is committed to supporting New Zealand exporters by making it easier to understand the requirements to export.

We are here to help with those export requirements, and to provide tailored advice to New Zealand exporters. There is no charge to use the service.

For more information

Email the Exporter Regulatory Advice Service at exporterhelp@mpi.govt.nz or call 04 894 0269

Visit the MPI exporter webpages at www.mpi.govt.nz/export/exporting-from-nz-how-it-works/get-help-with-exporting/

For general enquiries email info@mpi.govt.nz or call 0800 00 83 33





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This guide is a summary of the legal requirements for exporting honey and bee products.
To access the actual legal requirements go to: www.mpi.govt.nz/law-and-policy/