एपीडा
APEDA

कृषि और प्रसंस्कृत खाद्य उत्पाद
निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)

APEDA-ORG/61/2024
Dated: 10.11.2026

Implementation of the Interim Mutual Recognition Arrangement (IMRA) between India and New Zealand for organic products

We are pleased to inform that the Interim Mutual Recognition Arrangement (IMRA) for organic products between India and New Zealand has come into force w.e.f 20th Oct 2026.

The procedure for export of the Organic Products to New Zealand under the IMRA is enclosed.

All Certification bodies and operators are required to ensure that the products exported to New Zealand are within the scope of the arrangement and comply with the requirements prescribed under the procedure including compliance with the NPOP requirements.

Saswati Bose
10.11.2026
(Dr. Saswati Bose)
Secretary

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INTERIM MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

CONCERNING THE TRADE IN ORGANIC FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

The Government of New Zealand and the Government of India ('the Participants'),

Desiring to facilitate trade in organic food and agricultural products between New Zealand and India,

Have reached the following understanding:

On the basis of a side-letter commitment under the New Zealand – India Free Trade Agreement ("the Agreement") on the trade in organic food and agricultural products, the Participants have come to an Interim Mutual Recognition Arrangement (IMRA) to facilitate the trade of organic food and agricultural products (organic products) between the countries, based on certification that the organic products meet a mutually accepted third country's standard.

1. COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

1.1 The Competent Authorities for the implementation of this IMRA are:

(i) For the Government of New Zealand:
   a. the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI); and

(ii) For the Government of India:
   a. the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the Department of Commerce; and
   b. the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

1.2 The Competent Authorities will notify each other of the contact details of the officials to serve as the contact points to facilitate those communications necessary to implement this IMRA.

2. SCOPE AND EFFECT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT

2.1. This IMRA covers the two-way trade in organic products between India and New Zealand that are otherwise consistent with each country's Food Safety and Biosecurity requirements. It is intended to stay in effect only until the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the equivalence of each country's relevant organic technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures, as committed to in the side letter, is negotiated and comes into effect.

2.2 Eligible organic products under this IMRA include those categories of organic products that are allowed to be exported from India to Australia under the India Australia Organics Mutual Recognition Arrangement that are also the categorises of organic products that Australia recognises New Zealand is eligible to export to Australia under the Australia New Zealand Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement.

2.2.1 The following organic products are included within the scope of the IMRA

a. unprocessed plant products (excluding those grown in greenhouses);
b. wild harvest plant products for human consumption (excluding wild mushrooms and aquatic plants);
c. processed products for human consumption from ingredients in subclauses 2.2.1 a to 2.2.1.b;
d. alcoholic beverages made from fruit;
e. vegetative propagating material and seeds for cultivation;
f. products that contain a minimum of 95% organic content (certified under the respective standards).

2.2.2 The following organic products are excluded from the scope of the IMRA

a. unprocessed plant products grown in greenhouses; (greenhouses means crops cultivated under partially controlled conditions in greenhouses, glass houses, poly-houses, net-houses, or the like.);
b. wild harvested fungi and wild harvested aquatic plants;
c. animal products for human consumption from bovine, porcine, ovine, caprine, cervine, equine, avian, ratite species, and Apis mellifera;
d. live animals from the same species as listed in subclause (c);
e. unprocessed or processed bivalve molluscan shellfish products;
f. unprocessed or minimally processed wool;
g. unprocessed or processed algae products;
h. mushrooms;
i. alcohol beverages made from animal products or grains;
j. yeast;

k. processed agricultural products for use as feed;
l. products that have less than a minimum of 95% organic content (certified under the respective standards).

2.3 Under this IMRA any products traded between the countries that are described or labelled as "organic" must be identified with an organic mark recognised by MPI or APEDA and be accompanied by a border clearance certificate issued by MPI or a transaction certificate issued under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP), as implemented by APEDA, that certifies the organic products meet their respective organic standards and the eligibility requirements of this IMRA.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES

3.1. The Competent Authorities will mutually accept the equivalence of consignments of organic products offered for import and sale within their territories where the organic product is identified with an authorised organic mark and the consignment has been certified by either MPI for New Zealand or an NPOP accredited Certification Body for India, in accordance with this IMRA.

3.2. The Competent Authorities will provide each other examples of the form and content of their organic certificates, the organic marks they authorise, and the wording they intend to use to attest compliance with the requirements of this IMRA. For greater border clearance efficiencies, and to further facilitate electronic exchanges of certification, the wording used to attest to compliance with the requirements of this IMRA may, as an alternative, be added into one of the health certificates issued by the respective Competent Authorities.

3.3. As relevant to the administration of this IMRA, the Competent Authorities will notify each other through the relevant contact points of any:

a. Changes to their accountabilities or the regulations they administer, and
b. Concerns with the administration of this IMRA, and
c. Identified instances of potential fraud, or
d. Significant instances of non-compliance.

3.4. The Competent Authorities will attempt to resolve any matter that arises in the administration of this IMRA through the spirit of cooperation while minimising unnecessary disruptions to trade.

4. REVIEW, MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

4.1. This IMRA may be amended as mutually decided in writing by both Participants at any time.

4.2. Either Participant may issue to the other Participant a written notice of intention to terminate this IMRA in three (3) months for specified repeated and unresolvable instances of non-compliance.

4.3. Both Participants will make best efforts to resolve any issues through dialogue and discussions between their respect Competent Authorities.

4.4. Where the issues cannot be resolved and are the basis for termination under paragraph 4.2, this IMRA will cease to have effect three (3) months from the receipt of the notice of termination, unless otherwise mutually decided by the Participants. The Competent Authorities will continue to honour the clearance of organic products certified and exported prior to the date of termination.

5. DURATION AND EFFECT

5.1. This IMRA comes into effect on the same date the New Zealand – India Free Trade Agreement enters into force.

5.2. This IMRA will remain in effect until the Participants conclude and bring into effect the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) of each other's national organic technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures pursuant to the side-letter to the New Zealand – India Free Trade Agreement on the trade in organic food and agricultural products, unless terminated in accordance with paragraph 4.

TRANSACTION CERTIFICATE FOR EXPORT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS TO COUNTRIES OTHER THAN EUROPEAN UNION, SWITZERLAND

1. Certification Body or authority (Name & Address)	2. Transaction Certificate No.
3. Producer/Manufacturer (Name and Address)	4. Exporter (Name and Address)
5. Consignee (Name and Address)	6. Importer (Name and Address)
7. Country of Origin	8. Country of Destination

9. Marks and numbers. Trade name of the products

Product(s)	HS Code	Organic Status	Compliance	Lot No.	Quantity (in MT)	Trade Name	Packaging Details

10. Transaction Details

a) Order / Contract No.

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b) Invoice No. & Date

S. No.	Invoice No.	Invoice Date

c) B/L/AWB/LR No.& Date	d) Mode of Transport	e) Container No./Vehicle No.

11. Additional Declaration by the Certification Body

This is to certify that:

(a) This Transaction Certificate is issued after satisfying ourselves with the required inspection under the checked programmes at S.No. 9 above;

(b) On the date of issue of this Transaction Certificate, the Accreditation of this Certification Body under NPOP is valid.

(c) The above information is correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

Issued Date:

Name and Signature of the authorised person

Note: To check the genuineness of this document, please scan the QR code. For more information, contact the Certification Body and details below.

Certification Body Address: Tel. No: Fax:

Email: Website:

This document is digitally signed and does not require any seal or stamp.