

OIA21-0051

17 February 2021

Mike Hunua
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Dear Mike Hunua

Thank you for your email of 19 January 2021 requesting information relating to the powers Quarantine Officers can use. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested;

“Could you provide the powers that a Quarantine/Bio-security officer can use such as those stationed at Airport and Ports”

Per section 18(d) of the OIA, powers that a Quarantine Officer (referred to as an Inspector in the Act) are outlined in the Biosecurity Act 1993. The Act is publicly available at the following link:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM314623.html>

In terms of officers stationed at airports and port, please refer to the following sections of the Biosecurity Act 1993

- Section 31 Boarding of craft-
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM315308.html>
The word craft includes both aircraft and vessels. This section is for an Inspector going on board a craft, checking for risk goods, and inspecting the craft (where required)
- Section 34 Disembarkation-
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM315313.html>
- Section 35 Duties of persons in biosecurity control areas
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM315314.html>
These sections relate to the clearance of disembarking passengers, crew, and baggage.
- Section 30A Processing unaccompanied goods-
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM315305.html>
- Section 121 Power to examine organisms-
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM316321.html>
These sections includes inspection, checking for the presence or absence of any pests, taking samples of an organism and identification.
- Section 25 Goods to be cleared for entry into New Zealand
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM315289.html>

- Section 26 Clearances by Inspectors
<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0095/latest/DLM315292.html>
These sections cover the processes for goods going for inspection and other processes if required, and Inspectors giving directions or clearance.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Steve Gilbert
Central/South Regional Commissioner