

Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) Meeting 49 Communiqué

The Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access (SDQMA) met in Canberra on the 31 October and 1 November 2017. The Subcommittee met to discuss a number of issues impacting on domestic quarantine and trade. The key issues discussed are detailed below.

PEST MANAGEMENT

Fruit fly

The SDQMA noted the update from the National Fruit Fly Council and agreed that further work is required to better manage endemic Australian species of fruit fly (apart from Queensland fruit fly and Melon fruit fly), particularly with regards to monitoring emerging risks and available treatments. As such, the SDQMA will recommend to Plant Health Committee (PHC) that the Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Committee be re-established as a SDQMA working group.

Tomato-potato psyllid

The SDQMA considered opportunities to improve efficiencies when establishing entry conditions following the detection of an exotic plant pest. As such, the SDQMA agreed to work with DAWR representatives to ensure relevant information is made available in a timely manner and assist in determining conditions that are consistent or equivalent with international requirements.

BioSecure HACCP

The SDQMA noted that Nursery & Garden Industry Australia (NGIA) continues to develop and improve the BioSecure HACCP scheme as an industry driven market access assurance scheme, and agreed that successful implementation of the BioSecure HACCP scheme requires a harmonised, consistent and collaborative approach to be undertaken between the NGIA and state and territory governments.

The SDQMA noted the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalise governance arrangements between government and NGIA, and agreed that members will provide a draft MOU to their respective legal teams and advise NGIA of any implementation issues.

The SDQMA recognised that transition of BioSecure HACCP to a fully autonomous industry based scheme which is oversights by government may require changes to current agency legislative arrangements as a critical step in the future delivery of the scheme to growers across Australia. The SDQMA agreed that the requirement for BioSecure HACCP auditors to complete the ICA Auditor Training course should be amended to include an alternative option of completing a nationally recognised Lead Auditor training courses provided by a Registered Training Organisation.

Official control

DAWR presented the Plant Quarantine Pest and Official Control National Policy and discussed various aspects of this policy with the SDQMA. Implementation of this national policy will support Australia's biosecurity system and assist with market access negotiations.

TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS

Australian Interstate Quarantine website

The SDQMA agreed there is a need to continue updating the contents of the Traveller's Guide and the creation of a newsletter to send news about quarantine and biosecurity topics to readers who have expressed an interest. This activity will be carried out by a SDQMA working group.



Commodity movement

The SDQMA noted the steps that have taken in an attempt to reduce regulatory burden on the wine grape industry who move grapes between jurisdictions at harvest time.

The SDQMA agreed that QLD should hold a workshop focussed on harmonising domestic market access conditions for Red imported fire ants, and the workshop will include participants from PHC, Tramp Ant Consultative Committee and any other technical or subject matter experts.

To assist the promotion of international market acceptance of irradiated blueberries and to align with the recent Food Standards Australian New Zealand (FSANZ) decision to allow irradiation of blueberries and raspberries, the SDQMA agreed to update and harmonise entry conditions to facilitate the movement of irradiated fruit or vegetable approved by FSANZ.

State area freedom

The SDQMA agreed that jurisdictional regulatory staff be provided access to information about area freedom claims and requested advice from PHC as to whether area freedom claims can be made publically available via the Interstate Quarantine website.

INTERSTATE TRADE WORKSHOP

At their last meeting, the SDQMA held an Interstate Trade Workshop to discuss interstate certification systems and identify areas for improvement from a domestic perspective. Plant Health Australia led the workshop with presentations from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources on international trade for the SDQMA to consider. Key outcomes identified from the workshop were the need to contemporise the Interstate Certificate Assurance system and conduct a review of interstate plant health accreditations programs. This project will commence in 2018 pending PHCs approval to fund and carry out this task.

NEXT MEETING

The SDQMA will meet in Queensland in May 2018.

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

Plant Health Policy Section
Department of Agriculture
and Water Resources

GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

London Circuit
Canberra City ACT 2601

agriculture.gov.au