



5 July 2019

Dear Stakeholders,

Subject: Standard for offshore facilities holding and testing plants for planting

This letter is to notify you that the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is consulting on a revised standard for offshore facilities holding and testing plants for planting. The revised standard is intended to replace the current standard PIT.OS.TRA.ACPQF: *Accreditation of Offshore Plant Quarantine Facilities and Operators* issued in 2001.

A key principle underpinning MPI's approval of offshore facilities for holding plants and testing plants for specified pests is that MPI is seeking performance and outcomes equivalent to those achieved by onshore post-entry quarantine in New Zealand. The current standard PIT.OS.TRA.ACPQF is no longer considered by MPI to provide assurances that phytosanitary measures applied by the offshore facilities comply with the import requirements under the relevant MPI Import health standard (IHS)¹ for plants for planting.

As with PIT.OS.TRA.ACPQF, the proposed revised standard is intended to facilitate plant germplasm imports by providing the requirements for approving facilities offshore, and which the facilities must comply with during containment, inspections, and testing of plant for planting prior to export to New Zealand in accordance with the relevant IHS for plants for planting. This allows plant germplasm from approved offshore facilities to be exported to New Zealand, with fewer phytosanitary measures to be met in New Zealand prior to biosecurity clearance.

The proposed revised standard differs from PIT.OS.TRA.ACPAF by:

1. distinguishing between the activities of facilities that hold plants for planting and; facilities that conduct tests on plant material for export to New Zealand;
2. requiring a documented system manual and operating procedures;
3. providing more specification around physical and operational requirements with respect to screenhouses and laboratories, including growing conditions, sampling, inspection and diagnostic tests;
4. specifying reporting requirements for pest detections and non-conformances; and
5. providing guidance information to assist facilities to understand conformance requirements.

¹ To date, the MPI Import health standard (IHS) relevant to plants for planting include the IHS 155.02.06: *Importation of Nursery Stock*, and the MPI.IHS.ACTINIDIA.PFP: *Import health standard for Actinidia plants for planting* and can be found at the following link: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/importing/plants/nursery-stock/requirements-documents-for-importing-nursery-stock/>.

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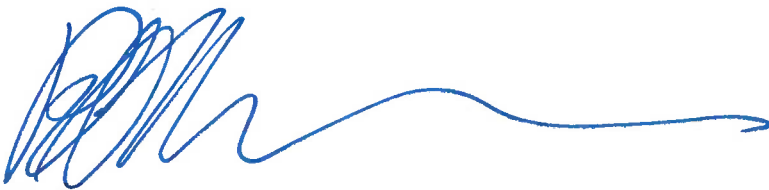
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The addition of these requirements into the standard for offshore facilities is considered by MPI to be important for clarifying what is required to meet MPI's expectations. MPI notes that some of the physical and operational requirements are already in place at the offshore facilities, making the proposed revised standard practical and feasible to implement.

MPI seeks comments on the requirements of the proposed revised standard by close of business on 25/7/2019. Wherever possible, comments should be specific to a particular section of the revised standard and be supported by applicable justification.

All submissions should be directed by email to: plantimports@mpi.govt.nz

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peter Thomson
Director Plant & Pathways Directorate