



# AQIS HORTICULTURE EXPORTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (HECC) BULLETIN

Volume 8: Aug 2006

The Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee (HECC) met on 18 July 2006 in Canberra. Items for discussion included:

## Horticulture Exports Program – performance and financial management

Discussions included current financial performance, 2006/07 budgets and progress on the financial management of the Program. The Horticulture Export Program (HEP) held meetings with Industry on the Programs financial management in late April/ early May.

## Subcommittee activity

- ❖ The HECC subcommittees met by teleconference on the following dates:
  - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 15 June 2006
  - ◆ Communications subcommittee 16 June 2006
  - ◆ Finance subcommittee 22 June 2006
  
- ❖ The next HECC subcommittee meetings are scheduled for:
  - ◆ Finance subcommittee 7 September 2006
  - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 14 September 2006
  - ◆ Communications subcommittee 21 September 2006

## Operational and technical issues

### EXDOC update

- ❖ Edition 15 of the EXDOC Plant Program newsletter was distributed in July 2006. To view this most recent edition, click [here](#).
- ❖ Following consultation with industry, AQIS Horticulture Exports will no longer permit unnecessary product descriptions to be included on Phytosanitary Certificates. For further information click [here](#).

## HEP current issues

### Country updates

- ❖ **China:** Registration and AQIS audits for orchards, packinghouses and treatment facilities was finalised in early May 2006. The finalised registration list was forwarded to AQSIQ on the 18 May 2006. The registration list was received and subsequently accepted by the AQSIQ on 16 June 2006. The acceptance of the registration list by AQSIQ, enables export of citrus under “in-transit” cold disinfestation to commence to China. AQSIQ require “on-shore” treatments to be monitored for the first season. Import permits are required for all exports. Industry has advised the HEP that due to climatic conditions the need for the AQSIQ inspector (scheduled to arrive 3 July 2006) has been delayed.
- ❖ **United Kingdom:** Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK have advised DAFF that the interim conditions developed to ensure continuation of trade will cease in January 2007. Nurseries intending to export to the UK after this date will need to be registered with AQIS. For more information, click [here](#).

- ❖ **Taiwan:** In February 2006 Taiwan formally recognised Tasmania as a fruit fly free area, in addition to their recognition of area freedom for Riverland last year. Trade from other Mainland areas is restricted to tablegrapes, citrus and kiwi fruit under cold treatment.

A detailed work plan for exporting fruit fly host produce from mainland Australia under cold disinfestation is being developed by AQIS. For more information, click [here](#).

- ❖ **Wood packaging material**
  - ◆ There are currently 159 treatment providers and manufacturers certified under the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme. For more information, click [here](#).
- ❖ **New technologies update**
  - ◆ The Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) is currently developing a national strategy for the management of methyl bromide. AQIS are providing input into this strategy as part of a whole of Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry submission.
  - ◆ AQIS is continuing to work with the CSIRO and overseas regulators on ascertaining the regulatory and commercial status of methyl bromide alternatives. For more information, click [here](#).

## Biosecurity Australia

- ❖ Bilateral discussions were held with:
  - ◆ China 20/21 July 2006
  - ◆ USA 25/26 July 2006
- ❖ Proposed bilateral discussions are scheduled to occur with:
  - ◆ India October 2006 (Tentative)
  - ◆ Malaysia October 2006 (Tentative)
  - ◆ Japan October 2006
  - ◆ New Zealand November 2006 (Tentative)
- ❖ Industry is reminded that new market access/market maintenance proposals must first be prioritised by the Horticulture Market Access Committee before any negotiations with importing countries can commence. For more information, click [here](#).

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With any queries, suggestions or requests for further information.

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