



# AQIS HORTICULTURE EXPORTS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (HECC) BULLETIN

Volume 6: April 2006

The Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee (HECC) met on 7 March 2006 in Canberra. Items for discussion included:

## Horticulture Exports Program – performance and financial management

- ❖ Discussions included current financial performance and strategies for the future financial management of the Program. The Horticulture Export Program will be holding 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:
  - ◆ Finance subcommittee 14 February 2006
  - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 16 February 2006
  - ◆ Communications subcommittee 22 February 2006
- ❖ The next HECC subcommittee meetings are scheduled for:
  - ◆ Finance subcommittee 8 June 2006
  - ◆ Operational Review subcommittee 15 June 2006
  - ◆ Communications subcommittee 22 June 2006

## Operational and technical issues

### EXDOC update

- ❖ Edition 14 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](#).

### HEP current issues

- ❖ **Country updates**
  - ◆ **China:** Two officers from the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) conducted a certification visit to assess compliance with the protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the Export of citrus fruit from Australia to China. The visit occurred from 6 to 17 March. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) are currently awaiting the outcome of the visit.
  - ◆ **United Kingdom:** DAFF has been informed by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK that the interim conditions developed to ensure continuation of trade have been extended until January 2007. 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.

Taiwan has released the bilateral protocol agreement with intransit preshipment cold disinfestation treatment at the United States Department of Agriculture treatment regime for table grapes, citrus and kiwi fruit exports from Australia, effective from March 2006. Export of fruit fly host produce from mainland Australia has commenced under this agreement.

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 151 treatment providers and manufacturers certified under the Australian Wood Packaging Certification Scheme. For more information, click [here](#).

#### ❖ **New technologies update**

- ◆ AQIS attended the International Methyl Bromide Alternatives Conference held in November 2005, which outlined the current regulatory status of the majority of methyl bromide alternatives being developed in Australia and internationally.
- ◆ The conference outcomes included the world wide trend that more data needs to be provided to country's chemical regulatory agencies for faster regulatory approval. 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:
  - ◆ Fiji 30 - 31 January 2006
- ❖ Proposed bilateral discussions are scheduled to occur with:
  - ◆ Korea April 2006 (Tentative)
  - ◆ China July 2006 (Tentative)
  - ◆ Japan August 2006 (Tentative)
  - ◆ India October 2006 (Tentative)
  - ◆ Malaysia October 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](#).

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

With any queries, suggestions or requests for further information.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry seeks to publish its work to the highest professional standards. The Commonwealth does not warrant the accuracy or currency of the information which comes from third parties. Readers should rely on their own skill and judgement in applying any information to particular issues or circumstances. To the maximum extent permitted by law, the Commonwealth disclaims all liability for any loss, damage, expenses and costs incurred by any person arising out of using or relying on any part of the information provided in this document.