



## **Biological Risk Management and Containment**

### **Appendix 1**

# **How to determine whether an organism is present in New Zealand, according to the EPA**

## **Containment Laboratory Guidelines**

**Version 2.1- September 2024**

Approved by: Vice-Chancellor  
Document Owner: Associate Director, Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Content Manager: Manager, Hazard and Containment

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This document was originally Version 1 which was extensively reviewed and approved in February 2021. A revision was made in September 2024 with the amendments listed below.

Record of Amendments to Version 2.1

<b>Date</b>	<b>Page number</b>	<b>Nature of amendment</b>
23 Sep 24	4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Update website screen shoots
3 Sep 24	All	University Logo updated

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## 1. Who are these guidelines for?

These guidelines are intended for **principal investigators (PIs), designated persons in charge, designated laboratory person (DLPs)**, technical staff and students trained in the safe use of **risk biologicals** in appropriate containment facilities.

## 2. Introduction

Remember that the EPA database, although legally authoritative, is quite limited as it is simply a record of statutory and non-statutory determinations.

## 3. Navigation

### 3.1. Go to the new organism section under the EPA website:

<https://www.epa.govt.nz/industry-areas/new-organisms/about-new-organisms/>



Home > Industry areas > New organisms >

### About new organisms

Our economy relies on organisms that are not native to Aotearoa New Zealand. We need to assess and manage the risks of introducing new organisms into New Zealand.

We manage risks to the environment, the health and safety of people, Māori culture and traditions, and the market economy from organisms that are new to New Zealand. We do this without limiting New Zealand's future potential for innovation.

Organisms include microorganisms (including bacteria and viruses), cell lines, human cells (but not human beings), sperm, oocytes (cells from which an egg or ovum develops), embryos, seeds, plants, fish, and animals.

#### New organisms in New Zealand

In New Zealand, a new organism is defined as:

- An organism that was not present in New Zealand immediately before 29 July 1998.
- An organism with approval to be in containment.
- An organism with approval to be released with controls.
- A genetically modified organism.
- An organism that was deliberately eradicated from New Zealand (as the result a specified eradication programme, with a stated goal or purpose of eliminating the organism from New Zealand).
- An organism that was present in New Zealand before 29 July 1998 in contravention of the Animals Act 1967 or the Plants Act 1970 (except for the rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (rabbit calicivirus)).
- A risk species, which is defined as a population of a species present in New Zealand that may only represent a small subset of its full genetic potential. Some of that potential could be harmful to New Zealand. In such cases, the species can be regulated as a 'risk species'. This means that the species—with the exception of the population already present in New Zealand—becomes a new organism.

If you have an organism that is new, you need approval from us to import, develop, field test or release your organism in New Zealand. Approval cannot be given to prohibited organisms.

[Find out how to apply for new organism approval](#)

If you have any questions you can call the New Organisms team on 0800 CALLEPA (0800 225 637) or email us at [neworganisms@epa.govt.nz](mailto:neworganisms@epa.govt.nz)

### 3.2. Go to 'Data base of organism present in New Zealand'

#### 3.2.1. Check on the "HSNO application database"



##### Databases of organisms present in New Zealand

There are a number of databases that can help you to determine if your organism was present in New Zealand before 29 July 1998. Any organism that is officially recorded as being present in the New Zealand environment before this date is not a new organism.

There is no single list of all the species that are present in New Zealand. If your organism does not appear in one of the following databases or lists, or you have reason to believe it is not a new organism, you can apply for a formal determination of its status.

##### HSNO application register

The HSNO Application Register records every application made to us. If an organism has been determined to not be a new organism or it has been approved for release without conditions, it can be imported into New Zealand without further approval from us.

[Search the HSNO application register](#)

##### EPA lists of microbes, animals and plants

View our list of microbes, animals and plants we have determined to be present through statutory and non-statutory advice.

[EPA List of microbes – July 2024 \(PDF, 645KB\)](#)

[EPA List of animals – July 2024 \(PDF, 367KB\)](#)

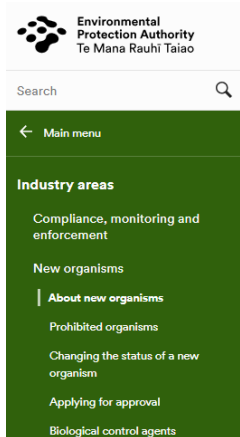
[EPA List of plants – June 2024 \(PDF, 1.19MB\)](#)

##### Plants Biosecurity Index (PBI)

The PBI contains a list of plant species that are legally allowed to be imported into New Zealand, subject to the relevant Import Health Standard (IHS) under the Biosecurity Act. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) oversees this list and undertakes an assessment of biosecurity risks for a plant before it is assigned to an IHS. Plant species listed on the PBI are not new organisms.

[Plants Biosecurity Index - Ministry for Primary Industries website database](#)

#### 3.2.2. Check on "Plants database"



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[Plants Biosecurity Index - Ministry for Primary Industries website database](#)

##### nzflora

The nzflora website carries information on the naturalised and indigenous plants of New Zealand.

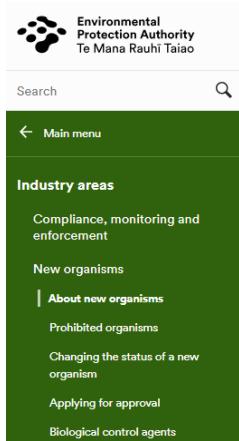
[nzflora website - Landcare Research](#)

##### Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research

The best database for micro-organisms is the Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research's fungi (and bacteria) database. This database also records organisms in other countries so you need to make sure that the organism is listed as present in New Zealand.

[Fungi \(and bacteria\) database - Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research website](#)

### 3.2.3. Check on "Micro organism database"



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[Plants Biosecurity Index - Ministry for Primary Industries website database](#)

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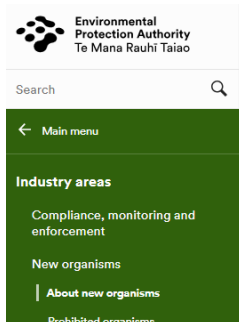
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[Fungi \(and bacteria\) database - Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research website](#)

### 3.2.4. Check on "New Zealand Recognised Birds Database"



#### New Zealand Birds Online

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand has information about all birds known to be present in New Zealand.

[New Zealand Birds Online](#)

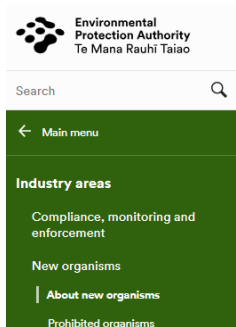
#### Ornamental fish and marine invertebrates Import Health Standard

The Ornamental Fish and Marine Invertebrate Import Health Standard lists a number of species that are not new and can be imported into New Zealand without approval from us.

[Import Health Standard - Ornamental fish and marine invertebrates from all countries - Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)

[All import health standards - Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)

### 3.2.5. Check on "Fish and Marine Invertebrates database"



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[New Zealand Birds Online](#)

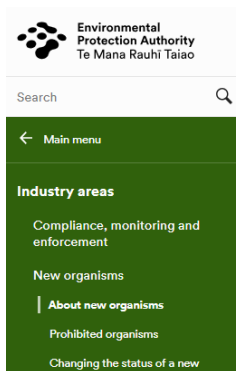
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[Import Health Standard - Ornamental fish and marine invertebrates from all countries - Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)

[All import health standards - Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)

### 3.2.6. Check on "Arthropods database"



[industries website](#)

[All import health standards - Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)

#### New Zealand Arthropod Collection (NZAC)

The NZAC has the most complete coverage of terrestrial invertebrates in New Zealand.

[New Zealand Arthropod Collection – Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research website](#)

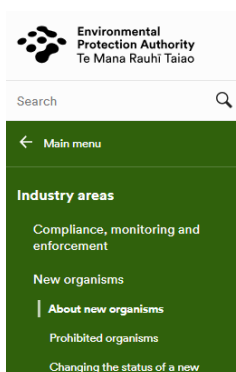
#### Biological Control Agents introduced to New Zealand (BCANZ)

The BCANZ database contains information on the biological control agents that have been introduced to New Zealand.

[BCANZ database - Better Border Biosecurity website](#)

Please note that certain biological control agents are still classed as new organisms and as such are still regulated under the HSNO Act.

### 3.2.7. Check on "Biological control agents"



[industries website](#)

[All import health standards - Ministry for Primary Industries website](#)

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