



## Stakeholder Newsletter

November 2014

### Welcome to the 3rd Plant Imports and Exports (PIE) Group newsletter

The intention is to provide a monthly update of the group's activities to keep our stakeholders better informed about key work and initiatives in the pipeline. You can subscribe/unsubscribe here: <http://ministryforprimaryindustries.cmail1.com/t/d-i-gtdvl-l-g/>



### PIE Group staff updates

Andrew Curtis has joined the group on 12 month secondment from the Wellington border. Andrew has spent the previous 10 years as a Quarantine Inspector and then as Team Leader for the Central Regions.



The role is an ongoing initiative between MPI and Border Clearance Services, which was created in 2013 to work on joint projects and improve communication between Pastoral House and the frontline. One of the first things Andrew will be looking to do is to remove information about clearance processes for goods from Import Health Standards and re-creating this as guidance for Border Inspectors, as part of the format changes in the templates.

### Upcoming Meetings & Travel

Zespri Meeting	Tauranga	6-7 November
ISBGMO Symposium	Cape Town, South Africa	9-13 November
Rose Nursery Stock pre-consultation meeting	Wellington	25 November
GERMAC meeting	Wellington	27 November
USA Bilateral Meeting	New Zealand	tbc December
IAEA Irradiation workshop	Philippines	1-5 December

### Pathway Assurance & Audit

Audit of Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area	Australia	3-6 November
Fruit Fly Management System Review	Australia	10 – 21 November
Audit of GeneScanUS – GMO Testing Lab	New Orleans, US	6-7 November
Pathway assurance assessments for Palm kernel expeller (PKE) imports	Indonesia & Malaysia	tbc November
Export Pathway Reviews	Philippines	8-12 December

### Working Group Updates

#### FreshPAC Onions working group meeting

The FreshPAC Onions Working Group met on 8 October 2014 to discuss progress on the market access request for fresh onions from China. MPI completed an initial draft risk assessment in September and provided this to the working group and external experts for technical review. Comments made on the draft assessment formed



the basis of discussion at this meeting. MPI are now finalising changes to the draft Risk Assessment.

### MPI Fruit Fly Risk Management working group meeting

The Fruit Fly Risk Management working group was formed between MPI and industry for the purposes of increasing knowledge, transparency, understanding and confidence in the management of risk from fruit flies. The group held their first meeting on 15 October 2014, and will initially focus on MPI's work to further improve and clarify the Australia-New Zealand fruit fly risk management system. MPI's upcoming



work in November will include an audit of the Sunraysia fruit fly pest free area and joint work with the Australian Department of Agriculture to review the fruit fly export system.

### Post Entry Quarantine Board meeting

The Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) for Plants project board met on 9th October 2014 to discuss the proposed requirements for the revised standard and the timeline for consultation. It is anticipated that a draft version of the standard will be distributed to industry members, including all PEQ operators, for consultation in March 2015.

### Upcoming Training & Workshops

Lead Auditor Training – (NZOQ) for 3 staff	Palmerston North	17–21 November
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### Verification Services Technical Training Workshop

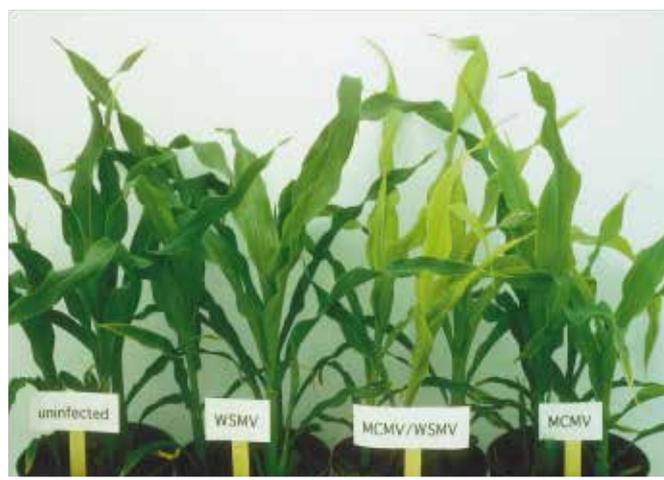
Staff from the group attended a technical training workshop for transitional facility Inspectors in Christchurch on 1 October 2014. The proposed changes to the revised PEQ standard were discussed, along with MPI's expectations for plant quarantine facilities. Some Inspectors were new to the area, so it was a good opportunity for staff to answer technical queries and provide some subject matter expertise to trainee Inspectors. The group appreciated the opportunity to meet new inspectors and other people working within the wider biosecurity network and to strengthen existing and ongoing relationships.

### Standards under Review and Development

Work continues on the draft Export Official Assurance Programme for persimmons to China, and import health standard for Zucchini from Tonga.

### Emerging Risk Assessment

Five emerging risks were notified to the group in the past month. Maize lethal necrosis associated with maize seed from Africa, and Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus associated with watermelon seed from Australia are currently being progressed, and may result in urgent changes to the Import Health Standard for Seeds for Sowing.



Maize lethal necrosis (Photo source: Sheets, 1998)

### Intended Review/Consultation Plan

Document	Expected date
IHS Citrus nursery stock from MPI accredited offshore plant quarantine facilities	Nov 2014
IHS Cut flowers & foliage (new format)	Nov 2014
IHS Capsicum seed for sowing	Nov 2014
IHS Seed for sowing (new format)	Nov 2014
Export OAP apples to Taiwan (new format)	Nov 2014
Export Codling moth OAP for sensitive markets (new format)	Nov 2014
Export OAP apples to Australia (new format)	Nov 2014
Export OAP apples to Japan (new format)	Nov 2014
Export OAP apples to China (new format)	Nov 2014
IHS Zucchini from Tonga (new format)	Nov 2014
IHS Fresh bananas from China	Nov 2014
IHS Fresh onions from China	Nov 2014
Export Certification Mark for Wood Packaging Standard	Nov 2014
Export Pest Survey Standard	Nov 2014
Export Summerfruit to Western Australia	Nov 2014
Export Cherries to Japan	Nov 2014

## International Agreements

You've probably heard it before, "trade is a two-way street". The rules we apply to imported plants and plant products may also be used by our trading partners on New Zealand produced goods, so we need to ensure they are based on scientific evidence and proportionate with the risk.

Over the next few months we will briefly outline the International rule setting environment we endeavour to work in, to provide some context to the work that we do. We aim to cover:

- » the World Trade Organisation's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, and Technical Barriers to Trade;
- » the International Plant Protection Convention's International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures; and
- » Balance in Trade.



## The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is at the heart of the world trading system. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement was negotiated by the WTO and governs how countries apply protective measures to prevent the spread of pests or diseases, for the purposes of ensuring food safety and animal and plant health.

Different countries experience different climates, and prevalent pests and diseases, so import measures can vary depending on the country of origin of the goods concerned. The SPS Agreement recognises this and encourages measures which are based on science and proportional to the risk, so that freedom to trade and the benefits that result from trade can be balanced against the need for biosecurity.

In New Zealand, import measures are specified in an Import Health Standard. Under the Biosecurity Act, there is provision for MPI to make minor or urgent amendments to Import Health Standards without consultation but for the most part, changes to Import Health Standards are consulted with interested and affected parties. Under the SPS Agreement, any new or changed sanitary and phytosanitary requirements which could affect trade are required to be notified to other countries. These amendments are also notified to the WTO through the National Plant Protection Office contact points, allowing up to 60 days for member countries to comment.

The systematic communication of information and exchange of experiences among the WTO's member governments provides a better basis for national standards and increased transparency protects the interests of consumers, as well as of trading partners.

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