



Stakeholder Newsletter

October 2015

This newsletter provides a monthly update of the group's activities to our stakeholders to keep you better informed about key work and initiatives in the pipeline.



The New Zealand Food Awards

The New Zealand Food Awards are a highlight on the industry calendar and each year showcase innovation and excellence by New Zealand's largest export sector.

MPI Cultivars/Primary Producers Award

This year the MPI award was snapped up by NZ Hothouse Ltd with its "Strawberry Tom".

Judges at this year's NZ Food Awards have been impressed with the level of innovation in entries across the sector and commented that "the growth and quality of entries is a testament to New Zealand's thriving food industry" and "the New Zealand's food industry is going through a period of growth, with new ideas, new technology and new techniques emerging in the market".



IHS Prioritisation

MPI has contacted several plant germplasm IHS requesters to inform them of their status within the IHS prioritisation work programme. More letters are due out soon.

IHS Consultations

The following standards are progressing through the review process and are expected to be out for consultation over the next few months.

Document	Expected date
Facility Standard: Post-entry Quarantine for Plants	October 2015
Import Health Standard: Fresh and Frozen <i>Tuber</i> sp (truffles) for propagation and consumption	November 2015
Cucurbitaceae seeds for sowing	November 2015

MPI have released import health standard IHS: 155.02.05 *Importation of Seed for Sowing and the Protocol for Testing Seed Imports for the Presence of Genetically Modified Seed* for public consultation.

These replace the current versions and are published with the consultation document on the MPI website: <https://mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/draft-ihs-for-seeds-for-sowing-and-changes-to-protocol-for-testing-for-the-presence-of-genetically-modified-seed>

MPI invites comment on the proposed changes up to 8th October 2015.

IHS Amendments

MPI has issued a minor amendment to IHS: 155.02.05 *Importation of Seed for Sowing* under section 24A of the Biosecurity Act (1993); requiring *Zea mays* seed for sowing from Chile to be tested for virus *Sugarcane mosaic virus*.

The IHS, dated 11th September 2015, replaces the earlier version dated 7th August 2015. The revised IHS can be viewed on the MPI website using this link:

<http://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/plants/seeds-for-sowing/>

Stakeholder Engagement

The latest Germplasm Advisory Committee (GERMAC) meeting was held in Wellington on 10 September.

The committee discussed actions following on from the report *Barriers to importing Plant Germplasm*; GERMAC's terms of reference and progress on the review of the Facility Standard: *Post-entry Quarantine for Plants*.

A presentation was provided by Chris Nixon from NZ Institute of Economic Research on the report *Value of Plants*.

Visit to Egmont Seeds in New Plymouth

Plant Imports & Exports Technical Systems Development team met with John McCullough, General Manager of Egmont Seeds in New Plymouth last month to view the seed cleaning and packeting operation there.



Seed envelope printing and packeting machine

Egmont Seeds is one of the largest importers of flower and vegetable seed in New Zealand and has an MPI-approved Transitional Facility onsite.

Logan Macdonell is the MPI Quarantine Officer for Egmont Seeds. The team observed him in action inspecting capsicum seed and pelleted fennel seed.



Logan in the Egmont Seeds Transitional facility

PEQ Review

The Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) standard sets out the requirements for facilities importing plant material that requires quarantine on arrival in New Zealand.

A review of the standard has been progressing over the past two years in collaboration with a project board made up of MPI, industry and a Crown Research Institute representative.

The draft revised standard is expected to be released for public consultation at the end of October. MPI intends to hold consultation meetings in early November in Christchurch and Auckland to discuss the proposed changes. PEQ facility operators, plant importers and industry body representative will be invited to participate in consultation meetings.

Further details about the consultation will be sent to stakeholders in due course.

MPI representatives met with Plant & Food Research and Pattullo's Nurseries in Hawke's Bay on 8 September to discuss changes proposed for the PEQ standard, and general issues around imports of nursery stock.

Pathway Assessment and Assurance

Draft audit reports for CAV (Central Attivita Vivaistiche, Italy) and CTIFL (Centre Technique Interprofessionnel des Fruits et Legumes, France) have been completed and sent to each facility for review.

Both offshore facilities supply high-health *Pyrus* (pear) and *Malus* (apple) nursery stock to New Zealand and material is generally able to come into a lower level of PEQ in New Zealand than imports from non-accredited facilities.

Plant Imports Fresh Produce and Tonga NPPO are in discussion regarding the NPPO response to MPI's breadfruit pathway audit report.

The pathway for fresh produce treated by high temperature forced air (HTFA) from Fiji is being monitored and discussions for reinstatement of the pathway are underway.

Activities across the Group

Fresh Produce Treatments

MPI representatives from the Plant Imports & Exports group attended a workshop on fresh produce treatments in Auckland on 24th September. The workshop identified key pest issues and research priorities for a number of export industries that were present, as well as proving a valuable networking opportunity.

Seed Quality Management Authority (SQMA)

MPI recently attended a SQMA executive meeting and AGM in Canterbury. This covered a review of activities and issues managed during 2014-15 and priorities for the coming 2015-16 season.

Outcomes of international meetings at OECD, International Seed Testing Association and Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies were also reported.

Independent Verification Agencies (IVA)

MPI held a meeting on 22 September with the four MPI IVAs in Wellington to discuss how the implementation of the new Plant Export Standards are progressing and to address any issues with the process.

Flower Growers Association Conference

Advisers from the Plant Imports team attended this conference in Wellington on 11 September to learn more about import and export issues affecting New Zealand flower growers.

Fruit Fly

The Market Access Contingency Protocol is continuing work on a consultation document for affected industry groups to address the scientific justification for proposed measures within the protocol.

Plant Imports Fresh Produce Team are drafting a stakeholder newsletter to provide an update on the fruit fly working group.

Official Information Requests (OIA)

OIA requests were recently completed for the grain imports spillage that occurred in New Plymouth in early September.

Travel and Meetings

Banana working group	tbc
Codex Committee on Fresh Fruit & Vegetables (Quality Grade) meeting: Ixtapa, Mexico	5 to 9 October
US Technical Bilateral Meeting: USA	7 to 8 October
IPPC Strategic Planning Group Meeting: Rome, Italy	12 to 16 October
Forest Product Exports Committee (FPEC) meeting: Auckland, NZ	19 October
New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Conference: Auckland, NZ	20 to 21 October
APEC export Working Group on Pesticide Maximum Residue Limit: Adelaide, Australia	8 to 14 November

Capacity Building

MPI Plant Imports & Exports team hosted Ross James, a Quarantine Officer from the Falkland Islands. Ross travelled to New Zealand to visit border clearance sites and to gain an insight into New Zealand's biosecurity system. A particular focus was on standard development and risk assessment.

Argument mapping workshop

MPI hosted a workshop led by Dr Tim van Gelder from the University of Melbourne. Representatives from Plant Imports & Exports Group and



Biosecurity Science & Risk Assessment Group, attended this workshop to practice new methods for mapping arguments and communicating risk analyses and risk management proposals for import health standard review and development.

You can read this newsletter via MPI twitter account:

https://twitter.com/MPI_NZ

All previous newsletter issues can be found on MPI's website using the following link: <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/publications/> to go to the webpage **News & Resources > Publications** and then filtering by title: **Plants Imports** and document type: **Newsletter**.

MPI manages a subscription list for this newsletter. If you'd like to receive issues in the future, please **subscribe here**.