

# What has changed?

## Pest Freedom Survey Standard



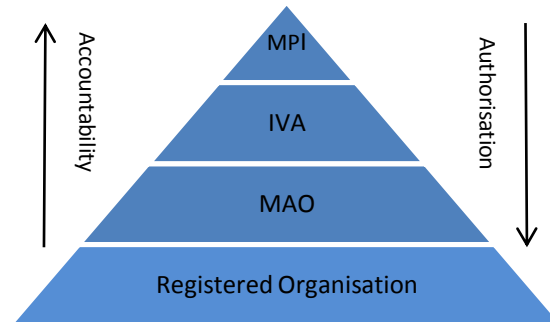
### Background

The Pest Freedom Survey Standard evolved from the historic MPI (MAF) controlled pest freedom surveys and in particular, PCN (production site freedom) and Onion Smut (primarily area freedom). These surveys were driven by importing countries requiring area or production site freedom additional declarations (ADs).

The advent of the IVA in 1998 brought about stepwise change as the regulatory model evolved. This enabled individual IVA's to design and implement pest surveys independently of each other. The expanded rollout of pest freedom surveys to MAO's has been relatively minor and tighter restrictions by MPI over the last five years has minimised the further expansion of MAO pest surveys.

OAP's (formerly compliance programmes) are a recent development and have become more prolific in the last five years as the complexity of importing country requirements increased. A number of these OAPs include a form of pest survey as part of a 'systems approach' to meeting these requirements. MPI has developed OAP's in conjunction with industry sectors and utilised technical experts to assist in the design of these programmes.

Many OAP's have introduced the concept of 'registered organisations' who undertake specific roles within an OAP including pest survey tasks. This in turn has expanded the MPI Plant Exports regulatory model (below).



### What have we changed?

The principles behind the pest freedom survey standard remain consistent but the opportunity for greater flexibility has been introduced in the standard by:

- Providing clarity that pest surveys are a service delivery option for both IVA's and MAO's.
- Placing greater emphasis on the use of production site surveys rather than the more complex area freedom surveys as the means to provide pest freedom AD's
- Providing better opportunities for OAP's to leverage off the pest survey standard when designing pest surveys (where applicable).
- Enabling IVAs and MAOs to undertake pest surveys that are based on an already approved survey designs.
- Making it clearer where documented procedures are required.
- Identifying that all production sites to be surveyed need to be registered and traceability of exported plant products to the production site is via a unique site identifier.
- Providing better linkages with the IVA and MAO standards with regards to maintaining product eligibility after the survey has been undertaken.

### How will this impact you?

This new approach should result in:

**Note: This communication only reflects the significant changes please refer to the applicable MPI Standard for [all changes](#)**

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- Greater opportunity for an MAO to design and/or undertake pest surveys.
- A wider appeal for OAPs to utilise the pest survey framework when designing the survey aspects of an OAP 'systems approach'.
- A standard that will be easier to integrate with other IVA/MAO service delivery options.

### Detailed description of changes to this reviewed Pest Survey Standard

Change	Why?	Impact on existing systems	
All	Reformatted into a 'MPI standards' template.	IVA's/ MAO's may want to adjust their documentation sequencing and numbering to suit.	
All	Re-ordered the sections.		
Part (P) Intro.	A concise overview of who this Standard applies to and why it is important to understand the requirements.	No significant impact. The introduction indicates the standards general effect.	
P 1	New section summarising the key principles for MPI pest freedom surveys.	Builds on the principles contained in the Framework standard and outlined in ISPMs 4, 8 & 10 and how these translate into the undertaking of Pest Freedom surveys.	No direct impact. Provides a benchmark for the rest of the standard.
P 2	Outlines the basis for IVAs/MAOs to gain MPI approval under this standard.	Clarity that the IVA/MAO has options to document procedures for the design and/or the undertaking of pest surveys.	Limited impact if the procedures are already well documented. Clearer expectation on the content of the procedures.
P 2.1	Pest survey design needs to be approved by MPI prior to implementation.	Missed from the standard previously.	Minimal as the pre-approval was already an expectation.
	Expanded criteria where procedures need to be documented.	Provide better clarity of what aspects need documented procedures.	IVA/MAO's may need to review the content of their procedures to align to the new requirements.
P 2.2	New section on registering and allocating production site identifiers. Each production site needs to be mapped and GPS coordinates recorded.	The criteria were missing from the existing standard. Provides better linkages to the OAP production site registration requirements.	Additional procedures not previously required.
P 2.3	Expanded staff competency requirements. Greater focus on understanding risks and the technical features of the pests.	Existing competencies lacking clarity.	IVA/MAO's may need to review their current competency assessments to align to the new criteria.
P 2.4	Clarity that the IVA/MAO needs to document procedures for 'Undertaking the survey'. Content of survey records identified.	Not clearly stated in the existing standard.	Minimal as procedures were previously documented.
P 2.5	New section on maintaining phytosanitary security following the survey. Focuses on responsibility for protection from infestation and harvested product identification.	Bring it in line with both the IVA and Organisation standards and ensure eligibility for certification is not lost through basic errors.	Provides better clarity on who is responsible for what. May mean IVAs/MAOs need to refocus their procedures.

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P 2.6	Reporting expectations focused in the one section and tabulated.	Provide better clarity of what reporting is required and the reporting timeframes	Limited impact as the minimum requirement hasn't changed.
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