



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

AQIS HORTICULTURE EXPORTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (HECC) BULLETIN

Volume 1 April 2004

The Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee (HECC) met on 22 March 2004 in Sydney. Items for discussion included:

Communication strategy

- ❖ The AQIS HECC webpage has been improved and now includes links to:
 - ◆ PHYTO alerts
 - ◆ PHYTO database
 - ◆ Industry advice notices
 - ◆ Horticulture export fees and guidelines
 - ◆ EXDOC (grain and horticulture)
 - ◆ EXDOC Plant Programs newsletter
 - ◆ AQIS HECC Bulletin
 - ◆ HECC meeting dates
 - ◆ HECC committee members
 - ◆ HECC meeting agenda/details
- ❖ To view the new AQIS HECC webpage, click ***here***

Horticulture Exports Program – performance and financial management

- ❖ Program revenue is currently on a downward trend. This has been due to the high Australian dollar, lack of availability of quality fruit due to the drought, international competition for traditional Australian export markets and high domestic prices.
- ❖ To address the downturn in program finances brought about by reduced export activity, the committee supported:
 - ◆ cessation from 1 July 2004 of horticulture export fee rebates;
 - ◆ use of funds held in reserve accounts to offset reduced revenue.
- ❖ To improve AQIS efficiency, Electronic Lodgement of Service Advice (ELSA) is to be fully implemented in the Horticulture Exports Program by end of June 2004. ELSA allows service advice information to be recorded on a tablet-computing device at the time of inspection.
- ❖ Applications for funding of projects from the Industry Initiative Fund are still being processed. Applicants will be advised of outcomes when final decisions have been made.

Subcommittee activity

- ❖ The HECC subcommittees met by teleconference on the following dates:
 - ◆ Finance subcommittee 5 February 2004
 - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 12 February 2004
 - ◆ Communications subcommittee 15 December 2003
4 March 2004

- ❖ The next HECC subcommittee meetings are scheduled for:
 - ◆ Finance subcommittee 27 May 2004
 - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 3 June 2004
 - ◆ Communications subcommittee 10 June 2004

Operational and technical issues

EXDOC update

- ❖ Edition 8 of the EXDOC Plant Program newsletter was distributed in March 2004. To view this most recent edition, click [here](#).

HEP current issues

❖ **Country updates**

- ◆ **Korea:** AQIS is currently working with Industry to implement Korean plant quarantine requirements for the 2004 citrus export season. To view a summary of these requirements click [here](#).
- ◆ **Taiwan:** The final deadline for EXDOC certification for horticulture and grain products for Taiwan is 30 June 2004. All phytosanitary certificates must be electronic effective from 1 July 2004, except in emergencies. For more information click [here](#).
- ◆ **New Zealand:** Agreement on fumigation recognition between Australia and New Zealand has been reached. For more information click [here](#).
- ◆ **India:** As of 1 January 2004, new import procedures for horticulture plant produce have been enforced. All imports into India must be accompanied by an Import Permit. The conditions on the import permit must be met prior to certification by AQIS. The full copy of The Indian Plant Quarantine Order 2003 can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

❖ **Wood packaging material**

- ◆ The International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (*ISPM 15*): *Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade* can be introduced by all countries in 2004. To view the ISPM15 guidelines click [here](#).
- ◆ AQIS is currently adapting import and export systems to accommodate the implementation of ISPM 15. In the interim, AQIS has sought agreement from countries to accept a phytosanitary certificate endorsed by AQIS to indicate wood packaging in the consignment has been treated appropriately.

❖ **New technologies update**

- ◆ **Pesticides treatments brief:** The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) have released a review scope document on the use of the insecticides, dimethoate and omethoate. For more information from the APVMA, click [here](#).
- ◆ **US Home Security Act:** New US regulations require all exporters of food and animal products, other than meat, poultry and eggs, to register with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA has reopened the comment period on this rule for 30 days. For more information click [here](#).

Biosecurity Australia

- ❖ Bilateral discussions were held with:
 - ◆ USA in January 2004
 - ◆ Japan in February 2004
 - ◆ India (via video conference) in March 2004
 Outcomes from these discussions are still being finalised.

- ❖ Proposed bilateral discussions are scheduled to occur with:
 - ◆ China in April 2004
 - ◆ Korea in June 2004
 - ◆ New Zealand in September 2004
- ❖ Information relating to Biosecurity Australia can be reached by clicking ***here***.

Review of legislation

- ❖ The Horticulture Exports and Grains Programs are undertaking a review of the legislation related to the export of grains, plants and plant products.
- ❖ The following legislative orders (Grains, Plants and Plant Products Orders, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Orders and Dried Fruit Orders) are to be amalgamated into one set of orders.
- ❖ Comments from Industry on the draft orders will be sought.

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With any queries, suggestions or requests for further information.

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