

11 Container Seals

11.1 Application

This section applies to both security seals and high security seals. All Seals shall meet the following manufacturing specifications.

These specifications, in descending order of weighting, may be taken into account when determining a successful registration of interest.

11.1.1 Acceptability of seals

11.1.1.1 Seals shall be listed on the USA & UK Customs "Acceptable Seal" List.

11.1.1.2 Written evidence of listing on the USA & UK Customs "Acceptable Seal" list shall be provided to MAF Food.

11.2 Functional Security

11.2.1 Substitution

Component parts shall be difficult to counterfeit or substitute.

11.2.2 Tamperproof

11.2.2.1 The seal shall provide a clear indication of any evidence of tampering.

11.2.2.2 The seal shall be unable to be disjointed without irreversible deformation.

11.2.2.3 The length of the seal shall not enable a sealed container to be opened or partially opened, without the seal being broken, or otherwise showing obvious damage.

11.2.3 Incapable of reuse

All seals shall only be able to be removed by a destructive method, and shall be incapable of being successfully reused or restored in the sealed condition, following such tampering.

11.3 Utility

11.3.1 Safety design

The design of the seal should ensure that the legitimate handling of the seal does not expose a user to the risk of injury, and users should be safe-guarded against exposure to any unpleasant or hazardous material liable to be released on breaking a seal.

11.3.2 Ease of use

The seal shall be easily applied as some container fittings do not align accurately.

11.3.3 Placement

Correct placement should be relatively simple and capable of being checked easily.

11.3.4 Checking

Ability to check the seal is engaged properly, after locking and allow for quick verification.

11.3.5 Manufacturers instructions as to use

Seals shall be accompanied by advice on the correct method(s) for their effective use, and any safety precautions required, during removal, if necessary to ensure correct application/removal.

11.3.6 Resistant to destruction

11.3.6.1 Seals shall have a high level of resistance to corrosion for use in hostile environments, such as prolonged exposure at sea.

11.3.6.2 Seals shall be flameproof.

11.3.7 Colours

If coloured, the colour of the exterior coating shall be green; PMS 3292.

11.3.8 Security packing

All seals are to be packed in such a manner that they are to be readily accessible in strict sequential numerical order whether as an entire pack or part pack.

11.4 High Security Seal

11.4.1 Dimension

11.4.1.1 The seal shall measure less than 90mm in length when locked.

11.4.1.2 Diameter of the top and base of the seal shaft, if circular shall not be less than 22mm in one dimension.

11.4.2 Construction

11.4.2.1 Seals shall be of two piece solid steel or similar product.

11.4.2.2 Heavy duty cutters shall required for removal.

11.4.2.3 Enough of the main shaft shall lie within the body of the seal to prevent the seal being vulnerable to tampering.

A flat seal back is strongly recommended.

11.4.2.4 Shaft and body shall be adjoined prior to use if the seal comprises two sections.

11.5 Unique Seal Numbers

11.5.1 Unique numbers

Seals shall be serially numbered, each seal shall be unique and no number shall be repeated within three years.

11.5.2 Number format

11.5.2.1 *Security seals*

The number shall contain NZMAF followed by 7 digits, the alpha prefix and the number shall be contiguous (e.g. NZMAF0000000).

11.5.2.2 *High security seals*

The number shall contain NZMAF followed by 8 digits, the alpha prefix and the number shall be contiguous (e.g. NZMAF00000000).

11.5.3 Alpha numeric sequence

11.5.3.1 The alpha numeric sequence shall commence at NZMAF(X)000001 or NZMAF(X)0000001 as the case may be. Where (X) is the numeral assigned by MAF Food to the approved manufacturer.

11.5.3.2 The first number shall be assigned by MAF Food to identify the approved manufacturer and shall be used in the numbering of all seals.

11.5.3.3 The second and following numbers shall be used sequentially.

11.5.3.4 The non assigned digits may revert to the commencing numeric sequence after 3 years

11.6 Patent Numbers

Patent numbers are permitted on security and high security seals provided they do not obscure mandatory information.

Note: patent protection does not include any of the specifications for approved seals, these remain the property of MAF.