

:Good News Stories From IANZ (2006)

1. New Zealand mussels to Italy

Preserved mussels exported from New Zealand must be accompanied by an export certificate based on microbiological test for Ecoli. A shipment of mussels worth \$50,000 was en route to Canada when the customer went bankrupt. The exporter found another customer in Italy but by the time the mussels reached Italy the export certificate had expired. The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture was aware that IANZ had a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Italian accreditation body SINAL. Through SINAL, IANZ was able to locate a laboratory near the port that was accredited for the necessary tests, and the mussels were re-tested. The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture accepted these test results, because the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) to which both IANZ and SINAL are signatories, and issued a replacement export certificate. This saved the exporter and his insurance company a great deal of money.

2. Bottled drinking water into an Asian country

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round opened many markets to products which had previously been banned. One such product is bottled drinking water. Drinking water is, however, required to be tested for chemical characteristics and microbiological content. The authorities may also require historical tests of the water at source and following processing. A major New Zealand exporter was able to have their fresh, clean water from New Zealand, accepted in a new market in Asia because his test reports came from an IANZ accredited laboratory.

3. Electrical products in New Zealand

Electrical products are required to satisfy EMC regulations before being placed on the New Zealand market. The New Zealand regulator will accept test reports from an IANZ accredited laboratory or from a laboratory accredited by any accreditation body recognised by IANZ, i.e. an ILAC MRA partner. IANZ frequently receives enquiries from manufacturers of electrical products in economies such as the United States, Taiwan, Germany, and Hong Kong, and China, asking where they should get their products tested in order to satisfy the New Zealand regulations. They are delighted when IANZ tells them that, since their products have already been tested by a laboratory accredited by A2LA or NVLAP in the United States, or TAF in Taiwan, or a DAR affiliate in Germany, HKAS in Hong Kong, or CNAS in China, their products do not need to be retested in New Zealand. Their existing test reports will be accepted by New Zealand regulators because of a Mutual Recognition Agreement between their accreditation bodies and IANZ.

4. Sports floors to New Zealand

A contractor contacted IANZ because he was involved in the construction of a new sports centre and wanted to import a sports floor from Denmark. The customer was insisting that he ensure that the floor passed a certain test. The importer was in a quandary because he could not see how he could have the floor tested without bringing it to New Zealand and he did not want to go to that expense without some assurance that the floor would be suitable. He already had test reports from a laboratory accredited by the Danish accreditation authority, DANAK. IANZ was able to assure him that as DANAK and IANZ were both signatories to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement, test reports from accredited Danish laboratories would be welcomed in New Zealand. The contractor went ahead and imported the Danish sports floor without concern.

5. Fire extinguishers from Singapore into New Zealand

The New Zealand Insurance Council is responsible for approving fire extinguishers sold in New Zealand. The Insurance Council contacted IANZ about a shipment of fire extinguishers from Singapore. The extinguishers had already been tested in a laboratory in Singapore. IANZ checked with SINGLAS that the laboratory was accredited for the specific tests and IANZ were able to assure the Insurance Council that the extinguishers did not need to be retested in New Zealand.

6. Electrical products from Germany to New Zealand

A New Zealand manufacturer was importing components from Germany, undertaking further processing and then re-exporting the finished article. The components had been EMC tested in Germany. The New Zealand manufacturer asked IANZ whether the German test reports would be acceptable in New Zealand. Unfortunately, the test reports lacked detail and the results were not clearly expressed. IANZ checked with DAR and were advised that the particular laboratory was not accredited. Neither was it a notified body for EMC testing under the European regulations. IANZ advised the New Zealand manufacturer that these test results were not acceptable and he would need to have the product retested in an accredited laboratory. He passed this information back to his German supplier who arranged to have the components retested in an accredited laboratory in Germany. The German manufacturer did not want their export sales jeopardized by non- accredited test reports accompanying their products.

7. Crayons from Spain, Britain and Hong Kong arrive without incident in NZ

New Zealand importers who bring crayons to New Zealand must ensure the crayons have been tested for heavy metals (children like to suck crayons) before the Ministry of Health allows their products to be put on shop shelves. Fortunately, most of the crayons being imported to New Zealand are accompanied by test reports from laboratories that are accredited by signatories of the ILAC MRA. IANZ endorses test reports from laboratories accredited by IANZ 's MRA partners. The Ministry of Health wants to protect the health of (crayon sucking) children and has confidence in test reports issued by laboratories that have been accredited by overseas accreditation authorities participating in the ILAC MRA.

8. Electrical Meters to Finland

A New Zealand company exporting electrical meters to Finland was pleasantly surprised to discover that their products would automatically be accepted in the voluntary sector because of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) to which IANZ is signatory. The test report for the electrical meters was issued by a laboratory accredited by IANZ, and the Finnish accreditation authority (FINAS) accepted the New Zealand laboratory 's test report based on the ILAC MRA. This saved considerable time and money for the New Zealand exporter who without a MRA in place, would otherwise have had to have their product retested in Finland.

9. Bottle Teats for Baby Bottles arrive from Britain

Ensuring their children 's safety is a concern for all parents, and this extends to items taken for granted as being safe, such as the rubber teat on the end of a baby 's bottle. However, teats must be tested for nitrosamine, a substance that occurs on rubber products and there is evidence that nitrosamines may contribute to brain tumours. The Ministry of Health recognises the importance of ensuring that teats arriving in New Zealand are free of nitrosamine, and tests undertaken in accredited laboratories have ensured a safe supply of bottle teats in New Zealand. The Ministry of Health insists nitrosamine tests be undertaken in accredited laboratories, and test reports for imported teats are expected to be from accredited laboratories too. Recently, British baby bottle teats arrived in New Zealand, their integrity assured by the test report being from a laboratory accredited by UKAS, the British equivalent to IANZ. UKAS and IANZ are both signatories to the ILAC MRA, whereby tests from accredited laboratories from ILAC MRA signatories are considered as equivalent to tests undertaken in laboratories accredited by IANZ.