

CHAPTER 15

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 15.1: Joint Commission

1. The Parties hereby establish the Singapore – New Zealand Closer Economic Partnership Joint Commission, composed of government representatives of each Party at the level of senior officials. Each Party shall be responsible for the composition of its delegation.
2. The Joint Commission shall:
 - (a) consider any matters relating to the implementation of this Agreement;
 - (b) review the general functioning of this Agreement;
 - (c) consider any proposal to amend this Agreement;
 - (d) supervise the work of all committees established under this Agreement as well as other joint activities conducted under this Agreement; and
 - (e) consider any other matter that may affect the operation of this Agreement.
3. The Joint Commission may:
 - (a) establish additional committees and working groups, refer any matter to a committee or working group for advice and consider any matter raised by a committee or working group established under this Agreement;
 - (b) further the implementation of this Agreement's objectives through implementing arrangements, provided that the negotiation, modification or amendment of implementing arrangements shall be consistent with the rights and obligations of the Parties under this Agreement and shall not constitute amendments to this Agreement under Article 16.15 (Amendments);
 - (c) explore measures for the further expansion of trade and investment between the Parties;
 - (d) seek to resolve differences or disputes that may arise regarding the interpretation or application of this Agreement;
 - (e) seek the expert advice of non-governmental persons or groups on any matter falling within its functions where this would help the Joint Commission make an informed decision; and
 - (f) take such other action in the exercise of its functions as the Parties may agree.

Article 15.2: Meetings of the Joint Commission

1. The Joint Commission shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of the Protocol. The Joint Commission's subsequent meetings shall be held at such frequency as the Parties may agree. Ad hoc meetings of the Joint Commission may be convened within 30 days of the request of either Party, as mutually agreed by the Parties.
2. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, meetings of the Joint Commission shall be held alternately in the territory of each Party and shall be chaired successively by each Party. The Party chairing a meeting of the Joint Commission shall provide any necessary administrative support for such meeting.
3. The Joint Commission shall take decisions on any matter within its functions by mutual agreement.

Article 15.3: Committee on Biosecurity, Food and Primary Products

1. The Parties agree to establish a Committee on Biosecurity, Food and Primary Products comprising representatives of the competent authorities of the Parties. The primary competent authorities and contact points for the committee shall be set out in an implementing arrangement.
2. The committee may agree to establish technical working groups consisting of expert-level representatives of the Parties, which shall identify and address technical and scientific issues arising from Chapter 5 (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures). When additional expertise is needed, the membership of these groups need not be restricted to representatives of the Parties.
3. The committee shall consider any issues between the Parties in relation to biosecurity, food, and primary products, including any matter related to the implementation of Chapter 5 (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures).
4. The objectives of the committee are to:
 - (a) facilitate trade, including through seeking to resolve trade access issues where they arise, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement;
 - (b) provide a forum for improved communication and consultation between the Parties so as to avoid unnecessary barriers to trade; and
 - (c) explore areas for further cooperation between the Parties.
5. In order to give practical effect to the objectives set out in paragraph 4, the committee may, in a manner consistent with other provisions in this Agreement:
 - (a) establish, monitor and review work plans; and

- (b) initiate, develop, adopt, review and modify implementing arrangements in relation to any matter, including on technical matters which further clarify the provisions of this Agreement, in order to facilitate trade between the Parties.

6. The implementing arrangements referred to in paragraph 5 initially include the following:

- (a) Arrangement between New Zealand and Singapore on Competent Authorities and Contact Points;
- (b) Arrangement between New Zealand and Singapore on the Recognition of the Equivalence of Foreign Disease and Pest Control and Zoning Measures as They Apply to Trade; and
- (c) Arrangement between New Zealand and Singapore on Recognition of Measures and Status.

7. Implementing arrangements developed or modified under paragraph 5 shall commence within three months of the date on which those arrangements or modifications are agreed by the committee unless otherwise mutually determined.

8. The committee shall meet within one year of the entry into force of the Protocol and annually thereafter or as determined by the committee. The committee may meet in person, by teleconference, video conference, or by any other means determined by the committee. The committee may also consider matters through correspondence.

9. At the first meeting of the committee, the committee shall establish its rules of procedure.

10. The committee shall report regularly to the Joint Commission on its activities.

Article 15.4: Review

Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the Parties shall undertake a general review of the Agreement with a view to furthering its objectives within five years of the entry into force of the Protocol and shall conduct subsequent general reviews at least every three years thereafter.