

STATEMENT FROM MPI 29/3/2020 4.30pm

RE: Registering Covid-19 Safe Practice for Essential Business/Service.

We want to support you through this process and appreciate your cooperation at what is a challenging time.

We would now like to outline the next steps in the verification process as we seek assurance from essential businesses and support services that they are implementing safe practices to protect workers and prevent the spread of COVID-19 during Alert Level Four.

Our staff have been reviewing registrations over the weekend, and based on this we may need to follow up with emails, phone calls or in some cases, site visits from Monday 30 March.

If our staff need to visit you, they will carry MPI identification (with some being Warranted Officers) and will be conducting their duties safely by following Ministry of Health guidelines around social distancing and proper hygiene.

MPI will generally advise of verification visits on the day. If you have any specific PPE measures or site-specific issues, please flag this on the call prior to the verifier's arrival. Not all visits will be notified.

If you are visited, verifiers will ask some questions about your registration and may wish to view how you are putting in place the plans you included in your registration. Where issues are identified, these will be talked through with actions identified and noted. This could also involve a follow-up visit.

In the meantime, if you are an essential primary industries service or provide an essential support service, please continue to implement safe practices to protect workers and prevent the spread of COVID-19, and please keep operating.

Thank you for doing all you can to protect New Zealand.

Bryan Wilson

Deputy Director-General New Zealand Food Safety