



# OIML R87

## Hygroscopic & desiccating goods

- Hydroscopic v. Desiccating
- New Zealand case study



## OIML R87

### **Hygroscopic & desiccating goods**

LMO's may permit deviations (both an increase and decrease) in the quantity of product caused by ordinary and customary exposure to environmental conditions that occur in storage and/or distribution in the evaluation of both the average and individual prepackage requirements

## Hygroscopic goods

A hygroscopic product is one that attracts and holds water molecules from the environment

- Common everyday examples are fertilizers, soap flakes, and yeast



## Desiccating goods

NZ Specific Requirements;

Desiccating goods are goods made up in a package that lose weight or volume solely through evaporation after the package is made up





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## Desiccating goods

Marketplace surveillance  
revealed concerns with  
25 kg bags of perennial  
ryegrass seed

Product: Agriseed Perennial Ryegrass		Inspector: Ben Aitken	
Stated Quantity: 25 kg		Lot Size: 12	
Lot Identification: 15017T		Sample size: 12	
Number of non standard packages permitted = 0		Tolerable deficiency (T) = 250 g	

No	Gross (g)	Tare (g)	Result (g)	Weight (g)
1	25030	140	-110	24890
2	25290	140	150	25150
3	25110	140	-30	24970
4	25040	140	-100	24900
5	25020	140	-120	24880
6	25140	140	0	25000
7	25040	140	-100	24900
8	25170	140	30	25030
9	25160	140	20	25020
10	25120	140	-20	24980
11	25160	140	20	25020
12	25160	140	20	25020

Manual Tare

Auto Tare

Print

Save

Result: \* Lot fails weighted average

Test Equipment:	Make:	Avery
	Model:	HL122
	Id:	ER500132
	Date Tested:	15/05/2013

Prepackaged Goods  
Nanning, China  
10-13 April 2018

## Desiccating goods

Investigation by LMO:

- An AQS reference test was conducted at the packers' premises
- First sample failed an AQS reference test; batch was packaged 10 months earlier
- Second sample passes AQS reference test; batch was packaged one month prior

## Desiccating goods

Investigation by the packer:

- The ryegrass seed had an endophyte living on it
- Environmental conditions were the biggest factor
- The prepackages were required to be stored at a temperature of 10 degrees Celsius in a refrigerated warehouse with very low ambient humidity

## Desiccating goods

Defence for packers:

- Some economies have a defence for goods which are deemed to be desiccating
- New Zealand weights and measures legislation offers two defences for desiccating goods

## Desiccating goods

New Zealand defences for desiccating goods:

1. At all times during the **required period** the goods meet the requirements of AQS
2. At any time after the close of the required period, a sample taken from the lot contains **no inadequate packages** (T2 error)

## Desiccating goods

In this case Trading Standards applied an educational approach, which led to the development of resources to encourage compliance throughout relevant industries

### TRADING STANDARDS

#### Desiccating Goods

Goods that lose weight or volume over time solely through moisture loss

##### INFORMATION FOR BUSINESS

#### Desiccating Goods

Some goods which are packaged to a stated net quantity may lose weight or volume over time through moisture loss. This loss of net quantity can occur when the goods are stored under environmental conditions which allow moisture to escape from the package. In some cases packaged goods which lose moisture over time may be considered to be Desiccating Goods.

- The Weights and Measures Act 1987 (the Act) defines desiccating goods as:
- "Desiccating goods means any goods made up in a package that lose weight or volume solely through evaporation when the package is made up"
- Trading Standards will consider and decide if a particular type of good is desiccating on a case by case basis.

#### Desiccating Goods Defence

Where goods are deemed to be desiccating the Act provides two defences, Section 16A(4) and Section 16A(5) of the Act. To utilise either of these defences the packer of those goods must prove evidence that their goods meet the conditions of the defence.

Note: The desiccating goods defence can only be applied to goods which are of the same kind and packaged to a pre-determined constant quantity. It cannot be applied to goods packaged at varying quantities, referred to as "catchweight goods".



HB 1563 4



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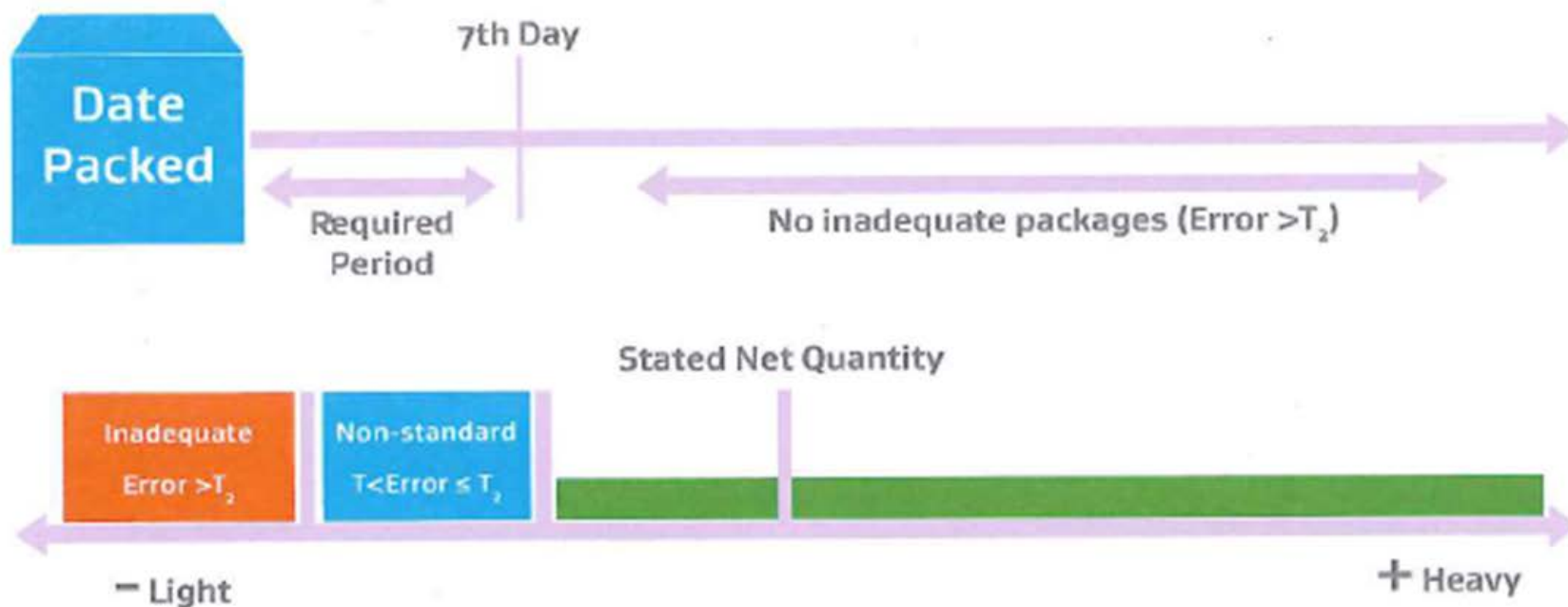
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## Desiccating goods

Diagram 1





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## Hygroscopic & desiccating goods

Thank you for your attention

Any questions?