



Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) for Plants update December 2016

NEW PEQ FACILITY STANDARD TAKES FULL EFFECT ON 8 MARCH 2017:

- A new level of PEQ greenhouse, Level 3A, has been introduced as part of the revised standard. MPI are currently discussing with several prospective or current facilities on the provision of space which will meet Level 3A requirements.
- The previous Level 3 PEQ has been re-named as Level 3B under the revised standard.
- All PEQ Facility Operators have received information on meeting the revised requirements of the PEQ standard. Each facility will be audited to ensure they meet the standard requirements.
- PEQ Facility Operators are required to prepare an operating manual, complete training and pass an online assessment before 8 March 2017. This online assessment will be released in December 2016.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR IMPORTS?

There will be no change in the level of PEQ for most imported nursery stock.

- All ornamental plant species currently eligible for quarantine in a Level 1 or Level 2 facility will remain in the same level of quarantine.
- High value crops from offshore MPI accredited facilities are currently held in either Level 2 or Level 3 PEQ (known as level 3B under the revised standard). The same levels will apply under the revised standard.
- All species currently imported into a Level 3 PEQ facility will be expected to enter the same level of quarantine (that is, Level 3B) under the revised standard. Both Level 3 facilities that are currently allowed to import whole plants will be able to comply with the revised requirements, so this will not have any effect for ongoing imports.
- For all species, the level of PEQ will be reassessed when the import health standard (IHS) schedule is next updated, or (for material from accredited offshore facilities) when the offshore facility is next audited. This includes assessing whether the new Level 3A is appropriate for some germplasm imports. For example, as part of the [current review of the Citrus schedule in the nursery stock IHS](#), MPI has proposed options which will allow imports directly into a Level 3A facility, or will allow material to be transferred to a Level 3A facility once initial growing season inspections and certain diagnostic testing has been completed.
- MPI is currently reviewing several IHS schedules, which will include assessing whether crops will be able to be held in Level 3A facilities. For more information on those crops being reviewed please refer to the current IHS work programme: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/plants/>

NEW IMPORT PERMITS:

New import permits for material required to undergo PEQ will only be issued by MPI if:

- The consignment is imported with sufficient time to allow for all requirements (e.g. growing season inspection) to be completed and the consignment to be given biosecurity clearance before 8 March 2017; or
- MPI are confident (based on discussions between the operator and MPI PEQ inspector) that the facility will meet the requirements of the new PEQ standard on 8 March 2017.



LEVEL 3 PEQ CAPACITY WORKSHOP:

MPI, along with representatives from the Germplasm Advisory Committee (GERMAC) and private providers of Level 3 PEQ, held a workshop on 21 November 2016 to discuss issues relating to Level 3 (now Level 3B) PEQ glasshouse capacity in New Zealand. Importation of new germplasm is pivotal for our primary industries to access premium international markets. Restrictions on accessing cost-effective quarantine space are hampering the primary sector's ability to innovate and grow, and in particular the horticultural industry.

The workshop was split into two parts. The first part focussed on determining what are the main causes or problems contributing to a bottle neck in the provision of cost-effective Level 3 quarantine space. The second part of the workshop looked at determining what benefits could be expected if the problems were successfully responded to and how could these benefits be measured i.e. what would success look like.

The group agreed the main problems affecting Level 3 PEQ space are:


1. Uncertainty in the regulatory environment and demand for quarantine space is impeding investment in quarantine facilities
2. Lack of access to suitable quarantine facilities and the required horticultural and diagnostic testing skills is hampering introduction and development of new plant varieties

The benefits of solving these problems are seen as:

1. Increase in New Zealand's global competitiveness in plant development and exportation of plants & plant products.
2. Improved plant production diversity and resilience to future changes and risks.
3. Reduction in time taken to access quarantine facilities.

The next step is for MPI to consider (1) what strategic interventions could be taken to deliver the identified benefits, (2) how these interventions can be packaged into a range of sensible strategic options, and (3) which strategic option is likely to be the most suitable. Once the options have been decided, the group will reconvene to discuss these.

MORE INFORMATION:

The PEQ Facility Standard and associated documents can be found by clicking on the  symbol alongside the heading Post Entry Quarantine for Plants - Facilities Standard at the following website:

<http://mpi.govt.nz/importing/border-clearance/transitional-and-containment-facilities/requirements/>

More information about the consultation process and changes that were made to the PEQ standard can be found at: <http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/draft-facility-standard-for-post-entry-quarantine-for-plants/>