



Export Plan for fresh produce from Australia to New Zealand

Information for Industry



Purpose

This factsheet explains the changes from the current *Bilateral Quarantine Agreement – System Operations Manual* (BQA-SOM) to the new *Export Plan for fresh produce from Australia to New Zealand* (Export Plan).

Overview

The BQA-SOM has set the operational requirements for fruit fly host commodities to New Zealand since the early 1990s. The document no longer aligns with Australia's export certification system.

Whilst reviewing the BQA-SOM, New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) reviewed their Import Health Standard (IHS) which is due out in late-2021. The new IHS replaces BQAs with Export Plans for commodities requiring a Targeted (risk group 2 pests) or MPI-Specified Measure (risk group 3 pests). The department has been able to negotiate recognition of our existing systems to streamline export requirements.

What is changing?



Registration

- Current BQA-SOM registrations will be recognised under the Export Plan except for those which will no longer exist.
- Registration will no longer be required for exporters, freight forwarders, load-out and product integrity supervisors, and fruit fly pest free area packhouses.
- Exporter delegates will become industry inspectors where requested by industry.



Pests

- The terms Risk Group 1, 2 and 3 pests will change to Basic Measures for RG1 pests, Targeted Measures for RG2 pests and MPI-Specified Measures for RG3 pests.
- New Zealand has a new pest database called the [Official New Zealand Pest Register](#) (ONZPR) which lists whether pests are regulated.
- [ePest](#) is also available to search a country/commodity combination and view the pest list and required measures.
- Weed seeds can still be found in the [Schedule of regulated \(quarantine\) weed seeds](#) on MPI's website.

Key points

- The new Export Plan will replace the BQA-SOM on **25 February 2021**.
- Exporters and freight forwarders **do not** need to be specifically approved for New Zealand.
- Exporter Delegates will be replaced with an **Industry Inspection model**.
- **Authorised Officers (AOs) can conduct the 600-unit farm lot inspections**, removing the need for industry inspections and the AO consignment inspection.
- **Contaminant tolerances** will be in the commodity Micor cases.
- A reference will be available in the 'Documents' section of [Micor](#) explaining NZ additional declarations and the **required supporting documents**.





Commodities

- The Export Plan includes any fresh fruit or vegetable that needs a Targeted and/or MPI-Specified Measure to address the known pest risks.
- Peas (Green, Snow, Sugarsnap) and sweetcorn are in the Export Plan and will be classified as protocol commodities.
- Product must be sourced from farms that use *commercial production methods* as defined in the Export Plan.



Inspections

- 600-units is the only available sampling rate for all commodities including peas and sweetcorn.
- The term 'grower lot' has been changed to 'farm lot'.
- NZ still requires an inspection per each farm lot.
- Exporter delegates will be replaced with an industry inspection model.
- Industry inspection is an approved function under a registered establishment or an accredited property.
- Industry inspections are not compulsory where an AO inspects 600-units per farm lot within a consignment.
- Where an industry inspection has occurred, the industry inspection record must be provided to the AO prior to the AO inspection.
- The allowable contaminant tolerances for soil, weed seeds and leaves will be published in the commodity Micor cases.
- The exporters name does not need to be on the packaging.



Certification

- AOs must note if the consignment has had an industry inspection in the comments section of the AO inspection record.
- The exporter/agent or AO must upload the industry inspection record/s into PEMS.
- A reference will be available in the 'Documents' section of Micor to explain the additional declarations and list the required supporting documents that exporters must lodge via PEMS.
- The department does not need to see a *Sea Container quarantine declaration* report.
- Reconditioning fumigations can be added to a phytosanitary certificate where the rate complies with the *Acceptance of methyl bromide fumigation treatments* located on Micor, and where conducted in an approved fumigation facility. A treatment certificate must be provided to the department via PEMS.

When do the changes come into effect?

- The Export Plan will come into effect on **Thursday, 25 February 2021**.
- From 25 February 2021, the BQA-SOM will be removed from Micor.

What do the changes mean for industry?

Exporters

- Exporters do not need to be registered for New Zealand or to nominate exporter delegates, treatment or load-out supervisors.
- The exporter's name does not need to be on the packaging.
- Exporters do not need to provide a *Sea Container quarantine declaration* to the department.
- Farm numbers can be added to phytosanitary certificates under the shipping marks field.
- Product must be sourced from farms that use commercial production methods.
- Exporters must apply one of the available measures to each pest/group of pests listed in the Export Plan commodity pages.
- Exporters are to ensure that 600-units per farm lot are inspected by an industry inspector or AO. Where an industry inspection has occurred, this must be followed by an AO consignment inspection.
- Reconditioning fumigation treatments can be on phytosanitary certificates where a treatment certificate is provided from a NZ approved (any commodity) fumigation treatment facility.

Exporter delegates

- Exporter delegates will be replaced with the NZ industry inspection model.
- An accredited property (packhouse) or registered establishment must have the approved function to undertake industry inspections.
- The premises must nominate who will do the inspections and each person must be approved by the department. The inspector will be linked to the premises. To conduct industry inspections in multiple premises, that person must be nominated by each premises.
- Existing exporter delegates and AOs (with a protocol job function) can be recognised as industry inspectors where a premises has applied to have the industry inspection function.
- Those nominated who are not an exporter delegate or AO must complete eLearning training and pass an audit against the Reference: *Performance standards – New Zealand industry inspectors*.
- Except for their initial approval, industry inspectors will not be audited on an individual basis unless non-compliance has been identified.
- The premises will demonstrate their management of industry inspector compliance during their annual audit.
- Industry inspectors must follow the Work instruction: *Inspecting horticulture for New Zealand using industry inspectors*.
- Industry inspection results must be recorded on the *New Zealand industry inspection record*.



Freight forwarders

- Freight forwarders do not need to register and be audited to handle product for New Zealand. These facilities are already registered establishments subject to traceability and product security requirements under their registration.

Registered establishments

- Phytosanitary treatments for New Zealand must be conducted in a registered establishment approved to undertake that treatment function.
- Once approved, the treatment function/s will appear on the *Certificate of Registration* and do not need to be reapplied for each year. Annual audits will continue as per the Guideline: *Audit of plant export registered establishments*.
- Registered establishments can also apply to handle fruit fly Pest Free Area (PFA) product outside of the PFA and to have NZ industry inspections occur in their premises.
- Establishments with these additional functions will be audited against the relevant performance standards. This includes the NZ industry inspection function which will be audited against the Reference: *Performance standards – Industry inspections of horticulture for New Zealand*.

Accredited properties (farms, crop monitors and packhouses)

- Farms and packhouses currently approved under the BQA-SOM are accredited properties.
- All accreditations will remain current under the Export Plan until their usual expiry.
- Farms and packhouses must reapply annually.
- Corn farms and packhouses will now be required to be accredited properties.
- Application periods will be set for each commodity and advertised through Industry Advice Notices (IAN). The IAN may call for applications across all protocol markets for that commodity and may not be specific for New Zealand.
- Application forms are available on the [Plant Export Operations Manual](#) (PEOM) under *Accredited Properties*.
- Crop monitors must complete an annual TOCAL crop monitor eLearning module before conducting crop monitoring activities for that season.
- The audit frequency is specified in the Export Plan. All farms and packhouses will be audited once per season except for winter window commodities which will be twice per year (1 desk audit and 1 onsite audit).
- Additional information will be provided to those winter window growers on how audits will be conducted and what information is required.
- Accredited property – packhouses can apply to have the NZ industry inspections function.
- Packhouses located in fruit fly pest free areas (PFA) do not need to register with the department for PFA approval.

Authorised officers

- AOs will need to have the new protocol job function HEP4001:9 *Export inspection of horticulture protocol - Leafy and mixed vegetables* to inspect peas and corn to New Zealand. This has a prerequisite job function of HOR3002:9 *Export inspection of fruit and vegetables – leafy and other mixed vegetables*. A separate IAN will be published shortly regarding this.
- AOs must ensure that each farm lot in the consignment has had a 600-unit inspection by an industry inspector or they must do this as part of their inspection.
- Where an AO does the farm-lot inspections, they are to record their results in PEMS. An additional consignment level inspection is not required.
- If an AO is doing the farm-lot inspection and exporters have not entered the farms lots on separate lines in the request for permit (RFP), AOs should refer to the PEMS AO user guide to split the farm lots on the inspection record and apply a 600-unit sampling rate to each line.
- The industry inspector doing the farm lot inspections and the AO doing the subsequent consignment inspection can be the same person.
- Where an AO inspects a consignment that has had industry inspections, the AO must note this in the comments section on the PEMS inspection record. For example, “industry inspections completed for all 3 farms lots in this consignment”.
- AOs must receive the *New Zealand industry inspection record/s* from the client at the time of inspection.
- The *New Zealand industry inspection record/s* must be attached to the PEMS record as a supporting document at the time of certification. This is the exporter’s responsibility but can be facilitated by AOs.
- NZ only allows the 600-unit sampling rate. A 2% sampling rate is not available.
- Contaminant tolerances for soil, weed seeds and leaves are listed in the commodity Micor cases. AOs should advise exporters when there is heavy contamination at the upper tolerance level so they can make a commercial decision on whether to recondition.



What supporting material will be available?

- The *Export Plan* and the *Acceptance of methyl bromide fumigation treatment* are now available in the ‘Documents’ section of [Micor](#) under Work Plans and Protocols.
- The *New Zealand list of additional declarations and supporting documents* will be available in the ‘Documents’ section of [Micor](#).

Application forms

- Forms for farms and packhouses are on the [PEOM](#) under *Accredited Properties*.
- The application form for treatments is on the [PEOM](#) under *Treatments*. **Note:** Treatments will be included in the new plant export registered establishment application form from 28 March 2021.
- Applications for the NZ industry inspection function will be available from 28 March via the accredited property packhouse application and the plant export registered establishment application. To add or remove industry inspectors prior to 28 March 2021 please contact HorticultureExports@awe.gov.au.

Industry inspections

- The following material for industry inspections will be available on the [PEOM](#):
 - Work instruction: *Inspecting horticulture for New Zealand using industry inspectors*
 - Reference: *New Zealand industry inspection record*
 - Reference: *Performance standards – New Zealand industry inspectors*
 - Reference: *Performance standards – Inspections of horticulture for New Zealand*



Contact

- For questions about the Export Plan, contact the [Horticulture Exports Program](#).
- For questions about audits, contact the [Audit and Assurance Group](#).
- For questions about certification, contact the [Assessment Services Group](#).

