

Sample and Research Permit Information for the Continental Side of Antarctica

1. What are ACA, USDA , CDC, ERMA, and MAF permits and how do they pertain to me?

The Antarctic Conservation Act (ACA) is a US law that protects native Antarctic mammals, birds, plants, and their ecosystems. ACA permits are required to enter Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Specially Protected Areas (ASPA), to interact with wildlife, and for certain types of samples. In addition, any time you enter one of these areas, you must have a copy of the permit with you. For more information on the ACA and ACA permits contact Nadene Kennedy at the National Science Foundation, nkennedy@nsf.gov. A lead time of **90 days** is required to process permit applications. Additional information can be found at http://www.nsf.gov/od/opp/antarct/aca/nsf01151/aca1_intro.pdf . It is the responsibility of the PI to obtain and bring copies of the appropriate ACA permits.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/index.shtml regulates importation of soil and microorganisms into the US. Sediment and soil are examples of items that require USDA permits. The USDA is less concerned with importation of rocks and geological samples, however it is the responsibility of the PI to determine if a USDA permit is required. Permits can take up to **16 weeks** for clearance.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) <http://www.cdc.gov/od/ohs/biosfty/impptper.htm> regulates importation to the US of infectious agents known or suspected to cause disease in humans. A CDC permit is required to import etiologic agents and unsterilized human and animal tissues that contain an infectious or etiologic agent. It is the responsibility of the PI to determine if a CDC permit is required. Processing time for CDC permits is a minimum of **15 working days**.

The Environment Risk Management Authority New Zealand (ERMA) controls the transshipment of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) and new organisms through NZ. Transshipment of GMO's and new organisms requires that a current ACA permit is sent in with the application for the ERMA. It is the PI's responsibility to apply for an ERMA permit through the POLARICE SIP process. Contact your RPSC POC with questions. The application period is at least **65 days**. Refer to RPSC SOP LO-C-659f for further information.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Bio-security New Zealand (MAFBNZ) regulates material transport through and importation into New Zealand. All samples, from rocks to DNA to water, must be accompanied by a MAFBNZ permit (known simply as a 'MAF' permit) received from RPSCNZ for transport into or through New Zealand. In other words, all samples must be accompanied by a MAF permit to be allowed into New Zealand for further transport to any other country. A MAF permit from a New Zealand institution is needed for all samples being imported into New Zealand. MAF permits are a completely separate entity from ACA, USDA, and CDC permits, pertaining

exclusively to material transport through and into New Zealand. A MAF permit will most likely be required if an ERMA is required. It is the PI's responsibility to apply for a MAF permit through the POLARICE SIP process. Contact CHC-MAFpermits@usap.gov in Christchurch or your RPSC POC with questions.

2. What kinds of permits do I need if I am bringing controlled drugs to the Ice?

Appropriate US State and Federal permits are necessary for possession and transport of controlled drugs (e.g. ketamine, valium, etc).

In addition to the US permits, under NZ regulations it is required to have approval for transshipment of controlled drugs from **NZ Food Safety Authority** and **Medsafe**. No MAF permit is necessary. In the past, these agencies have required a certified veterinarian carry these drugs, but as rules and regulations are always changing, this may not always be the case. NSF and RPSC will work with you to insure it is possible to get the drugs to the ice, even if you do not have a veterinarian on your research team.

To request the permits, contact CHC-MAFpermits@usap.gov in Christchurch. You will need to provide information about the amounts, forms and strengths of the controlled drugs as well as the date you are arriving in New Zealand and the date you are flying to Antarctica. This information must be submitted **10-12 weeks** in advance of your deployment. Once all the paperwork is in order, you will be issued a letter to carry with you to show to customs at official stopover points. Refer to RPSC SOP LO-C-659f for further information.

3. Do I need a MAF permit?

A MAF permit is required for transporting samples/materials through or into New Zealand.

- a. Sample traveling via vessel resupply vessel → No MAF permit required. They are exempt because the samples remain onboard the vessel and do not physically enter New Zealand.
- b. Sample traveling via aircraft through New Zealand → Yes MAF permit is required.
- c. Sample traveling via research vessel and disembarking in NZ → Yes MAF permit is required.

The following table, which is incomplete, lists samples regulated by MAF. Water, animal tissue, and sediment all require permits to transport through New Zealand.

Sample	Permit Req'd	Description
Soil/Rock/Sediment		MAF issues an additional permit for samples likely to contain organic material, please specify whether or not your samples are likely to contain organic material
Clay	YES	A layer of earth usually sticky in nature <i>without organic material</i>
Rock/Gravel	NO	Rock or gravel <i>visually free of</i>

		<i>organic material</i>
Sand	YES	Loose granular substance formed from worn down rocks <i>containing organic material</i>
Soil	YES	The upper layer of earth <i>containing a mixture of organic material</i> , sand, gravel, clay, and silt
Sediment	YES	Specify origin (lake, stream, marine) and <i>whether or not it is likely to contain organic material</i>
Ash	YES	
Dust	YES	
Water/Snow/Ice		Identify source and specify whether or not water contains organic material and/or microorganisms
Lake water	YES	
Stream water	YES	
Seawater	YES	
Snow	YES	
Ice	YES	Specify origin, ie- glacial, lake ice, sea ice, etc.
Plant Material		
Fungal, bacterial, algae cultures	YES	Specify origin, ie- lake, marine sediment, etc.
Moss, lichen	YES	
Phytoplankton	YES	
Biological Products of Animal Origin		
Marine or freshwater fish	YES	
Plankton	YES	
Microorganisms	YES	Specify origin: lake water, soil, etc.
Live specimens	YES	Specify, ie- marine invertebrates, bacteria, etc.
DNA/RNA/purified proteins	YES	
Animal tissue (non – human)	YES	Specify, ie- seal bone, penguin muscle, fish heads, etc.

Animal fluids(non – human)	Yes	Specify origin, ie- seal scat, penguin blood, etc.
Shells	Yes	Specify age and origin

NB: Air samples and human blood and tissue do not require MAF permits, however, goods should be declared to a MAF officer upon entry to New Zealand.

4. What type of MAF permits are there?

There are only two types of permits.

Permit to import laboratory specimens

This permit allows for the transshipment of plant material, soil and water. This includes fungal, bacterial or algae cultures, moss or lichen samples, soil, rock, gravel, sand, clay and sediment as well as freshwater, seawater, snow and ice samples.

Permit to import biological products of animal origin

This permit allows for the transshipment of biological samples, bones and shells in transit as well as freshwater fish product and lead and asbestos samples.

5. Which application form do I need?

There are 3 form types for MAF permits, A,B, and C, that reflect the final destination of the samples. This allows RPSC and RPSCNZ to know where your samples are going. This is not an official MAF application – RPSCNZ will take care of that part.

- a. Form **A**- Final destination, Antarctica. Samples travel from origin, through New Zealand, to Antarctica.
- b. Form **B**- Final destination, New Zealand. Importing samples from Antarctica into New Zealand.
- c. Form **C**- Final destination, US or country other than New Zealand. Samples originate in Antarctica, and travel through New Zealand to final destination.

6. How do I obtain a MAF permit?

Prior to submission of your SIP in POLARICE, simply complete the permit section in its entirety, including MAF permit applications for each individual who intends to transport samples. Following submission of your SIP, permit applications will be retrieved and processed by RPSC and RPSNZ staff.

To request an application after submission of your SIP, contact CHC-MAFpermits@usap.gov in Christchurch. You will receive a word document which should be filled out in its entirety and then returned electronically. Signatures are not necessary for electronic submission.

Alternatively, contact your RPSC POC and/or the Crary Lab Staff for assistance.

7. Why shouldn't I apply for a MAF permit while on the Ice?

In previous years we have had a significant number of Grantees on the ice with insufficient or no MAF permits. Often the request for a permit came within days of re-

deployment and, in some cases, the same day. Although we have been able to obtain permits in McMurdo via fax from New Zealand, this places considerable burden on the Christchurch and Crary Staff and is not a guaranteed process. As a result, we do not suggest nor encourage applying for permits while on the ice.

8. What happens if I don't apply for a MAF permit?

If you attempt to transport or ship samples through or into New Zealand without a MAF permit, MAFBNZ will detain your samples in Auckland or Christchurch and hold them in bond until the appropriate MAF permit is presented. Without a permit, delay of sample shipment is imminent and you risk the loss of samples.

9. What if circumstances and/or research change while on the Ice?

We acknowledge the potential for unforeseeable opportunities to collect samples and we will facilitate a permit application under such circumstances. However, please submit permit applications for all anticipated sample transport prior to deployment. It is preferable to apply for and not use a MAF permit, rather than request one at the last minute.

10. Where do I pick up my MAF permit?

Approved MAF permits will be sent to the Crary Lab at McMurdo Station. Following your inbrief, you will attend a lab orientation, at which time you should confirm that your MAF permits have been received. Crary Lab Staff will retain your permit(s) until redeployment or sample shipment.