

## NEW BORDER MEASURES FOR PISUM SEEDS FOR SOWING



The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for setting the import measures that must be met when importing seeds and live plant material into New Zealand. The import measures are put in place to prevent the entry of new pests and diseases that may threaten New Zealand's environment, economy, or human health.

The unwanted organism Pea weevil (*Bruchus pisorum*) was detected (late March 2016) in stored pea seeds held in a warehouse in Masterton. *B. pisorum* is considered a serious pest of peas overseas and decreases the yield for processing (both for human consumption and stock feed) and reduces the germination of seed for sowing.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), following discussions with the New Zealand pea industry, has decided to proceed with an eradication attempt, which will include a 2 year ban on pea production (farm and home garden) in the Wairarapa. The planting ban will stop the weevils from producing their next generation. MPI has put in place a Controlled Area Notice on Wednesday 27 July 2016.

MPI allows fumigation as a treatment for seeds for sowing to manage insect pests. The current Approved Biosecurity Treatments Standard: MPI-STD-ABTRT treatment for seeds for sowing (SST1) recommends Methyl Bromide or 2g phosphine treatment for 7 days. However, further research has determined that it is possible for some pea weevil to survive exposure to a 14 day phosphine fumigation, regardless of the developmental stage of the

pest. This suggests an extended exposure and/or application rate is required and MPI is currently reviewing this treatment to determine the specific requirements needed for the treatment of pea weevil.

### **What are the changes to the import requirements?**

A CTO Direction under section 30A (4) of the Biosecurity Act has been issued requiring fumigation of all lots of *Pisum sativum* seeds arriving into New Zealand for this sowing season. MPI are specifying that the fumigant methyl bromide (MeBr) should be used at the specifications listed in MPI-STD-ABTRT (<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/transitional-and-containment-facilities/requirements/>) at an MPI-approved facility until a revised phosphine treatment is available.

This CTO direction will be in place until MPI has determined the permanent measures to apply to all *Pisum* seed lots imported into New Zealand.