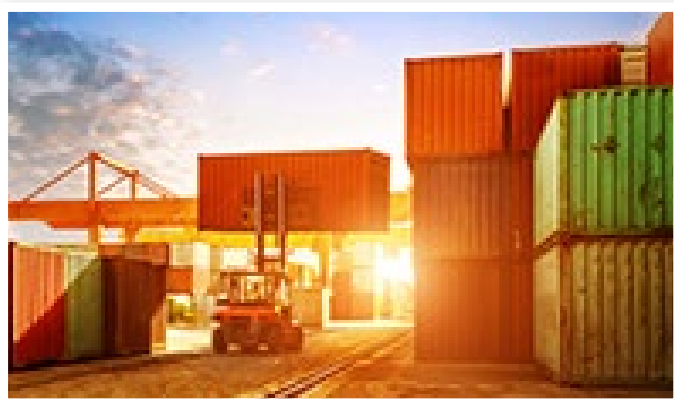




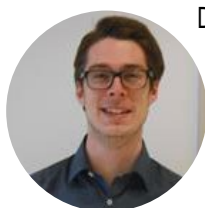
Stakeholder Newsletter

September 2016

This newsletter provides a monthly update of the group's activities to our stakeholders to keep you better informed about key work and initiatives in the pipeline.



Group Update



David Young joins the Plant Exports team as an Adviser. He recently graduated with a Master's degree in Biomedical Science from Victoria University. David will be working on a range of activities in this role including ePhyto and Fresh Fruit and

Vegetables and Summerfruit Offshore Pre-Shipment Inspection (OPI).



Scott Middleton is the new support officer for the Plant Imports & Exports Group, with specific responsibilities covering Plant Exports. Scott has recently moved to Wellington from the UK where he studied Film and Media at Bath University.

Plant Exports

Asparagus Council Conference

Maria Lloyd attended the 2016 New Zealand Asparagus Council Annual Conference in Napier on 12th August 2016. Conference attendees consisted mainly of asparagus growers as well as exporters and a person from an Independent Verification Authority (IVA). Maria provided an update



on Food Safety, Market Access and relevant MPI activities for Asparagus including the Food Act 2014, *Stemphylium* on Asparagus for Japan and the Dichlorvos Residue Assurance Programme. Other speakers included Dr Peter Falloon (new asparagus varieties), Geoff Lewis (*Stemphylium* research), Sarah Sinton from Plant and Food Research (asparagus root carbohydrate monitoring) and Paul Martin, CEO of NZ Gourmet Ltd (local and overseas asparagus operations). The conference provided a useful opportunity to strengthen the relationship between industry and MPI.

Joint Systems Audit

MPI Plant Exports team took part in an onsite joint systems audit with one of our IVAs of a cut flower organisation, as part of their application to become an MPI Approved Organisation (MAO). MPI was impressed with the techniques developed to repackage the *Cymbidiums* without damaging the blooms. As part of the application process the organisation must document an operating system which describes what they do and how they comply with the applicable MPI Plant Export Certification Standards, including any official assurance programmes (OAPs).

Onsite audits are important to provide assurance to our exporting partners that New Zealand's phytosanitary system works and operates effectively. We rely on MAOs to contact MPI with any concerns and/or issues.



Cymbidiums repackaged without damage

STIMBR-MBIE Workshop

Four MPI staff from Plant & Forestry, Market Access and Biosecurity & Environment Groups attended the MBIE/STIMBR Market Access Programme close out meeting on 19 August 2016 in Wellington. The aim of the programme is to future-

proof market access for wood exports through several areas of research.

Progress on exploring alternative fumigants to replace methyl bromide and an update on joule heating of logs and risk based approaches were some of the topics discussed at the meeting. The meeting also provided an opportunity to review the work done and identify priority research and information gaps that need to be addressed.



Plant Imports

Import permits

Every week MPI's Plant Imports teams receives and processes applications, and issues import permits.

Over the past year, Plant Imports has issued a total of 554 permits for products ranging from nursery stock, seed for sowing and grain, to plant products and laboratory specimens.

Import permit applications for plant products are the most commonly received permits within the Plant Imports teams. The plant product permit is used for a wide range of products such as plant products for processing, plant-based fertilisers and growing media, and processed animal feeds of plant origin.

The processing time for permits can range from about 30 minutes to 5 hours. Some permits, such as high value nursery stock permits, can take longer to process.

Under the Biosecurity Act, MPI can only issue an import permit for a product if it is required by an import health standard.

MPI Cost Recovery for Additional Advice, Equivalence Requests and Border Non-Compliances

The Plant Imports teams have implemented processes to charge for the time spent working on equivalences or Chief Technical Officer directions. This relates to non-compliance

issues regarding import health standards or other import requirements. The change is a result of an amendment to the Biosecurity Cost Regulations on 1 July 2015. The cost recovery changes were developed and consulted widely with MPI stakeholders in 2015.

Importers often seek advice from MPI advisers directly, instead of liaising with front-line border clearance staff. This is because quarantine inspector time is cost-recovered, while adviser time is not. Cost recovery for the activities are only applied where importers will gain a private benefit from the time spent by MPI on advice or a decision.

An MPI adviser's time is charged at a rate of \$102.27 + GST per hour. More information on the changes to the Biosecurity Cost Regulations is available on the MPI website.

De-newing proposals

The EPA is calling for proposals to deregulate new organisms. The de-newing or deregulation process seeks to change the status of a "new organism" under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act 1996 to "not new". The change is made by an order in Council and requires Cabinet approval. Some examples of organisms which have gone through this process and been made "not new" include the pest species such as the Australian citrus whitefly and the varroa mite. The submission period is open until 28 September 2016.

Contact the EPA if you have a plant, fungal or animal species that you think should not be considered "new". The proposal form and more information can be found on the EPA website: <http://www.epa.govt.nz/news/epa-media-releases/Pages/Call-for-new-organisms-to-be-reclassified.aspx>

IHS Consultation

MPI invites comment from interested parties via the MPI website consultation page on:

IHS 152.02: <i>Fresh Fruit and Vegetables</i> , Review of the Importation of Fresh Onions for consumption	September
IHS <i>Truffle for Propagation and Truffle for Consumption</i> .	September
IHS <i>Grain and Seeds for Consumption, Feed or Processing</i> – Revised format changes	September
IHS 155.02.06: <i>Importation of Nursery Stock</i> , Review of the requirements for Citrus nursery stock.	September

Upcoming Meetings and Travel

International Congress of Entomology – presentation by MPI on “The Role of National, Regional and International Plant Protection Organisations to Prevent the Introduction and Spread of Plant Pests”	25–30 September Orlando, Florida, USA
OECD of the Heads of National Inspection Services – International Standards for Fresh Fruit & Vegetables	12–14 October, Rome, Italy
Asia Pacific Seed Association meeting	6–8 September Bangkok, Thailand

Previous Newsletters

All previous newsletter issues can be found on MPI’s website using the following link: [News & Resources > Publications](#) and then filtering by title: Plants Imports and by document type: Newsletter.

MPI manages a subscription list for this newsletter. If you’d like to receive issues in the future, please [subscribe here](#).