



Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) Update April 2017

General Update

The new Facility Standard: Post Entry Quarantine for Plants took full effect on 8 March 2017. MPI would like to thank those PEQ facility operators who have updated their facilities over the past 12 months to meet all requirements of the new PEQ facility standard.

Many operators have completed the online assessment required as part of the operator training programme and have submitted an operating manual to MPI for approval. MPI Inspectors are continuing to visit active PEQ facilities to finalise operator training and to confirm that all other requirements of the new standard are being followed.

MPI are continuing to engage with all operators of facilities that do not yet meet all requirements of the new standard. As there are a significant number of facilities requiring follow up to ensure they meet the revised requirements, MPI are working as quickly as possible to complete one-on-one operator training and to review operating manuals. MPI's expectation is that we will review and provide a response to each facility operator within 4 weeks of receipt.

MPI are starting to issue new operator and facility approval certificates to those facilities who have updated to meet all requirements of the new standard.

New Import Permits

Please note that plant material can no longer be imported into facilities that do not meet the requirements of the new facility standard. The Plant Imports team will confirm whether a permit can be issued at the time of permit application, following discussion with the MPI inspector.

Timeframes for compliance with new standard

MPI expects all PEQ facilities and/or facility operators to comply with the new standard from 8 March 2017, unless there are exceptional circumstances preventing an operator from meeting the new requirements. One exception is for facilities holding consignments imported on or before 8 March 2016. These facilities will have 12 months from the date of clearance of that consignment to comply with new structural requirements. However, further imports will not be allowed into these facilities until all structural changes have been made.

MPI will use the following non-compliance pathway to manage facilities who do not yet comply with the new requirements:

1. If new operational requirements have not been implemented (i.e. operating manual not yet approved and/or operator assessment not completed)

MPI will issue the facility operator with a corrective action request (CAR) describing the non-compliance(s). The CAR will require that the facility operator submits an operating manual to MPI within two weeks and/or the online operator assessment is completed within two weeks. If these actions are not completed, the facility and operator approval will be suspended, and then cancelled two weeks later if the required actions have still not been completed.



Once an operating manual has been submitted, MPI will provide feedback within four weeks. After MPI has provided feedback, the operator will have a further two weeks to make any necessary amendments to the manual. MPI will then review the manual again, and the operator will have another two weeks to address any outstanding issues. If after that time the manual has still not been approved by MPI a further CAR will be issued, and the facility and operator approval will be suspended and then cancelled as described above.

The process and timeframes outlined in the preceding paragraph will also apply in cases where an operating manual has already been submitted, but not yet approved by MPI.

2. If new structural requirements have not been implemented

Facilities who do not meet all structural requirements by the required date (8th March 2017) will be issued with a CAR requesting that all changes are made within two weeks. If changes are not completed within that timeframe the facility and operator approval will be suspended, and then cancelled after a further two weeks if the facility remains non-compliant.

Operating Manual

Over the past several months, MPI has provided facility operators with various updates about preparing an operating manual. We have noticed some common issues when reviewing manuals. To assist operators, we have prepared a new information sheet, available on the MPI website at <http://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/draft-facility-standard-for-post-entry-quarantine-for-plants/> which collates all the information previously provided about operating manuals.

Please get in touch with the MPI inspector who inspects your PEQ facility if you have any questions about preparing your operating manual, or with any other questions about the new facility standard.