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## Health and safety duties for businesses that import products for workplaces

This fact sheet is for businesses or undertakings that import products that may be used at a workplace.

As an importer you can eliminate or minimise health and safety risks by importing products (this could be plant, substances or structures) that are safe for the people that come into contact with them.

Often it is more efficient and cost-effective to import products that are safe for use, than for end-users to retrofit health and safety solutions to poorly designed or made products.

### Who is an importer?

An importer is a business or undertaking by or for whom goods are imported. Importing means the arrival of goods in New Zealand in any manner, from a point outside New Zealand. For a full legal definition of importer see: [section 2\(1\) of the Customs and Excise Act 1996](#)

### What are your duties?

In addition to your primary duty of care, under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 you must also (so far as is reasonably practicable):

- make sure the products you import do not create health and safety risks to the people that use them and those nearby
- make sure the products you import have been tested so they are safe for use in a workplace

- Give the following information to those you provide your products to:
  - your product's purpose or intended use
  - the results of calculations and tests
  - any general and current relevant information about how to safely use, handle, store, construct, inspect, clean, maintain, repair, or otherwise work near the products you have imported.

These requirements apply across your product's entire lifecycle - from construction or assembly, through to everyday use, decommissioning and disposal.

### Imported products must meet all New Zealand regulatory requirements

You must also make sure imported products meet all New Zealand regulatory requirements relevant to that product.

### Further information

WorkSafe special guide:

[Introduction to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

WorkSafe fact sheet: [Reasonably Practicable](#)

### Relevant legislation

[Section 41 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015](#)

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