



# Proposed General Export Requirements for Bee Products

Applicable to all exporters of bee products

MPI Discussion Paper No: 2017/11

ISBN No: 978-1-77665-549-6 (online)  
ISSN No: 2253-3907 (online)

April 2017

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# 1 Submissions

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) proposes to consolidate and clarify existing requirements, and introduce new requirements for all bee products intended for export.

You are invited to have your say on the proposals outlined in this paper and specified in the draft General Export Requirement for Bee Products.

**Consultation closes on 23 May 2017.**

## 1.1 HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Have your say by answering the questions in boxes throughout this discussion document or commenting on any part of the proposals, or the draft 'Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Bee Products'. Note that the questions are prompts to get you thinking about the issues, but your comments are not restricted to answering these questions.

Please include the following information in your submission:

- the title of the discussion document 'Proposed General Export Requirements for Bee Products';
- your name and title (if applicable);
- your organisation's name (if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation), and whether your submission represents the whole organisation or a section of it; and
- your contact details (such as, phone number, address, and email).

MPI encourages you to make your submission electronically if possible. Please email your submission to: [manuka.honey@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:manuka.honey@mpi.govt.nz)

If you wish to make your submission in writing, these should be posted to the following address:

General Export Requirements for Bee Products Submission  
MPI Food Assurance Team  
PO Box 2526  
Wellington 6140

The following points may be of assistance in preparing comments:

- where possible, comments should be specific to a particular section in the document. All major sections are numbered and these numbers should be used to link comments to the document;
- where possible, reasons and/or data to support comments should be provided;
- the use of examples to illustrate particular points is encouraged; and
- as a number of copies may be made of your comments, please use a legible font and quality print, or make sure hand-written comments are clear in black or blue ink.

## 1.2 THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Everyone has the right to request information held by government organisations, known as "official information". Under the Official Information Act 1982, information is to be made available to requesters unless there are good or conclusive grounds under the Official Information Act for withholding it.

If you are submitting on this discussion document, you may wish to indicate any grounds for withholding information contained in your submission. Reasons for withholding information could include that information is commercially sensitive, or that the submitters wish personal information such as names or contact details to be withheld. MPI will consider such grounds when deciding whether or not to release information.

Any decision to withhold information requested under the Official Information Act 1982 may be reviewed by the Ombudsman.

For more information please visit <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources-and-publications/guides/official-information-legislation-guides>

### 1.3 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

MPI will consider all submissions made on the proposals contained in this document. A summary of submissions and MPI's response to submissions will be made available.

The new notice is planned to be issued by 20 June 2017. There is a planned lead in time of six weeks, and the notice will come into effect on 31 July 2017.

Key dates	Action
11 April 2017	Consultation starts
23 May 2017	Consultation closes (6 weeks consultation)
23 May 2017 - 20 June 2017	Consideration of submissions and final review of notice (4 weeks)
20 June 2017	Notice is issued and notified
31 July 2017	Notice comes into effect

## 2 Introduction

### 2.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to consult on the draft Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Bee Products (the draft GREX). You can get a copy of the draft GREX from MPI's website.

MPI is proposing some consolidation and clarification of existing requirements, and introducing new general export requirements for all bee products. In particular, MPI proposes defining mānuka honey and introducing additional traceability measures.

#### 2.1.1 Objectives

The objectives of the proposals contained in this paper are to:

- facilitate market access and ensure the robustness of the assurances provided by New Zealand;
- safeguard the safety and integrity of all New Zealand bee products for export;
- set more rigorous and consistent requirements for honey and other bee products to be eligible for export;
- provide confidence for markets and overseas regulators that honey labelled as mānuka is authentic;
- support the sustainable economic growth of the apiculture industry.

#### 2.1.2 Who should read this

All beekeepers and operators who process or supply bee products for export, and exporters of bee products should read this discussion paper, and the draft GREX. In particular:

- Operators who currently use the term 'mānuka' on their honey labels for export (including operators who have registered trademarks containing the word 'mānuka') should read and understand section 4.5 of this paper 'Labelling of Monofloral and Multifloral Mānuka Honey'.
- All operators of recognised laboratories that intend to carry out laboratory tests for monofloral and multifloral mānuka honey should read section 4.6 of this paper 'Laboratory Tests'.

#### 2.1.3 Why this is important

The draft GREX sets out in one place the most current and proposed additional requirements specific to exporting bee products. It is important that all beekeepers, operators and exporters of bee products understand these requirements, because **bee products that do not comply with these requirements will not be eligible for export**. If bee products that do not comply with this notice once it comes into effect are exported, non-compliant exporters can expect investigation and enforcement action to be taken.

The draft GREX also incorporates existing requirements relating to tutin. It is particularly important that you understand the tutin requirements, because tutin is a toxin that can cause serious illness or death in humans.

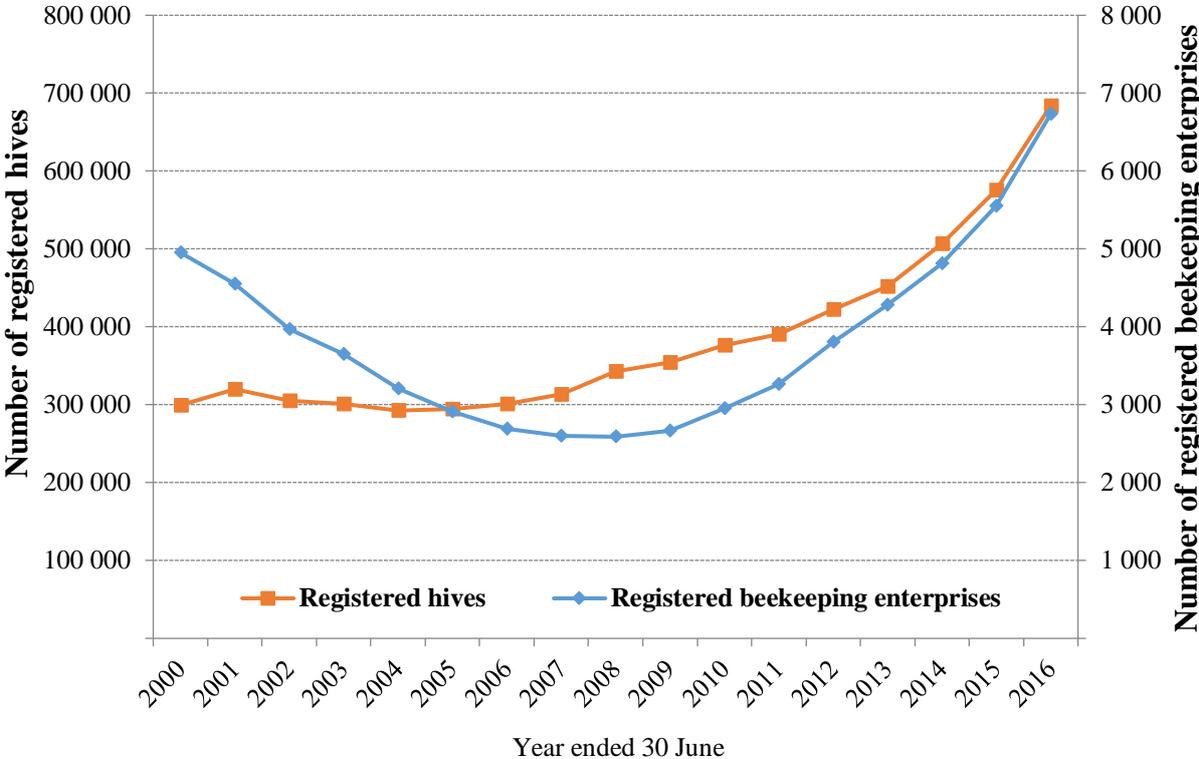
### 3 Background

#### 3.1 GROWTH IN THE APICULTURE INDUSTRY

The apiculture industry is a significant contributor to New Zealand’s primary sector. Pollination services provided by honey bees are estimated at \$5 billion annually. Pure honey exports reached \$314.5 million in the year to 30 June 2016.

There were 6,735 registered beekeepers and 684,046 registered hives as at 30 June 2016. The number of registered beekeepers and hives has more than doubled over the last 10 years (see Figure 1 below). Strong market demand for mānuka honey is driving the increase in hive numbers with expansion led by corporate and iwi investment.

Figure 1: Registered beekeeping enterprises and hive numbers in New Zealand, 2000 to 2016



**Notes**  
 Varroa mite was discovered in New Zealand in 2000.  
 Registered beekeeping enterprises and hives under the National Pest Management Plan for American Foulbrood.  
**Source:**ASUREQuality Limited.

Over a third of all hives are managed by 29 enterprises, with almost 65 percent of beekeepers having fewer than 5 hives. A further 22 percent of beekeepers have between 6-50 hives.

The New Zealand honey crop has been between 17,000 tonnes and 19,000 tonnes for the last four years. The crop for the year to June 2016 was estimated to be 19,885 tonnes. Around 45 percent of this honey is exported each year as pure honey. The rest of the honey harvested is sold for domestic consumption or used as an ingredient in other products. When the domestic harvest is lower, exports of pure honey remain at similar levels due to the high prices, and less honey is available for other uses.

The value of honey exports has grown significantly in recent years. Five years ago New Zealand exported 6,700 tonnes of honey valued at \$101.5 million. In 2016, we exported 8,830 tonnes valued at \$314.5 million. Price increases are driven by a greater proportion of honey being exported in retail packages, rather than as bulk honey, and increasing demand for New Zealand honey. Five years ago only 75 percent of honey was exported in retail packages. In 2016, 93 percent of honey was exported in retail packages.

Our export markets for honey are changing. While the United Kingdom took around a third of New Zealand's honey exports in 2012, this declined to around 20 percent in 2013 and has stayed at similar levels since then. In contrast, Asia is growing in importance as a trading partner for our honey. In 2012, China purchased 11 percent of our honey; by 2016 this had risen to 17 percent. Other important markets are Australia and Hong Kong.

### 3.2 APICULTURE INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAIN

Links in the supply chain include beekeepers, operators, exporters and consumers. An operator may undertake any or all processing activities such as extraction, processing, packing and storage. An operator and exporter can be the same company, but have multiple obligations under the Animal Products Act 1999 and the Food Act 2014 (for example, obligations as an operator and obligations as an exporter).

### 3.3 AUTHENTICITY OF MĀNUKA HONEY

To date, there has not been a definition agreed by industry and supported by sound science that can be used to authenticate New Zealand mānuka honey when sold as a food. Overseas markets and the media have raised concerns about the lack of a regulatory definition to provide confidence in the authenticity of the product being sold. To address these concerns, MPI initiated the mānuka honey science programme in 2014.

The objective of the mānuka honey science programme was to develop robust science-based criteria for identifying mānuka honey that could be used to provide product assurance and demonstrate product authenticity in a regulatory context.

### 3.4 MARKET ACCESS

New Zealand's reputation for food production and export rests on the integrity of our products, the credibility of our systems, and the confidence that markets have in these. Serious concerns have been raised by our trading partners about the authenticity of mānuka honey exported to them.

As the export of bee products has grown in recent years, our trading partners have increased their scrutiny of New Zealand's bee products and our supporting regulatory systems. MPI (along with some of New Zealand's trading partners) has identified the following areas that should be strengthened:

- **Labelling of honey as mānuka:** the lack of an agreed definition for mānuka honey, along with the high price of mānuka honey, and reports in international media that honey is being falsely labelled as mānuka or that more honey labelled as New Zealand mānuka is sold internationally than is produced in New Zealand, risk undermining confidence in New Zealand mānuka honey.

- **Traceability:** it is important that MPI has visibility over the supply chain, and robust systems for traceability of bee products from the hive to retail sale or for export. The proposals outlined in the draft GREX are intended to fill gaps in MPI's oversight of the supply chain.
- **Adulteration of honey:** there have been suspected cases of honey dilution with sugar syrup, and the addition of synthetic chemicals believed to be characteristic of mānuka honey.

Now that MPI has completed its science programme and released its findings (the attributes that identify a honey as monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey), there is an expectation from trading partners that New Zealand will implement the definition and make improvements to the supporting system for exports quickly. Some trading partners will require that MPI certify mānuka honey is genuine.

MPI considers that the recent growth rates in the apiculture industry cannot be sustained unless the definition of mānuka honey is implemented, and improvements to the supporting systems are made. There are direct risks to New Zealand's apiculture industry through the loss of current market share and price premiums. There is also a risk to the wider reputation of New Zealand as an exporter of safe, authentic, high-value products. In the absence of government intervention, it is almost certain that exports of mānuka honey will no longer be possible to some key markets leading to loss of export revenue.

Failure to act decisively risks damaging the wider reputation of New Zealand as an exporter of safe, authentic, high value products. A good international reputation takes time and effort to build, can be easily damaged, and is difficult to rebuild once lost. Even a small loss in confidence in New Zealand's brand for safe food and authentic products could lead to a significant loss in export revenue.

While many of the market access concerns relate to mānuka honey and other honey, there is a need for a robust assurance system to apply to the wider apiculture industry. It is important that the industry as a whole has clear and transparent framework to ensure premium prices are received in overseas markets for all bee products. The framework proposed in the draft GREX is intended to future-proof the system for other bee products.

MPI considers that effective government intervention is necessary to enable trade to continue and the industry to sustainably grow.

### 3.5 CURRENT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The current legislative framework for managing bee product exports is set out below.

#### 3.5.1 Animal Products Act 1999 and the Food Act 2014

Processors of bee products can elect to operate under the Animal Products Act 1999 or the Food Act 2014. Processors must operate under one of these Acts, whether they are producing bee products intended for the domestic or export markets. Anyone who processes bee products (extracts, processes, packs or stores) must operate under a risk-based measure under one of these Acts.

Beekeepers who only keep bees and do not also extract or pack honey (primary producers) are not currently required to operate under a risk-based measure under these Acts.

## *Animal Products Act 1999*

If a processor of bee products wishes to export with an official assurance (New Zealand Government export certification), they must operate under a risk management programme (RMP) under the Animal Products Act 1999. An RMP is a programme designed to identify and manage hazards and other risks in relation to the processing of animal products, and to ensure the resulting product is fit for its intended purpose.

The following countries currently require New Zealand to provide official assurances:

- China;
- Japan;
- European Union;
- United Arab Emirates;
- Korea.

Collectively, exports to markets requiring official assurances account for 31.1 percent of New Zealand's honey exports.

Export requirements for specific countries are found in Overseas Market Access Requirements (OMARs). Current OMARs can be found on MPI's website<sup>1</sup>.

## *Food Act 2014*

If processors of bee products do not require an official assurance for export, they can elect to operate under the Food Act 2014. Extractors and packers of honey operating under the Food Act 2014 can either operate under a National Programme (Level 1) or opt up to a higher National Programme level or a Food Control Plan.

Some beekeepers and processors of honey may still be operating under the Food Hygiene Regulations 1974. These operators must transition to the Food Act 2014 regime by 2019.

### 3.5.2 Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code<sup>2</sup> sets out composition (of the end product) and labelling requirements for all food.

### 3.5.3 Harvest statement and tutin requirements

The Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code sets the maximum levels of tutin allowed in honey. The Food Standard: Tutin in Honey<sup>3</sup> provides compliance options for beekeepers and packers of honey in the domestic market to ensure the maximum level of tutin permitted in honey is not exceeded.

For exported bee products these standards are given effect through the Animal Products (Harvest Statement and Tutin Requirements for Exported Bee Products) Notice 2010<sup>4</sup>. To ensure traceability from beekeepers to RMP operators, the notice requires beekeepers to

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<sup>1</sup> You can find OMARs at: <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/exporting/market-access/omars.htm>

<sup>2</sup> You can view the full Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code here: <http://www.foodstandards.govt.nz/code/Pages/default.aspx>

<sup>3</sup> You can view the full Food Standard: Tutin in Honey here: <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/dv11137.htm>

<sup>4</sup> You can see the Animal Products (Harvest Statement and Tutin Requirements) Notice 2010 and the Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/food/honey-and-bee-products/requirements/>

complete and submit a harvest statement whenever they supply bee products to an RMP operator who is processing the bee products for export with an official assurance. Bee products that are not accompanied by a harvest statement are ineligible for export with an official assurance.

The draft GREX proposes to revoke, update and replace the Animal Products (Harvest Statement and Tulin Requirements) Notice 2010. It should be noted that there is currently no proposal to change currently permissible tulin levels.

### 3.5.4 Official Assurances specifications for animal material and animal products

The Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products 2016<sup>5</sup> applies to all beekeepers, operators and exporters of honey, where the honey is intended for export to countries for which official assurances are required. The Notice sets out the requirements and procedures for the issue and control of official assurances for all animal products including bee products. The Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products 2016 will continue to apply and will not be affected by the proposals in the draft GREX.

### 3.5.5 International requirements

New Zealand is a signatory to Codex Alimentarius (Codex), the international food standards setting system. Codex standards are the foundation for global trade in many products, including honey. Under Codex, a honey may make a monofloral claim if that honey comes “wholly or mainly from that particular source and has the organoleptic [taste, colour and aroma of the honey], physicochemical [thixotropy, conductivity] and microscopic [pollen concentration using microscopy] properties corresponding with that origin”<sup>6</sup>. For such claims, the ‘common’ or the ‘botanical’ name of the floral source can be used.

‘Mānuka honey’ is a monofloral claim. However, because there has historically been no agreed, scientifically robust definition for mānuka honey, MPI has been unable to provide evidence to support official assurances for mānuka honey monofloral claims.

## 4 Proposals

### 4.1 PROPOSED PACKAGE OF EXPORT REQUIREMENTS

MPI has formulated a package of export requirements which are proposed to be included in the GREX to ensure that MPI’s objectives are met, and concerns raised by trading partners are addressed. These are:

- (a) general requirements outlining the responsibilities of players within the honey export chain;
- (b) requirements relating to production, processing and preparation;
- (c) requirements relating to traceability;
- (d) labelling of monofloral and multifloral mānuka honey;
- (e) laboratory tests for mānuka honey;

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<sup>5</sup> You can see the Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/exporting/food/honey-and-bee-products/requirements/>

<sup>6</sup> You can see the Codex Standard for Honey (Codex Stan 12-1981) at: [http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?ink=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FStandards%252FCODEX%2BSTAN%2B12-1981%252Fcx\\_012e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/sh-proxy/en/?ink=1&url=https%253A%252F%252Fworkspace.fao.org%252Fsites%252Fcodex%252FStandards%252FCODEX%2BSTAN%2B12-1981%252Fcx_012e.pdf)

- (f) record-keeping requirements; and
- (g) transitional provisions.

MPI considers that the specific rules regarding the export of bee products should be set out in one place wherever possible to make it easier for those supplying bee products for export to access the requirements.

For that reason, the draft GREX:

- **incorporates some existing domestic requirements:** exporters of bee products must already meet these requirements in order for their product to be eligible for export;
- **extends some requirements** that currently only apply to exporters to countries requiring official assurances, and applies them to exporters to all countries; and
- **proposes some new requirements:** MPI proposes to introduce these new requirements to address the concerns identified by trading partners and ensure the industry is brought onto a more sustainable footing to enable future growth.

MPI is particularly interested in your views on the **proposed new requirements**, and most of the questions we ask in this discussion document are about these new requirements.

In order to fully consider your submissions and understand the impact of the proposals, it would be useful for MPI to understand your business and your role in the apiculture industry.

#### **Questions for submitters: getting to know you**

1. What part of the supply chain do you operate in? (e.g. are you a beekeeper, extractor, processor, packer, exporter and/or retailer of bee products?)
2. How long have you been involved in the apiculture industry? (e.g. 0-5 years, 5-10 years or 10+ years?)
3. Do you currently operate under an RMP under the Animal Products Act 1999, under the Food Act 2014 (Food Control Plan or National Programme), the Food Hygiene Regulations, or none of these?
4. If you are a beekeeper, how many hives do you currently have? (e.g. 5 hives or fewer, 6-50 hives, 51-500 hives, 501 to 1000 hives, 1001 to 3000 hives, or more than 3000 hives?)
5. What region of New Zealand do you operate in?
6. If you own a business involved in the export of bee products, please tell us a little about your business:
  - a. How many people do you currently employ? (e.g. 0 employees; 1-5 employees; 6-19 employees; more than 20.)
  - b. What are their roles? (e.g. how many are beekeepers, processors, packers, or others?)

#### 4.1.1 Estimated costs of proposals

There will be additional compliance costs, time and administration for beekeepers, processors and exporters that export bee products. The table below summarises these estimated additional costs.

<b>Proposed requirement in GREX</b>	<b>Who will be affected</b>	<b>Estimated costs</b>
Clause 3.2 – all bee products to be processed in a premises operating under a risk based measure (being an RMP under the Animal Products Act 1999, or a Food Control Plan or National Programme under the Food Act 2014).	<p>Processors of bee products intended for export who do not currently operate under an RMP or a Food Act risk-based measure (for example, they operate under the Food Hygiene Regulations).</p> <p>Processors will need to register an RMP under the Animal Products Act 1999 (if they wish to export to a county that requires an official assurance), or a risk-based measure under the Food Act (Food Control Plan or National Programme). The risk-based measures will need to be verified.</p> <p>Note that under the Food Act 2014 all processors of bee products must transition to a risk-based measure by 2019.</p>	<p>Operators moving to the Food Act 2014 or Animal Products Act 1999 will incur additional registration and verification costs.</p> <p>Verification costs are a matter of negotiation between operators and recognised agencies/persons that provide verification services.</p>
Clause 3.3 – bee products to be sourced from listed beekeepers.	Beekeepers providing bee products for export (except those already under a risk-based measure, those whose activities are covered by an operator’s RMP, or those already listed for official assurances).	Cost of the listing: \$178.25 annual charge.
Part 4 – traceability requirements and Part 7 – record keeping requirements.	All beekeepers, extractors, packers and exporters of bee products for export.	No direct financial costs where adaptable systems and processes are already in place. However, there will be additional administrative and time costs.

<b>Proposed requirement in GREX</b>	<b>Who will be affected</b>	<b>Estimated costs</b>
Clauses 5.1-5.3 – honey represented as mānuka will need to meet the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey.	Packers and exporters of mānuka honey for export.	Costs of re-labelling stock that does not comply with the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey. Note that the draft GREX contains a transitional period, which will minimise these costs.
Clause 5.4 – in order to obtain export certification, operators of premises of final control must include relevant test results when raising final eligibility documents in AP E-Cert.	Operators of premises of final control for mānuka honey exported to countries requiring official assurances.	Cost of verification of test results in AP E-Cert.  Costs of raising eligibility documents in AP E-Cert (including verification of contents) are charged using the formula specified in Part 6 of Schedule 1 of the Animal Products (Fees, Charges, and Levies) Regulations) 2007.
Clause 5.6 – verification of mānuka honey claims during performance-based verification for export requiring official assurances.	Operators exporting mānuka honey to countries requiring official assurances.	Additional verification costs to check test results.  Verification costs are a matter of negotiation between operators and recognised agencies that provide verification services.
Part 6 – laboratory tests for mānuka honey.	Packers and exporters of mānuka honey for export to all markets.	Cost of testing to determine whether product complies with the definition for monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey.  The costs of testing will be determined by the laboratories carrying out the tests. However, MPI estimates the cost of testing to be between \$200-\$300 per sample for both DNA and chemical characterisation compounds.

### **Question for submitters: impact on beekeepers, processors and exporters**

7. What do you think the overall impact of the new proposals will be on your business?
8. In order to estimate total cost to the industry of the proposals contained in the draft GREX, it would be useful for MPI to understand how many beekeepers, operators and exporters of bee products will be affected by the proposals. Please specify which of the proposals listed in the table above will affect you and how.
9. Do you foresee any other costs that will arise from the proposals contained in the draft GREX which are not contained in the table above, and if so, how significant do you think these will be (e.g. administration costs such as time to fill in forms, and time to learn about the new requirements)?

## **4.2 RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE DRAFT NOTICE**

Part 2 of the draft GREX sets out the proposed responsibilities for beekeepers, exporters, operators, and recognised agencies. Part 2 is included in the GREX for ease of reference, so that you can see in one place all of the proposals that are relevant to you.

Part 2 also sets out the relationship between the draft GREX and certain food standards issued under the Food Act 2014. Beekeepers, exporters and operators must continue to comply with the Food Standard: Tutin in Honey and the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. For the avoidance of doubt, the draft GREX does not affect the application of these existing legal requirements or change existing requirements around the levels of tutin.

## **4.3 REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND PREPARATION**

### **4.3.1 Honey to be fit for purpose**

#### *Problem definition*

Product identified as honey must meet the definition and compositional requirements for honey. Under the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, honey must have been produced by honey bees from plant sources (i.e. naturally occurring). This implicitly means that additional substances cannot be added to honey. MPI considers that any addition of substances (e.g. sugar, dihydroxyacetone (DHA) and methylglyoxal (MGO)) would make honey non-compliant with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, and not fit for purpose.

Our trading partners have expressed concern that additional sugars or synthetic chemicals could be added to New Zealand honey. These substances could be present in New Zealand honey due to the feeding of bees during the harvest season, or their addition after extraction.

Further, honey is not fit for purpose if it contains varroacide residues that exceed regulatory limits. Varroacides are treatments used to control varroa mites in beehives. When varroa treatments are applied to the brood nest, residues can be left in the brood comb in the hive boxes. If frames are then recycled for use in honey supers or if honey is directly extracted from these frames it may become excessively contaminated with residues.

The current rules do not contain provisions that specifically address these matters.

### *Proposal*

The proposed requirements to address these concerns are specified under clause 3.1 of the draft GREX.

In order to ensure that additional substances are not present in New Zealand honey, MPI proposes that:

- Beekeepers must ensure that no feed is fed to their bees during the harvest season (i.e. when honey supers are present on beehives for the purposes of collecting honey).
- MPI recognises that there are some circumstances where it is necessary to feed bees during the harvest season (i.e. to ensure the survival of the bees). There is a proposed exception to this requirement, if feeding of bees during the harvest season is necessary for ensuring the survival of the bees. However, if supers are present there is a risk that sugar may be stored rather than consumed.
- MPI proposes a requirement to make it more explicit that nothing be added to honey after extraction (except other honey).

In order to prevent the contamination of honey with varroacide residues, MPI proposes that honey is only harvested from honey supers that do not contain honeycomb that was previously part of a brood nest.

#### **Questions for submitters: no additional substances to be present in New Zealand honey**

10. To ensure additional substances are not present in New Zealand honey, MPI proposes to prohibit the feeding of bees when honey supers are present on hives for the purpose of collecting honey, with an exception if it is necessary for the survival of the bees. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternative approaches that would ensure additional sugars and synthetic chemicals are not present in honey).
11. To prevent the contamination of honey with varroacide residues, MPI proposes honey is only harvested from honey supers that do not contain honeycomb that was previously part of a brood nest. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternative approaches that would ensure varroacide residues were not present in honey).

#### 4.3.2 Bee products to be processed in premises operating under a risk-based measure

##### *Problem definition*

Currently most processors of bee products operate under a risk-based measure (under the Animal Products Act 1999 or the Food Act 2014). However, some operators may be operating under the Food Hygiene Regulations. While MPI does not expect that there are many operators under the Food Hygiene Regulations that process bee products for export, MPI does not have oversight of these operators. This represents a gap in the export traceability chain.

All bee products intended for export to countries for which official assurances are required must be processed at premises operating under an RMP (under the Animal Products Act 1999).

##### *Proposal*

Clause 3.2 of the draft GREX requires that bee products intended for export (regardless of intended market) must be processed at a premises operating under a risk-based measure. This means processors of bee products must operate under the Animal Products Act 1999 (under an RMP) or the Food Act 2014 (under a Food Control Plan or National Programme). Processors currently operating under the Food Hygiene Regulations will need to move to the Animal Products Act 1999 or the Food Act 2014, if they intend to provide bee products for export.

##### **Question for submitters: processors of bee products to operate under a risk-based measure**

12. MPI proposes that processors of bee products for export under the Food Hygiene Regulations must move to a risk-based measure (either an RMP under the Animal Products Act 1999, or Food Control Plan or National Programme under the Food Act 2014.) Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternative approaches that would provide MPI with oversight of these processors).

#### 4.3.3 Bee products to be sourced from listed beekeepers

##### *Problem definition*

In February 2016, MPI introduced requirements for the listing of beekeepers for exporting bee products to countries requiring official assurances. There are currently 727<sup>7</sup> beekeepers listed under this requirement. However, there is no listing requirement for beekeepers who wish to supply bee products for export to non-official assurance countries.

While beekeepers must be registered under the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan, MPI cannot use this information for traceability purposes or for providing official assurances, without the express permission of each individual beekeeper, and that permission can be

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<sup>7</sup> As at 13 March 2017.

withdrawn at any time. This represents a gap in MPI's oversight of the supply chain of bee products for export.

Problems associated with the current lack of listing requirements are:

- There is a group of beekeepers who supply bee products for export and are not listed, and therefore not known to MPI. If MPI does not know who these beekeepers are, MPI cannot contact them to advise of regulatory requirements for export, or to hold people accountable in the event of non-compliance.
- Importing countries expect government oversight and traceability through all steps of the supply chain.
- If beekeepers are unknown to MPI and processors of bee products, in the event of a food safety incident (such as tutin poisoning) or suspected adulteration, it may be difficult to recall affected product.
- MPI has received reports of hive thefts and vandalism, and fraud and dishonesty in connection with beekeeping. MPI currently has no ability to remove individuals involved in such activities from the export supply chain.

### *Proposal*

MPI's proposed requirements for the listing of beekeepers are set out at clause 3.3 of the draft GREX.

MPI proposes that the listing requirements introduced in February 2016 for beekeepers exporting bee products to countries requiring official assurances be extended to all beekeepers exporting all bee products. This means that beekeepers will need to provide MPI with basic contact details, and these details will be made available on the MPI website.

Under this proposal, any beekeeper who supplies honey for the purposes of export must be listed with MPI. This includes hobbyist and small scale beekeepers who are supplying honey for export. The application for listing will involve an annual fee of \$178.25.

The proposal will ensure that all beekeepers who supply honey for export:

- are provided with a unique listing identification; and
- are, in the opinion of the Director-General, permitted to be listed (for example the Director-General may remove a beekeeper from the list if the beekeeper has been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty in connection with beekeeping).

The proposal will ensure that MPI:

- has the name and contact details of beekeepers, and can contact them to update them on regulatory requirements;
- is able to contact beekeepers in the event of non-compliance;
- has information that will assist it to trace bee products back to hive; and
- can delist beekeepers in appropriate circumstances, which will mean that those beekeepers can no longer supply product for export.

The proposal will also ensure that processors of bee products for export:

- have confidence that the honey they are supplied is from a trusted source; and
- have the ability to instantly check the identification of the listed beekeeper against the identification listed on the MPI website.

Beekeepers who have already been listed under the *Animal Products Notice: Official Assurances Specifications for Animal Material and Animal Products* are not required to list

under this proposal. Similarly, beekeepers already operating under a risk-based measure, or who are covered by another operator's risk-based measure, are not required to list under this proposal.

Beekeepers who only supply bee products for the domestic market are not required to be listed under the draft GREX. If you are a processor of bee products, you can still accept honey from unlisted beekeepers if you intend to sell this in the domestic market. However, you must ensure you have the appropriate system in place to differentiate between honey from listed beekeepers intended for export, and honey from unlisted beekeepers intended for the domestic market.

In the future, there may be an opportunity to have a consolidated beekeeper list for both biosecurity and traceability purposes. This would mean that beekeepers would only have to be listed once. However, any consolidated list would be a longer term proposal that is outside the scope of the draft GREX.

#### **Questions for submitters: bee products to be sourced from listed beekeepers**

13. MPI proposes to extend listing requirements to all beekeepers providing bee products for export. Do you agree or disagree? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternatives to this approach that would address this gap in the traceability chain).

## **4.4 REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO TRACEABILITY**

Traceability is the systematic ability to access, through records, all relevant information relating to a food product through the supply chain. The purpose of traceability is to demonstrate that product intended for export is only processed and handled by premises that are recognised for that purpose (i.e. with a registered risk-based measure) as it journeys through the export chain. This ensures that the location of the product, and any modification made to it at any location is visible to MPI. This adds to the credibility and integrity of any claim attached to the product and any official assurance that MPI issues for that product. Traceability also facilitates an effective recall of that product if it is unsafe (for example in the event of a tutin poisoning) or is otherwise not fit for purpose (for example, if it has been adulterated).

It is important that MPI has improved visibility over the supply chain, and robust systems for traceability of bee products from the hive to retail sale.

MPI has identified some gaps in traceability through the bee product export supply chain. The proposals under Part 4 of the draft GREX are intended to fill gaps in MPI's oversight of the supply chain.

### **4.4.1 Pre-processing traceability requirements**

#### *Problem definition*

At present, legislation which forms part of our export assurance system is silent on traceability requirements at a beekeeping level. This is partly due to beekeepers being exempt

from operating under a registered RMP or Food Act risk-based measure. As such, it would have been a challenge to enforce compliance with any imposed requirements as the identity of beekeepers would not be readily available to MPI. Traceability at bee keeping level is now necessary for safeguarding the integrity of our exports and for addressing the concerns of trading partners in this area. The Animal Products Act 1999 empowers the Director-General to issue such requirements, and together with the proposed listing requirement, MPI would have the ability to enforce compliance effectively.

### *Proposal*

The proposed requirements relating to beekeeper record keeping are set out in clause 4.1 of the draft GREX.

MPI proposes several new record keeping requirements. These new provisions for record keeping will apply to all beekeepers supplying bee products for export. They will enable tracing back to apiary sites if contamination is detected in the final product or if adulteration is suspected, and may assist with supporting floral claims.

MPI proposes the following additional record keeping requirements for beekeepers:

- Beekeepers must indelibly mark each honey super with a unique form of identification. This identification must include the beekeeper's allocated identification number under the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan.
- Beekeepers must have a system for recording every site where a honey super has been on a hive for each season. This is different from the current requirements under the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan, which only requires hives to be registered if they are in place for 30 days or more.
- For each site where hives are located in a season, records are required to be available to authorised officials on request and to include the following information:
  - the GPS location of the apiary site (sites will be required to be notified under the Biosecurity (National American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan) Order 1998);
  - the dates and volumes of honey harvested from supers;
  - when, and how many honey supers are put on or taken off the site; and
  - the honey supers (by individual identifier) at each site at any time.

#### **Questions for submitters: pre-processing traceability requirements**

14. MPI proposes beekeepers keep additional records. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternatives to this approach).
15. The costs for businesses associated with implementing the proposed traceability requirements are likely to vary depending on their existing systems and processes. What impact do you think these proposals are likely to have on your business?

## 4.4.2 Traceability from beekeepers to operators – harvest declarations

### *Problem definition*

At present, beekeepers are required to supply a harvest declaration for every batch of honey they supply to RMP operators for the purpose of export with an official assurance. There is no current requirement to supply a harvest declaration for honey that is to be exported without an official assurance. As such, there is a gap in traceability between the beekeeper and the operator in relation to honey that is exported without official assurances. This is a weakness to our export assurance system and it creates market access risks.

Currently, beekeepers who are also extractors/packers of honey are not required to complete harvest declarations. Instead, they may keep ‘equivalent records’. There is no set format for equivalent records, and such records are difficult to verify or use for traceability purposes.

### *Proposal*

The full detail of what will be required in harvest declarations is set out in clause 4.2 of the draft GREX.

MPI proposes that all beekeepers will be required to provide a harvest declaration for every batch of honey they supply to an operator for processing for export. This, together with the listing requirement and other record keeping requirements, will enhance traceability between hives and processing premises.

The harvest declaration will contain information such as:

- the identity of the beekeeper and the receiving operator;
- product description, including quantity harvested from which apiary sites (including any apiary registration number provided under the American Foul Brood Pest Management Plan); and
- declaration of compliance with tutin, American Foulbrood and contamination requirements.

Operators will need to check the completeness and accuracy of the harvest declaration supplied by the beekeeper. This includes confirming that a beekeeper is listed, that the listing number is on the harvest statement, and that the number of honey supers received tallies with the number on the statement. Operators will need to sign and date the harvest declaration, assign it with a unique reference number, and retain the harvest declarations as part of their record keeping.

Beekeepers who are also extractors and processors of honey will need to complete and retain harvest declarations.

**Questions for submitters: traceability from beekeepers to operators – harvest declarations**

16. MPI proposes to introduce harvest statement requirements to all beekeepers providing bee products for export. Do you agree or disagree? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternatives to this approach that ensure full traceability through the bee product supply chain).
17. MPI considers, for most businesses, the costs associated with these proposals are unlikely to be onerous. Do you agree or disagree and why?

**4.4.3 Traceability between operators – transfer documentation in AP E-Cert and reconciliation**

*Problem definition*

At present, only bee products intended for export to countries for which official assurances are required must use a transfer document when bee products are transferred from one premises to another. Bee products intended for export to non-official assurances countries are not subject to these traceability provisions. This represents a gap in the traceability chain, and undermines the credibility associated with New Zealand exports and MPI's ability to recall product.

*Proposal*

The full detail of what MPI proposes to require for traceability between operators and reconciliation of traceability documents are set out at clauses 4.3 and 4.4 of the draft GREX.

MPI proposes that every movement of bee products from one operator's premises to another must be accompanied by a transfer document. This is already a requirement for bee products intended for export to countries requiring official assurances, and will now apply to all export bee products regardless of intended market.

The proposed transfer document will include information such as the identity of the consignor and consignee, the departure date, product description, market eligibility list, compliance with tutin requirements, and declaration of whether the product is fit for purpose. A template transfer document will be published on the MPI website.

Exporters who currently export to countries that require official assurances are not required to comply with clauses 4.3 and 4.4 of the draft GREX. This is because their requirements are recorded in a separate notice. These exporters currently use MPI's Animal Products Electronic Certification System (AP E-Cert) in order to record transfer of product from one export premises to another.

**Questions for submitters: traceability between operators – transfer documentation in AP E-Cert and reconciliation**

18. MPI proposes to introduce transfer documentation requirements to all bee products intended for export. Do you agree or disagree? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection and provide any alternatives to this approach that ensure full traceability through the bee products supply chain).

## 4.5 LABELLING OF MONOFLORAL AND MULTIFLORAL MĀNUKA HONEY

### *Problem definition*

Companies currently market and define mānuka honey in a variety of ways. The lack of an agreed definition for mānuka honey among industry participants, together with the premium prices mānuka honey attracts, have led to concerns about product authenticity. These issues have been raised by key trading partners and international media, and in the absence of a regulatory definition for mānuka honey, there are risks to ongoing market access and the sustainable economic growth of the industry.

Since 2014, MPI has been working on a comprehensive mānuka honey science programme. The aim of the programme was to develop robust science-based criteria for identifying mānuka honey that could be used to support product assurances and demonstrate product authenticity in a regulatory context.

As part of its analysis, MPI carefully considered the definitions for mānuka honey that are currently used by industry. MPI concluded that:

- Industry definitions are primarily focussed on the presence of the two chemicals DHA and MGO, or pollen (as determined by microscopy) as indicators of mānuka honey authenticity.
- In MPI's view, neither scheme, when used individually or in combination, are suitable as characteristics of monofloral mānuka honey.
- MPI found DHA and MGO to be unstable, found in other related honey types and can be artificially added to honey.
- Pollen as determined by microscopy does not distinguish mānuka pollen from kānuka pollen.
- More recently, the presence of leptosperin has been promoted as a marker of authenticity. However, leptosperin is not unique to mānuka so cannot be used alone to provide the level of confidence needed for regulatory purposes.

New Zealand is a signatory to Codex. Under Codex, a honey may make a monofloral claim if that honey comes “wholly or mainly from that particular source and has the organoleptic, physicochemical and microscopic properties corresponding with that origin”. As part of the

science programme, MPI assessed existing methods for measuring the following properties of mānuka honey:

- organoleptic properties (taste, colour, and aroma of the honey);
- physicochemical properties (conductivity, thixotropy); and
- microscopic properties (pollen concentration using microscopy).

However, MPI considered that these were not suitable for a regulatory definition because they do not adequately differentiate mānuka honey from other honey sources.

The MPI mānuka honey science programme has provided a rigorous, independent and transparent scientific definition of mānuka honey. The definition includes identification criteria, both chemical and DNA (based on pollen), that can identify honey as monofloral mānuka or multifloral mānuka.

“Monofloral mānuka honey” is honey with a distinctive combination of attributes at specified levels that indicate it is predominately from the mānuka plant. “Multifloral mānuka honey” (also known as “mānuka blend”) is from multiple floral sources, but a combination of distinctive attributes from mānuka plants are still present.

Now that the identification criteria for mānuka honey have been published, there is a need to implement the definition so that consumers have confidence in the authenticity of the honey they are buying. This is important to protect both New Zealand’s international export reputation and the long term future of the New Zealand honey industry.

### *Grading systems*

Grading systems are currently used on labels for some mānuka honey products. Grading systems have been developed by industry and are not provided for in regulatory requirements. The term ‘grading system’ means a system of numbers or symbols used by industry. These can be systems that claim to measure the “quality” or “purity” of the honey, or content claims which refer to the amount of particular chemicals or pollen present in honey.

MPI does not propose any changes in the GREX in relation to the use of grading systems. It is up to businesses to ensure any grading systems used or content claims are applied in a way that is consistent with the mānuka honey definition and other legal requirements.

However, it is important to note that in the future overseas markets may request additional information or restrictions on the use of grading systems. This could be achieved using guidance material or through legal requirements such as a GREX or OMAR.

### *Proposal*

Part 5 of the draft GREX sets out the proposed requirements for the use of the term ‘mānuka’ on honey labels. These requirements apply to any honey intended for export that is called mānuka, including retail ready packs and bulk containers e.g. drums.

The findings from the science programme are that the following five attributes can be used to identify a honey as mānuka honey or not.

### *Definition of monofloral mānuka honey*

(1) A batch of honey is monofloral mānuka honey if all of the following attributes are detected using laboratory tests carried out in accordance with Part 6 of the Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Bee Products:

- a)  $\geq 1$  mg/kg 2'-methoxyacetophenone; and
- b)  $\geq 1$  mg/kg 2-methoxybenzoic acid; and
- c)  $\geq 1$  mg/kg 4-hydroxyphenyllactic acid; and
- d)  $\geq 400$  mg/kg 3-phenyllactic acid; and
- e) DNA from mānuka pollen ( $< Cq$  36 which is approximately 3 fg/ $\mu$ L DNA).

### *Definition of multifloral mānuka honey*

(1) A batch of honey is multifloral mānuka honey if all of the following attributes are detected using laboratory tests carried out in accordance with Part 6 of the Animal Products Notice: General Export Requirements for Bee Products:

- a)  $\geq 1$  mg/kg 2'-methoxyacetophenone; and
- b)  $\geq 1$  mg/kg 2-methoxybenzoic acid; and
- c)  $\geq 1$  mg/kg 4-hydroxyphenyllactic acid; and
- d)  $\geq 20$  mg/kg but  $< 400$  mg/kg 3-phenyllactic acid; and
- e) DNA from mānuka pollen ( $< Cq$  36 which is approximately 3 fg/ $\mu$ L DNA).

A detailed summary of MPI's science, including the methods used and analyses completed and the results is available from MPI's website.

MPI proposes the following labelling requirements for exported honey:

- If you want to represent honey as mānuka with no qualifications (i.e. the word "mānuka" or "manuka" on the label stands alone), then the honey must meet the definition of monofloral mānuka honey.
- If you want to represent honey as mānuka with qualifications (i.e. you have the word "mānuka" or "manuka" on the label, along with the word "blend" or "multifloral", or other words that indicate that there is an additional floral source present), then the honey must meet the definition of multifloral mānuka honey.
- To avoid doubt, when labelling mānuka honey that meets the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey, you can choose whether you want to use a macron on your labels (i.e. 'mānuka' or 'manuka').

If you have honey that meets the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey, you can blend this honey with other honey. However, the final product can only be represented as mānuka honey or mānuka honey blend if it still meets the appropriate definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey.

It is particularly important for operators who currently use the term mānuka on their honey labels to read and understand the mānuka honey definition and the labelling requirements

proposed in the draft GREX. This includes operators who use trademarks containing the word ‘mānuka’.

The proposed rules may have an impact on existing rights associated with the use of the word ‘mānuka’ on labels, including registered trademarks. This is because the definition limits the circumstances in which the term ‘mānuka’ can be used on honey labels. However, there are options to continue to use these trademarks. For example, you can continue to use trademarks containing the word “mānuka” (e.g. incorporated as part of a company name or logo) on clover honey, if it is clear that the honey was clover honey and not mānuka honey.

MPI will fully consider all submissions on this proposal and will take reasonable steps to mitigate any impact on the holders of trademarks, including providing for a transitional period to allow time to relabel or dispose of stock that may not comply with the definition.

If honey represented as mānuka honey is exported to countries that do not require official assurances, operators and exporters must have the relevant test laboratory test results to show that the honey meets the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey. The operator or exporter must be able to provide these test results to MPI within 24 hours of being requested.

If honey represented as mānuka honey is exported to countries requiring official assurances, operators of premises of final control and exporters must ensure that all final eligibility documents raised in AP E-Cert in relation to honey represented as mānuka honey include the relevant laboratory test results. When using AP E-Cert, the exact mānuka honey statement that is intended to be stated in the export certificate must be included in the product description field.

### Questions for submitters: labelling of monofloral and multifloral mānuka honey

19. MPI proposes to implement the mānuka honey definition for export using the GREX. Do you agree or disagree? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternatives to this approach that ensures mānuka honey is true to label).
20. MPI considers there are likely to be options available to businesses to support compliance with the proposed definition (e.g. relabelling, changes to blending practices etc.). Do you agree with this assessment or do you have concerns about ability of some businesses to comply? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your concerns).
21. MPI's proposal may have an impact on existing rights associated with using the word 'mānuka' on labels, including registered trademarks. Do you agree with MPI's assessment of the impact on existing rights? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection).
22. MPI does not propose to make changes to the current use of grading systems. Do you agree or disagree with this position? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection).
23. What do you think the impact of the mānuka honey definition will be on the current use of grading systems? (Please provide a sentence or two to explain your view).
24. Do you have any comments on the summary science report?
25. Do you have any further comments regarding the definition of mānuka honey?

## 4.6 LABORATORY TESTS

### *Problem definition*

MPI facilitates the entry of mānuka honey into overseas markets by providing the controls and mechanisms needed to substantiate mānuka honey claims. Any claims made must be substantiated in order to maintain the integrity of New Zealand as a trading partner and reputation as a competent authority.

In order for trading partners to have confidence that honey labelled as mānuka meets the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey, claims will need to be supported by test results. The laboratories, sampling techniques and test results sitting behind these test methods must be scientifically robust.

## Proposal

MPI's proposals for laboratory tests are set out in Part 6 of the draft GREX.

MPI proposes robust processes be put in place to test whether honey meets the definition of mānuka. MPI proposes to include the following requirements in the draft GREX:

- Where a batch of honey intended for export is labelled as mānuka honey, the operator must provide a representative sample of that batch to a recognised laboratory under the Recognised Laboratory Programme.
- The Recognised Laboratory will then test the batch of honey against the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey.
- Any laboratory test must comply with the test method specified in the Recognised Laboratory Programme.
- The person drawing samples for laboratories must be trained in the techniques of sample collections, and conduct the test in a manner that maintains the integrity and continuity of the sample.
- Samples must be representative and randomly drawn from a batch. This means that the honey must be thoroughly mixed. You can find guidance on homogenisation in the Compliance Guide to the Food Standard: Tutin in Honey.<sup>8</sup>
- The integrity of samples must be maintained during transit.
- The person sampling must maintain an internal system to document the information.
- Operators who arranged the testing are responsible for interpreting the test results and must keep records which demonstrate the connection between the test results, the sample which was tested, and the batch from which the sample was drawn.

### Questions for submitters: laboratory tests

26. Do you support the proposed requirements for sampling and testing mānuka honey? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection).
27. The costs associated with these proposals are likely to vary depending on the size and volume of samples being tested. What impact do you consider these proposals will have on your business? Do you have any suggestions for minimising any impacts?

## 4.7 RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS

### Problem definition

MPI audits have documented incomplete, inaccurate and inconsistent record keeping throughout the honey supply chain. Inadequate record keeping undermines MPI's ability to trace products in a food recall event, and undermines monofloral claims.

<sup>8</sup> You can see the full Compliance Guide to the Food Standard: Tutin in Honey here: <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/elibrary/industry/Tutin-compliance-guide.pdf>

## *Proposal*

MPI proposes that operators must keep the records as set out in the draft GREX in relation to bee products that are presented for export. These records must be kept for at least four years, be complete and accurate, and be readily accessible within 24 hours.

## 4.8 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

### *Problem definition*

The proposals contained in the draft GREX will require time for beekeepers, operators and exporters to implement. MPI aims to provide sufficient time for these changes to be implemented and for stock already in trade to be dealt with appropriately.

However, the practical timing considerations must be balanced by expectations from trading partners that the mānuka honey definition and record keeping be implemented as quickly as possible.

### *Proposal*

MPI proposes a lead in time of six weeks from when the final GREX is issued and notified, and when the requirements come into effect.

MPI proposes the following requirements in relation to stock in trade:

- Mānuka honey that was already packed in retail packages, and was legally compliant immediately prior to the date of commencement of the GREX, may be exported to countries that do not require official assurances. This stock in trade provision will apply for honey exported between the date of commencement until six months after the date of commencement.
- For example, if the GREX comes into effect on 31 July 2017 as planned, any honey in retail packages before that date does not need to comply with the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey. Such honey can be exported to markets that do not require official assurances after 31 July 2017, until 31 January 2018. After 31 January 2018, all exported honey labelled as mānuka must meet the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey.
- Honey labelled as mānuka can only be exported to countries for which official assurances are required after 31 July 2017 if the honey meets the definition of monofloral or multifloral mānuka honey.

MPI has included a clause at Part 8.2 of the draft GREX which proposes that where honey is tested before the commencement of the GREX, the test results may be used for the purposes of determining compliance with the definition under the GREX.

However, any tests undertaken before the GREX commences will be at the risk of the honey operator. This is because it is possible that there may be changes to the requirements in the GREX as a result of submissions made during consultation. MPI cannot, therefore, guarantee that the clause proposed above will be included in the final GREX, or that other requirements in the GREX will not be amended in some way as a result of consultation. MPI will not be liable for any business losses that may occur if honey requires re-testing for any reason.

If the proposed Part 8.2 of the GREX is included in the final GREX, in order to use these test results to demonstrate compliance, you will need to make sure that the test results comply with all provisions in the draft GREX. In particular:

- testing must have been carried out in accordance with the specified test methods; and
- tests must have been carried out by a laboratory recognised for this testing by the Director-General.

#### **Questions for submitters: transitional provisions**

28. MPI proposes a lead in time of six weeks between when the GREX is notified and when it comes into effect. Do you agree or disagree? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and suggest an alternative timeframe if you consider it appropriate).
29. Do you support the stock in trade provisions proposed in the draft GREX? (Please provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection, and provide any alternative suggestions).

#### **Questions for submitters: any other feedback**

30. Are there any other parts of this discussion document or the draft GREX that you would like to provide feedback on? (Please indicate which part of the discussion document or draft GREX you are providing feedback on, and provide a sentence or two explaining your support or objection).

## 5 Glossary of key terms

In this discussion document, unless the context otherwise requires:

**batch** means a definite quantity of bee products processed or produced under conditions which are presumed uniform;

**beekeeper** means a person (natural person or corporate sole) who keeps honey bees for the purposes of producing bee products for export and who is required to be registered as a beekeeper under the American Foulbrood Pest Management Plan;

**bee products** means honey, honeydew honey, bee venom, bee pollen, bees wax, propolis, royal jelly, and any other product collected by, or derived from, honey bees intended for human or animal consumption;

**consignment** means an identified batch or batches of bee products required to be described in a transfer document or export certificate;

**GREX** mean a General Requirement for Export, which is a section 60 notice under the Animal Products Act 1999;

**harvest declaration** means a declaration made by a beekeeper about bee products intended for export as specified under clause 4.2 of the draft GREX;

**harvest season** means any period when honey supers are present on beehives for the purposes of collecting honey;

**honey super** means a box placed on a beehive that contains the frames in which honey is collected;

**official assurance** is a promise from the New Zealand Government to the government of an importing country attesting that products being exported to them are fit for intended purpose, meet domestic standards and any specific market access requirements negotiated between New Zealand and the importing country;

**risk-based measure** means an RMP, a level 1 national programme, or where an operator operates under a stricter risk-based measure (i.e. food control plan, level 2 or 3 national programme) that risk-based measure;

**RMP** means a risk management programme that is currently registered under Part 2 of the Animal Products Act 1999;

**substance** means:

- a) any element, defined mixture of elements, compounds, or defined mixture of compounds, either naturally occurring or produced synthetically, and included any mixtures of those; and
- b) any isotope, allotrope, isomer, congener, radical or ion of an element or compound which is a different substance from that element or compound; and
- c) any mixtures of combinations of any of the above;

**transfer document** means:

- a) an eligibility declaration or eligibility document raised in AP E-Cert by an authorised user as specified in clause 4.3.2(2)(a) of the draft GREX; or
- b) a document of the type specified in clause 4.3.2(3) of the draft GREX, which is raised by a consignor who is not an authorised user;

**tutin** means the chemical compound (CAS No 2571-22-4) that causes toxicity in honey and results from bees gathering honeydew exudates from passion vine hoppers that have been feeding on the sap of tutu;

**tutu** means *Coriaria arborea* or *Coriaria sarmentosa*.