
Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement

The trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement (TTMRA) is an arrangement between the Government of New Zealand and the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments of Australia. It is a cornerstone of a single economic market and a powerful driver of regulatory coordination and integration. It's also a key instrument in developing an integrated trans-Tasman economy and a seamless market place as envisioned by the New Zealand and Australia Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CER).

The TTMRA is implemented in New Zealand through the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997. This is overarching legislation meaning all other laws are subject to it unless specifically excluded or exempted.

Under the TTMRA a product produced in or imported into and legally sold in Australia may be sold in New Zealand, and vice versa. Subject to exemptions, this principle applies regardless of any differences in standards or requirements.

TTMRA and imported foods

Some high-risk (prescribed) foods are historically exempt from the TTMRA and remain subject to import clearance by NZFSA and/or the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). Because both countries have aligned the risk criteria upon which imports are managed and as many of the foods are subject to joint standards under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, TTMRA exemptions for high-risk foods are being reviewed. (Please note that MAF Biosecurity New Zealand requirements are separate to those required for prescribed foods.)

As a result of the TTMRA review NZFSA and Australian officials have undertaken work to remove barriers to trans-Tasman trade (with respect to food safety requirements) through mutual recognition of each others' food safety systems. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of prescribed foods now exempt from TTMRA.

Related links

- [Importing prescribed foods from Australia](#)
- [Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement - Ministry of Economic Development website](#)