



AQIS HORTICULTURE EXPORTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (HECC) BULLETIN

Volume 5: January 2006

The Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee (HECC) met on 25 October 2005 in Canberra. Items for discussion included:

Horticulture Exports Program – performance and financial management

- ❖ The program is currently utilising money in the program's liability accounts to maintain fees at levels lower than actual costs.
- ❖ Financial options were reviewed in November 2005. Further discussions to develop future strategies for the Program's financial management will be held with the HECC early this year.

Subcommittee activity

- ❖ The HECC subcommittees met by teleconference on the following dates:
 - ◆ Finance subcommittee 22 September 2005; 25 November 2005
 - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 15 September 2005
 - ◆ Communications subcommittee 8 September 2005
- ❖ The next HECC subcommittee meetings are scheduled for:
 - ◆ Finance subcommittee 9 February 2006
 - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 16 February 2006
 - ◆ Communications subcommittee 23 February 2006

Operational and technical issues

EXDOC update

- ❖ Edition 12 of the EXDOC Plant Program newsletter was distributed in December 2005. 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](#).
- ❖ The \$150 lost document fee will remain in place for lost/damaged/destroyed EXDOC produced Phytosanitary certificates. The cost for Phytosanitary certificates for any other amendments to Request For Permits (RFP's) at COMP status will be \$10 for the Phytosanitary certificate and the Fee for Service for the time spent on verification and issuance of new documents.

HEP current issues

- ❖ **Country updates**
 - ◆ **Japan:** A work plan has been completed and distributed to Industry regarding fruit fly area freedom from South Australia's Riverland for citrus fruit. Exports commenced in 2005. For more information, click [here](#).
 - ◆ **Thailand:** The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has been informed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Counsellor based in

Bangkok, Thailand that Regulation 11 has now been repealed. For more information, click [here](#).

- ◆ **Taiwan:** On 1 January 2006 Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health, Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ) amended their regulation relating to Queensland fruit fly (*Bactrocera tryoni*) from the previous precautionary status to prohibited pest status.

Under the new regulations fruit fly host produce exports from Tasmania and Mainland Australia other than Riverland area of South Australia are currently suspended.

Taiwan has recently accepted Tasmanian area freedom against Qfly.

The Program is waiting on formal advice from Taiwan with the commencement date for export of Tasmania produce under area freedom from Queensland Fruit Fly, expected to be in February 2006. For more information, click [here](#).

❖ **Wood packaging material**

- ◆ There are currently 139 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, by February 2006, for the management of methyl bromide. The strategy will ensure that Australia meets its Montreal Protocol objectives, in a manner that does not have an inappropriate or unreasonable impact on industry or on Australia's quarantine standards. DAFF was represented at an international methyl bromide alternatives conference in November 2005 in the USA. For more information, click [here](#).

Legislation

- ❖ Three legislative orders relevant to horticulture exports were amalgamated and amended into the *Export Control (Plants and Plant Product) Orders* (EC(PPP)Os) on 24 January 2005 and were implemented on 1 July 2005.
 - ◆ To view the EC(PPP)Os, click [here](#).
 - ◆ Information on Joint AQIS/industry information sessions will be circulated when available.

Biosecurity Australia

- ❖ Bilateral discussions were held with:
 - ◆ China 27 – 28 July 2005
 - ◆ Japan 2 – 4 August 2005
 - ◆ New Zealand 23 – 24 November 2005
 - ◆ Malaysia 28 – 29 November 2005
- ❖ Proposed bilateral discussions are scheduled to occur with:
 - ◆ Fiji 30 - 31 January 2006
- ❖ 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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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY