

## **Standards Compliance and Regulatory Focus Group September 2021 Meeting Summary**

### **Market Access**

China Customs (Decree 248) requiring registration of all food manufacturers that are producing food products that are exported to China, comes into force in January 2022. Decree 248 requires all food manufacturers and processors producing food products for export to China be registered with Chinese authorities. China has recently sent MPI the requirements for bee products manufacturers. By the end of September 2021, MPI needs to provide a list of all companies who manufactured goods containing bee products that were exported to China in the period 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2021. China will then require a technical application form to be completed for each manufacturer by the end of 2022. There will be a period between September and January where no new manufacturers will be able to be added to the list of registered exporters of bee products to China. A process to be added or deleted from the list is expected to be available from January 2022.

### **Mānuka honey definition**

MPI received quite a few submissions on the reassessment of the mānuka honey. MPI is planning to send out monthly updates on the project going forward. ApiNZ has asked to be included on the distribution list for these updates and will keep their members informed about any developments.

### **Animal Products Act regulatory redesign**

MPI has been working on redesigning the regulatory system that underlies the Animal Products Act (APA) 1999 to harmonise and consolidate the requirements for businesses. MPI recently released a consultation document with the full details of the proposed changes. While there are no changes for the bee products sector, having one consolidated notice containing all the requirements in one place will mean that it will be easier to find them. The main change for the beekeeping industry was a change in terminology – a change from referring to ‘apiarists’ in the regulations to referring to ‘beekeepers’ instead. Submissions were due on 13 September 2021. ApiNZ wrote a submission on behalf of the Standards Compliance and Regulatory Focus Group.

### **Review of requirements for exporting packages of bee products weighing 2 kg or less**

MPI released another consultation document with further changes to the regulations for the export of small parcels. Submissions closed on Monday 13 September. In MPI’s last round of consultation on this topic, ApiNZ’s submission advocated for an increase in the small parcel kg limit from its current level of 2 kilograms. We are pleased that, in the latest round of consultation, MPI is proposing to increase the maximum weight limit for small parcels to 12 kilograms including packaging.