

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

Protecting health while enabling Pacific trade

Safe Trade Done the Right Way

How PACER Plus protects people, plants, and animals while keeping Pacific exports moving



Every country has the right to protect its people, animals, and plants from unsafe food, pests, and disease. PACER Plus recognises this and helps ensure these protections are fair, science-based, transparent, and not used to block trade unfairly.

What SPS Measures Are

Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are rules that:



Protect human health (food safety)



Protect animal health (disease control)



Protect plant health (pests and invasive species)

PACER Plus aligns these rules with international standards so trade can happen safely and predictably.

Why It Matters?

Without clear and fair SPS systems:



Exports can be delayed or rejected



Farmers and fishers lose income



Countries face biosecurity and food safety risks

This component ensures health protection and trade go hand in hand.

HOW IT WORKS IN PRACTICE

Science-Based Rules, Not Guesswork

Clear standards. Fair Treatment. Real cooperation.

Science Comes First

Under PACER Plus:



SPS measures must be based on science



They must be applied only as far as necessary



They must not unfairly discriminate between countries

Whenever possible, countries base their rules on international standards such as:



Codex (food safety)



World Organisation for Animal Health (animal health)



International Plant Protection Convention (plant health)

Equivalence: Different Systems, Same Safety

PACER Plus allows countries to recognise each other's SPS systems as equivalent, even if they are different as long as they achieve the same level of protection.

In everyday terms:

If two countries reach the same safety outcome in different ways, trade should still be allowed.

Everyday Examples:



A Pacific fish processor meeting hygiene standards through local systems



A fruit exporter providing produce comes from a pest-free area



A country recognising another's inspection system without forcing duplication

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Bridging the Gender Gap in Agriculture



Bottling the Fragrance of Samoa



FAIRNESS & SUPPORT

Fair Rules That Reflect Pacific Realities

Rights protected. Capacity supported. Trade facilitated.

Transparency and Communication

PACER Plus requires countries to:



Publish SPS rules clearly



Notify trading partners of new or changing requirements



Allow time, usually at least six months, for exporters to adjust

This prevents sudden rule changes that catch Pacific exporters off-guard.

Support for Developing Pacific Countries

PACER Plus recognises that capacity constraints exist.

That's why:



Developing Pacific countries are given flexibility and longer timeframes



Technical assistance is provided through the Development and Economic Cooperation Work Programme



Technical discussions are encouraged before disputes escalate

Who Benefits?



Farmers and fishers exporting food and produce



Food processors and manufacturers



Biosecurity and health authorities



Consumers at home and overseas

The Bottom Line

Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures under PACER Plus:



Protect health and environment



Prevent unfair trade barriers



Build trust between trading partners



Expand safe export opportunities for Pacific countries

They ensure Pacific trade is safe, fair, science-based, and achievable.



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