



Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access Communiqué—SDQMA45

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) met on 8-9 October 2015 in Melbourne. Regular meetings of the subcommittee ensure continued communications between jurisdictions on regulatory arrangements for domestic quarantine and trade. The key issues discussed are highlighted below.

- **Interstate certification arrangements**

The subcommittee were presented with a quantitative report on non-conformances of the Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) Scheme and National ICA Audit Program (NIAP) processes. Overall the system appears to be working well and mitigating the movement of plant pests.

The subcommittee discussed possible areas for reform of the interstate trading system to ensure it continues to improve and remain sustainable into the future. A proposal to assess the current system including mechanisms for shared responsibility with industry and appropriate cost recovery will be developed (pending agreement by Plant Health Committee and the National Biosecurity Committee).

The subcommittee also strengthened existing certification arrangements by agreeing that the format for “accredited schemes” (including the Bilateral CA schemes) must be consistent with arrangements under the ICA Scheme and by initiating a project to clarify arrangements for the issuing and acceptance of PHACs for pest area freedom claims.

- **Electronic certification for interstate trade in plants and plant products**

The subcommittee noted the update on the progress of the e-certification project to implement a system for the issuance of electronic certification under ICA accreditations. This project builds on the initial trial of generating electronic Plant Health Assurance Certificates conducted by Graeme Forsyth and Associates. The trial will now be piloted nationally with the subcommittee endorsing the *Approved Systems to General Electronic Plant Health Assurance Certificates* procedure and noting that the system developed by Graeme Forsyth and Associates would be the first accredited under this procedure.

- **Appointment of Officers from other jurisdictions**

The subcommittee considered the possible benefits of the ability to appoint staff from a neighbouring jurisdiction for a limited time to meet resourcing shortfalls and determined that these appointments should be able to be made under existing state and territory legislation.

- **Update on developing Queensland fruit fly systems approach within Areas of Low Pest Prevalence**

The subcommittee supported the development of a systems approach market access protocol “Preharvest monitoring, treatment, and post harvest inspection of Queensland fruit fly host produce from a low pest prevalence seasonal window”, with the aim of building verification data through domestic trade, and subsequent development of international market access proposals by 2018.



- **Add Boscalid / Pyraclostrobin as a treatment of Blueberry Rust to the requirements for ICA31**

The subcommittee agreed to reduce the risk of blueberry rust resistance to quarantine treatments, by adding Boscalid / Pyraclostrobin (APVMA Permit PER13629) as a recognised treatment, in combination with Propiconazole and Mancozeb. This will ensure treatments are available into the future.

- **Seed potatoes—outcomes from Plant Health Committee**

The subcommittee discussed issues around the seed potato certification and noted that Horticulture Innovation Australia were developing proposals on a possible new seed potato governance body and process for review of the national standard.

- **National policy development**

The subcommittee were updated on the progress and development of a number of national initiatives as outlined below:

- The subcommittee were consulted on the possible development of a framework to support using third party services for a range of biosecurity activities. An initial desk top study has been conducted on third parties providing surveillance data to support area freedom claims for citrus and has shown the potential benefit of such a framework. Plant Health Committee are considering this issue further.
- Jurisdictions are continuing to ensure that their area freedom certification aligns to the national *Framework for Certifying Pest Area Freedom*. This body of work was initiated approximately 18 months ago to harmonise area freedom certification arrangements across the jurisdictions and to ensure alignment to the relevant international standards.
- The subcommittee discussed the ongoing arrangements for management of fruit fly in Australia which are in line with international standards and national codes of practice and supplemented by both historical data and observations of specific on-going surveillance of protected areas. Providing clear guidance to industry to maintain or improve market access is challenging and will be one of the aspects addressed through the newly established National Fruit Fly Council.

C/o SDQMA Secretariat
E sdqma@agriculture.gov.au
T +61 2 6272 4688

National Plant Health Policy
and Programs
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources

GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

agriculture.gov.au