



# AQIS HORTICULTURE EXPORTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (HECC) BULLETIN

Volume 2: September 2004

The Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee (HECC) met on 26 July 2004 in Canberra. Items for discussion included:

## Horticulture Exports Program – performance and financial management

- ❖ Industry Initiative Fund (IIF) Applications have been finalised and applicants advised of the outcome that no projects sufficiently met the criteria for funding for inspection and certification efficiencies.
- ❖ At the end of the 03/04 financial year the Horticulture Exports Program had a significant deficit. In part, this is due to fee reductions introduced 1 March 2004.
- ❖ The committee agreed that IIF monies be moved into industry liability accounts and used to offset the program deficit and maintain fee reductions. This is consistent with AQIS financial guidelines to return previously over-recovered monies to industry.
- ❖ The committee discussed the 04/05 budget. The program anticipates another deficit this year due to maintaining fees at reduced levels and the competitive export environment. It expects to utilise monies in industry liability accounts to address this deficit.

## Revenue Re-Engineering

- ❖ AQIS is currently in the initial stages of replacing paper On The Spot invoices with Tablet PC's that allow point and click entry of client service information on a tablet screen.
- ❖ Full tablet implementation is expected by the end of December 2004.
- ❖ Tablets will streamline AQIS financial systems, improve efficiency in the Horticulture Export Program and reduce costs.

## Subcommittee activity

- ❖ The HECC subcommittees met by teleconference on the following dates:
  - ◆ Finance subcommittee 1 June 2004
  - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 3 June 2004
  - ◆ Communications subcommittee 10 June 2004
- ❖ The next HECC subcommittee meetings are scheduled for:
  - ◆ Finance subcommittee 30 September 2004
  - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 7 October 2004
  - ◆ Communications subcommittee 14 October 2004

## Operational and technical issues

### EXDOC update

- ❖ Edition 9 of the EXDOC Plant Program newsletter was distributed in June 2004. To view this most recent edition, click [here](#).

- ❖ AQIS Horticulture Exports is proposing to review varietal descriptions on Phytosanitary certificates in line with current legislation requirements. AQIS is inviting industry to comment on this proposal and possible impacts of the amendment. For background information of this issue click [here](#). Comments are to be emailed to [hecc@aqis.gov.au](mailto:hecc@aqis.gov.au) by 1 November 2004.
- ❖ Implementation of the Australian Customs Service new Integrated Cargo System is scheduled for 6 October 2004, AQIS recommends that all EXDOC uses obtain a backup digital certificate. For more information on digital certificates click [here](#).

## HEP current issues

- ❖ **Citrus Canker Outbreak in Australia**
  - ◆ For further information on the citrus canker outbreak either: visit the QDPIF website – click [here](#) or visit the DAFF website – click [here](#).
  - ◆ For updated information on overseas market requirements for Australian citrus fruit click [here](#).
- ❖ **Country updates**
  - ◆ **Thailand:** The new export citrus protocol has been signed. New requirements are being implemented and the **PHYTO database** has been updated. For further information on where you can obtain a copy of the draft protocol click [here](#).
  - ◆ **Taiwan:** The next BAPHIQ audit to visit and approve fumigation and cool room facilities for fruit fly produce exports to Taiwan is proposed for late October 2004.
  - ◆ **Malaysia:** As of 3 June 2004 the Malaysian Crop Protection and Plant Quarantine Services Division has agreed to remove current mandatory heat treatment requirements for 87 species of Australian dried flowers. For more information click [here](#).
- ❖ **Wood packaging material**
  - ◆ AQIS is currently adapting import and export systems to accommodate the implementation of ISPM 15. For further information on this issue click [here](#).
- ❖ **New technologies update**
  - ◆ **Methyl Bromide Fumigation brief:** The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) intend to regulate the use of methyl bromide for quarantine and pre-shipment applications. Draft regulations can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

## Biosecurity Australia

- ❖ Bilateral discussions were held with:
  - ◆ Korea in April 2004
  - ◆ India in June 2004
 Outcomes from these discussions are still being finalised.
- ❖ Proposed bilateral discussions are scheduled to occur with:
  - ◆ New Zealand in September 2004
  - ◆ Malaysia in October 2004
  - ◆ Fiji in October 2004
- ❖ Information relating to Biosecurity Australia can be reached by clicking [here](#).

## E-Mail: [hecc@aqis.gov.au](mailto:hecc@aqis.gov.au)

With any queries, suggestions or requests for further information.

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