



MPI Technical Standard: Pest Freedom Survey

30 March 2015

TITLE

Plant Export Requirement: MPI Technical Standard: Pest Freedom Survey

COMMENCEMENT

This Plant Export Requirement comes into force on the 1st June 2015.

ISSUING AUTHORITY

This Plant Export Requirement is issued

Dated at Wellington this ^{30th} day of ^{March} 2015

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of the Plant Export Requirement, but is intended to indicate its general effect.

Purpose

This standard specifies the minimum requirements for Independent Verification Agencies (IVAs) and MPI approved organisations (MAOs) to meet when designing and implementing production site (or area) pest freedom surveys.

Background

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has developed a series of operating standards to manage the export certification of plants and plant products. This series can be found on the MPI website.

The MPI regulatory model for plant exports operates through authorised IVAs and MAOs undertaking services on MPI's behalf.

Who should read this Plant Export Requirement?

This standard applies to potential suppliers (IVAs and MAOs) of production site (or area) pest freedom surveys (pest freedom surveys) seeking MPI approval.

Why is this important?

Operating other than in accordance with this standard may result in MPI withdrawing their approval of suppliers undertaking pest freedom surveys on behalf of MPI.

Document history

Previous Version Date	Current Version Date	Section Changed	Change(s) Description
1 June 2006	25 March 2015	Whole document	Full review and reissue of this standard.

Other information

The International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures:

- requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites (ISPM 10).
- requirements for the establishment of a pest free area (ISPM 4).
- determination of pest status in an area (ISPM 8.)

MPI Export Certification Standard: Assurance System Framework: including;

- Appendix 1: References
- Appendix 2: Definitions.

Part 1: MPI principles for the establishment of pest free production sites (or areas)

- (1) Where an importing country specifies they require production site (or area) freedom from any specific pests, individual production sites, must be surveyed or tested as appropriate prior to the specific additional declarations (ADs) being provided.
- (2) New Zealand or country freedom from specific pests may be provided where the examination of official records by MPI indicate that the specific pest has not been recorded in New Zealand. The New Zealand pest status list (country freedom list) can be found on the MPI website.
- (3) Production site (or area) pest freedom ADs may be provided where:
 - a) the examination of any official records by MPI identifies specific production site (or area) are free from the specified pests;
 - b) an MPI approved pest survey or test indicates the specific pests of concern have not been detected within the production site (or geographical area) the product is grown in.
- (4) The pest freedom clearance following an MPI approved survey/test lasts for as long as:
 - a) MPI recognised movement controls and pest risk management ensure there is no reasonable chance of the crop under production becoming infested by the pest(s) of concern; or
 - b) for a maximum of one growing season where there are no MPI recognised controls that would prevent the introduction of the pest of concern.
- (5) A pest freedom survey must be based on an MPI approved pest survey design and procedures in accordance with the appropriate requirements of either ISPM 10, 4 or 8.
- (6) Plant material harvested from surveyed and cleared production sites must be identified and traceable to the point of export and protected from pest infestation and substitution from non-compliant plant material.

Guidance

- ADs for inspected and found free statements are addressed by the MPI Technical Standard: Phytosanitary Inspection.

Part 2: General Requirements

- (1) To gain MPI approval to design and/or undertake pest surveys, suppliers must:
- be either an IVA or an MAO;
 - undertake surveys based on an MPI approved survey methodology (refer to Part 2.1);
 - document and implement MPI approved pest survey procedures where required and comply with the minimum pest survey requirements (refer to Parts 2.2- 2.6)

Guidance

- The process for MPI authorisation of IVAs and the requirement for documented procedures are described in MPI Plant Export Certification Standard: IVA Requirements.
- The process for MPI approval of MAOs and the requirement for documented procedures are described in MPI Plant Export Certification Standard: Organisation Requirements.

2.1 Pest survey design

- (1) Suppliers of pest freedom surveys must either adopt internationally recognised survey methodologies or design and document their proposed survey methodologies that addresses information relating to:
- the specific pest being surveyed for;
 - the phytosanitary requirements of the importing country;
 - the statistical techniques used to define the survey;
 - the biotic and abiotic characteristics that influence the presence; distribution and likelihood of detection of the specific pest within the survey area;
 - identification of the boundaries of the area(s) to be surveyed;
 - appropriate technical resource requirements for completion of the survey;
 - the method to be used to confirm the identity of pests detected where doubt exists over the identification of a pest.
- (2) The documented pest survey design must be approved by MPI prior to implementation.

2.2 Registering and allocating production site identifiers

- (1) Suppliers must document procedures that describe how they manage applications for registering each production site and allocate production site identifiers:
- all production sites to be surveyed must be registered with the supplier on behalf of MPI and be assigned a unique production site identifier prior to commencing the pest survey;
 - the production site identifier must be in a format agreed with MPI;
 - all applications for registration must include the GPS coordinates for the production site main entrance and a legible and accurate map of each production site that clearly shows:
 - production site boundaries;
 - property access and roads;
 - the area in hectares;
 - species and/or varieties within the production site; and
 - the position and identification of any traps (where applicable);

Guidance

- Refer to official assurance programmes (OAPs) where applicable, to find the relevant application forms.
- Industry sector unique production site identification systems may be used for pest survey purposes.
- It is recommended to also include on the map:

- true north
 - non-producing areas
 - headlands
 - distinctive landmarks.
- Suppliers are encouraged to have growers attend a pre-season workshop organised by their specific industry sector to gain an understanding of the specific requirements of the pest freedom survey.

2.3 Staff competency

- (1) In addition to the general staff competency requirements and competency assessment procedures specified in the MPI Plant Export Certification Standard: IVA Requirements (refer to Part 2.7) or MPI Plant Export Organisation Requirements (refer to Part 2.5), all pest survey staff must meet the following specific competencies:
 - a) understanding and following written procedures including:
 - i. accurately conducting a survey based on the survey plan and adjusting as appropriate to account for the unique features of each production site;
 - ii. ability to read and understand individual production site maps;
 - iii. clearly communicating any potential findings and the steps taken to confirm their findings.
 - b) understand potential risks, including alternate host species for the pest(s) being surveyed for and the ability to interpret and apply technical support material;
 - c) detection of the nominated pest and/or symptoms, accurately collecting samples and appropriately packaging the samples for dispatch to the nominated MPI approved pest identifier;
 - d) ability to decide on the significance of the findings;
 - e) accurately recording all their findings, decisions made and actions taken.

2.4 Undertaking the survey

- (1) The supplier must document procedures that describe how surveys are undertaken to verify production site freedom from specific pests.
- (2) The survey must be completed as per the MPI approved survey design and procedures.
- (3) Pest survey staff must have access to technical information that assist with the field identification of the pests being surveyed for.
- (4) Any suspected pest findings or symptoms must be appropriately packaged and immediately sent to an MPI approved pest identifier for confirmation of survey findings.

Guidance

- Where production sites are either new to MPI approved pest freedom survey or were found to be non-compliant in the previous 12 month period suppliers of pest freedom surveys are encouraged to monitor these production sites at least weekly during the first four weeks of the harvest period to confirm compliance to post survey requirements.

2.4.1 Pest survey records

- (1) The supplier must:
 - a) capture their survey findings on a survey record;
 - b) ensure their survey records are immediately available.
- (2) Survey records must include the following minimum information:
 - a) survey description;
 - b) production site identifier;

- c) date of survey;
- d) species/variety surveyed;
- e) reference to the approved survey design;
- f) record of any pests or symptoms detected;
- g) pass/fail status of the production site;
- h) surveyor's name and signature.

(3) Survey records must be retained for two years.

Guidance

- Electronic records are acceptable.

2.5 Maintaining phytosanitary security

(1) The supplier must document procedures that describe how they:

- a) ensure product from the surveyed and cleared production site is protected from becoming infested by the pest(s) in question or substituted (mixed) with product that is not surveyed and cleared;
- b) ensure all harvested products from the production site are identified with the unique production site identifier;
- c) manage the transfer of their responsibility for surveyed and cleared product to another IVA/MAO:
 - i) where the supplier elects to transfer their responsibility for the surveyed and cleared product to a non-MAO the supplier must provide the non-MAO with documented procedures to follow that are monitored by the IVA/MAO.

Guidance

- Pest free production site status will be lost if responsibility is transferred to a non-MAO unless this transfer is under the control of the supplier (i.e. responsibility is retained by the supplier).

2.6 Reporting

(1) The supplier must provide their IVA and/or MPI reports to meet the requirements in Table 1.

Table 1: Pest survey reporting requirements

Reports and content	Timeframe
Design issues identified during the implementation of the survey and the proposed corrective actions.	Within 3 working days of detecting the issue.
Survey completion: <ul style="list-style-type: none">identifying production sites surveyed, indicating those sites where the organism surveyed for was found.	Within a month of the survey being completed or 5 days prior to the products leaving New Zealand.

Guidance

- All pest survey approved suppliers and results may be published on the MPI website for access by IVA certificate verification staff.