

ASUREQUALITY

Organic Certification with AsureQuality

AsureQuality is a commercial company 100% owned by the New Zealand government. We provide food safety and biosecurity services to the food and primary production sectors.

Every day our team of 1700 experts, based at 140 locations throughout Australasia, work alongside customers like you in over 40 countries worldwide, to assure the safety and quality of food being produced for millions of people.



This includes supplying independent, impartial, third party auditing, testing, inspection and certification services to organic producers, processors and retailers in the dairy, meat, seafood, horticulture, wine and arable sectors.

Services:

- Global market access
- Integrated services e.g. GLOBALGAP, BRC, Food Safety Programme (FSP), [NZFSA Wine Verification](#)
- National coverage
- Our own residue testing laboratory
- Competitive pricing

Certifying to:

- [AsureQuality Organic Standard](#)
- [IFOAM](#)
- [MAF Official Organic Assurance Programme](#)
- [USDA National Organic Program](#)
- [Japanese Agricultural Standard](#)
- [COR - Canada Organic Regime](#)

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Honey association announces Singapore testing

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The UMF Honey Association and AsureQuality Singapore have jointly announced the availability of a testing regime to determine non-peroxide activity in Manuka Honey sold in Singapore.

UMF Honey Association General Manager, John Rawcliffe, said the announcement would come as welcome news to consumers in Singapore.

"The new Singapore-based test will ensure that Manuka Honey sold in that country is from New Zealand and true to label - in line with the core industry standard as originally determined by Peter Molan of Waikato University."

AsureQuality Singapore (a state-owned company of the New Zealand Government) is providing analytical support to the UMF Honey Association through its Singapore Laboratory. It will coordinate analysis of honey and other New Zealand primary products exported to Asia to provide added confidence to retailers and consumers.

Mr Rawcliffe said he expected other tests would soon become available in Singapore to further protect both consumers and the New Zealand honey industry as a whole.

"This has been a major initiative by the UMF Honey Association linking laboratories in the world market to protect what is a unique product that achieves high visibility for New Zealand."

He said the announcement was made late last week at an industry forum in Singapore attended by retailers of Manuka Honey from as far afield as Malaysia and Hong Kong.

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Tatua First in NZ to Achieve FSSC 22000 Certification

25 July, 2011

The Tatua Co-operative Dairy Company, a globally recognised manufacturer of specialised dairy ingredients and food products, has become New Zealand's first organisation to achieve FSSC 22000 certification.

FSSC 22000 certification, specifically designed for the food manufacturing sector, is HACCP based and Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) benchmarked.

Brendhan Greaney, GM Operations at Tatua, says the company is delighted with achieving the first FSSC 22000 certification in New Zealand.

"Our business depends on access to overseas markets and meeting our customer's requirements and this certification will assist us to achieve this."

Mr Greaney says the certification process has taken 12 months, and has involved Tatua updating its food safety systems to meet the requirements of the standard.

He says, "Achieving the standard has involved a lot of work and we are proud of the effort

and progress demonstrated by Katinka van der Burg, our Technical Services Manager and her team.”

FSSC 22000 uses existing standards for certification (ISO 22000 and PAS 220) and has been developed for the certification of food safety systems of food manufacturers.

Tatua’s certification includes the manufacture of dairy and non-dairy products for both local and export markets. This includes the production of a wide range of protein products as well as creams, sauces, cultured products, soft cheeses, ice cream mixes and dessert products in aseptic packaging and aerosol cans.

Certification Body, AsureQuality has worked with Tatua throughout the process, and was pleased to confirm New Zealand’s first FSSC 22000 certification following a successful multi audit process.

At this stage there are just over 400 companies worldwide with FSSC certification. FSSC 22000’s mission is to be the global leader in independent, ISO-based and GFSI-accepted food safety certification schemes for the whole supply chain.

Retrieved December 18, 2011 from www.asurequality.com/

Meat Inspection and Added Value Services

Our primary service is mandatory meat inspection. This enables New Zealand's meat producers to ensure their product meets overseas market access requirements and is safe for New Zealand consumers.

800 Meat Inspectors Delivering World class service

We have up to 800 Official Assessors warranted under the Animal Products Act carrying out meat inspection across approximately 75 meat processing plants throughout New Zealand.

AsureQuality is committed to delivering the world’s best meat inspection service to the New Zealand meat processing industry. We continue to achieve this, delivering an overall accuracy of above 99%, through the application of process control disciplines.

Retrieved December 18, 2011 from www.asurequality.com/

IVA: Independent Verification Agency

Arable, forestry or other plant products may require phytosanitary documentation to meet importing country requirements. AsureQuality inspection and audit staff can assist exporters with overseas market access requirements. If you need a MAF Phytosanitary Certificate, or some other form of official assurance, AsureQuality are able to undertake surveys, tests, supervision, inspection, audit and verification of certificates.

Accredited inspection body

AsureQuality is authorised by MAF as an IVA to undertake plant, arable and forestry export verification services on their behalf.

Our Field Services Business is authorised under MAF Certification Standard: IVA Requirements and as such is able to undertake the following phytosanitary activity options across the arable, forestry and plant sectors:

- End Point Consignment Inspection
- Audit programme
- Treatments
- Export Phytosanitary Certification
- Pest Surveys
- Seed certification

End point consignment inspection

Under this option AsureQuality Inspection staff will undertake a phytosanitary inspection of each export consignment prior to export in order to confirm the products compliance with the importing country phytosanitary requirements (ICPR). Inspections will check that any necessary phytosanitary tests or clearances have been undertaken and confirm the eligibility of the product for the chosen market prior loading and certificate verification.

Audit programme

As well as the End Point Consignment Inspection option AsureQuality can also deliver services under the MAF “Approved Organisation” export certification option. Under this option Organisations (exporters, packers, processors, etc) document their operating system using the HACCP framework to identify, control, manage and eliminate phytosanitary hazards and other risk factors and address the relevant MAF Standards.

AsureQuality audit staff evaluate these documented programmes on behalf of MAF and will either confirm compliance against the MAF Standards or will highlight any gaps that may need to be addressed by the Organisation.

Once requirements are met AsureQuality will make recommendation to MAF that the Organisation system be MAF approved.

Approved Organisation systems are subject to ongoing AsureQuality audit at the frequency prescribed in the MAF Standard(s) applicable to the system.

Treatments

MAFBNZ has designed and operates a system of control over official treatment activities to ensure that only competent organisations and individuals are involved with the delivery of official treatment activities (for both import and export).

There are two options under the treatment system:

1. Under the “Supervision Programme” official treatments may be provided by treatment suppliers who operate under direct IVA supervision, where each and every treatment is supervised by an IVA. AsureQuality is accredited as an IVA to undertake treatment supervision under the Supervision Programme.
2. Under the “Approved Treatment Supplier Programme” a treatment supplier establishes and complies with a documented quality management programme which is approved by MAF subject to ongoing satisfactory auditing by an IVA. AsureQuality is also accredited to undertake evaluation of an Operator’s documented quality management programme under the Approved Treatment Supplier programme and to deliver an ongoing audit service on behalf of MAF.

MAF Standard - Treatment Supplier Programme

Fumigation Sachets

AsureQuality Timber Treatment Programme

Export Phytosanitary Certification

AsureQuality is accredited by MAF to verify phytosanitary certificates, which are the documents that most commonly provide the official government to government assurance as to pest and disease status of a consignment.

The phytosanitary certification service is delivered electronically via the MAF Ecert programme, providing the final clearance in the onshore supply chain to ensure export products are in accordance with importing country quarantine requirements.

MAF has recently introduced security paper as part of a package of security measures to minimise fraud with the production of phytosanitary certificates. This measure was prompted by advice from some overseas control authorities concerning their receipt of false and confusing certificates. Only those certificates printed in colour on MAF security paper will be recognised as “official” export certificates by Overseas Authorities.

MAF Export Certification Standards - Phyto ECert Requirements

Pest surveys

An importing country may request specific additional information relevant to the phytosanitary status of an export consignment's freedom from specific pests. Where an importing country specifies they require "surveyed, inspected, or tested and found free from", the area of production, or the crop, or the consignment, must be surveyed, inspected, or tested, as appropriate prior to the specific additional declaration being provided on a certificate.

AsureQuality Inspection staff are MAF approved to deliver the majority of the industry based compliance programmes. We have approved procedures that can be applied to confirm freedom or determine presence for a wide range of pests of international quarantine significance.

Seed certification

The MAF seed varietal and phytosanitary certification programme formalises the integration of phytosanitary (including treatments) and seed varietal certification specifications and activities into an integrated systems approach that achieves the dual outputs of seed varietal and phytosanitary certification.

The programme applies to seeds produced in New Zealand and allows for the verification of seed production procedures compliant with the rules and requirements of the various international organisations concerned with the international movement and testing of seed.

AsureQuality is accredited to deliver inspection, testing and audit services to the seed industry.

Retrieved December 18, 2011 from www.asurequality.com/iva-independent-verification-agency-for-phytosanitary-documents.cfm