



Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access Communiqué—SDQMA Meeting #46

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) met in Orange NSW on the 19th – 21st April 2016. Meetings of the subcommittee ensure continued communications between jurisdictions on regulatory arrangements for domestic quarantine and trade. Key issues discussed are detailed below.

Consistency in the use of Plant Health Assurance Certificates (PHAC)

The subcommittee agreed that “accredited schemes” (including the Bilateral CA schemes) are those which adhere to guidelines developed for the ICA scheme and include an operating procedure and audit component. The subcommittee confirmed that the ICA and Bilateral CA schemes are the only “accredited schemes” in use nationally.

The subcommittee confirmed that the issuing and acceptance of PHACs are to be from accredited businesses only, recognised issues associated with the use of PHACs for area freedom and investigated other methods of certification to cover these situations.

Community of Practice for Pest Risk Analysis (CoPPRA)

The Subcommittee endorsed the Purpose, Terms of Reference, Membership and Structure of the Community of Practice for Pest Risk Analysis (CoPPRA) and endorsed a paper seeking approval from Plant Health Committee to establish the community of practice.

Update on National Fruit Fly Council

The subcommittee noted the establishment and work of the National Fruit Fly Council and will continue to work with the council progressing their activities.

Update on developing Queensland fruit fly systems approach

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 seasonal pest absence”, with the aim of building verification data through domestic trade, and subsequent development of international market access proposals by 2018.

Added Boscalid / Pyraclostrobin as treatments 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 was provided an update on the progress and development of a number of national initiatives as outlined below:

- The subcommittee was updated on amendments to the proposed framework for using third party services when providing surveillance data to support area freedom claims and the applicability to domestic quarantine arrangements.
- The subcommittee agreed to create a working group for the development of a policy to allow for the implementation of variable audit schedules based upon business previous compliance with procedural requirements.
- Jurisdictions are continuing to ensure that their area freedom certification aligns to the national *Framework for Certifying Pest Area Freedom*. This body of work, initiated approximately 18 months ago, aims to harmonise area freedom certification arrangements across the jurisdictions ensuring alignment with the relevant international standards.
- The subcommittee discussed the ongoing arrangements for management of fruit fly in Australia that aligns 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 remains a challenge, and will be one of the aspects addressed through the newly established National Fruit Fly Council.

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access concluded noting updates on plant biosecurity activities reported by all jurisdictions and is next scheduled to meet in October 2016.

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