

Standards, Compliance and Regulatory Focus Group March 2022 Meeting Summary

Market Access

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) still does not have a date for the implementation of the new certificate for bee products and the corresponding update of the China Overseas Market Access Requirement (OMAR) which will outline the requirements for the new certificate. MPI will host a question and answer session a week or two after the new OMAR and certificate template are published, so that operators can offer their feedback and ask any questions regarding the new certificate and requirements.

Regarding the new China manufacturer registration regulation (Decree 248), while existing bee products manufacturers with existing China registration can continue to produce bee products for export to China, new manufacturers will not be able to register with China until the new MPI processes have been implemented (via the China OMAR).

The United Kingdom (UK) have updated their model honey certificate to shorten some of their legislative references. There are no changes to the current requirements. MPI is planning to update the honey certificate (GB400) by May 2022. The UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has also been signed.

Japan has implemented a new glyphosate maximum residue level (MRL) of 0.05 mg/kg.

Mānuka Honey Definition

MPI received several submissions on the reassessment of the mānuka honey definition. MPI has now completed their analysis and their findings are currently being reviewed by two panels of scientific experts. MPI has been providing monthly updates on the progress of the mānuka definition reassessment project and is aiming to release the results publicly in June or July. The reassessment is not a change to the General Export Requirements (GREX) for Bee Products. If the reassessment supports a change to the GREX, MPI will carry out a formal consultation process.

Harvest Declaration

MPI has recently consulted on updates to the harvest declaration and is currently working through the issues raised in those submissions. The timeline for the revisions to the harvest declaration will be developed alongside the timeline for the revised China OMAR.

Animal Products Act Regulatory Redesign

MPI published a new Animal Products Act Notice in early March 2022 which consolidates eleven expiring notices into one new notice to remove duplication, standardise language, and make it easier to find the rules for each sector. The consolidated notice comes into effect on 1 July 2022, with a transition period until 1 November 2023. MPI are also planning to run a series of forums during May and June 2022 over zoom to give operators the opportunity to ask MPI directly about the changes. Operators can also contact MPI directly if they have questions or concerns about the notice.

Diastase Research

A report commissioned by Apiculture NZ to understand why some mānuka honeys have low diastase found that fresh mānuka honeys have a wide range of diastase levels, ranging from zero up to 36. The authors of the report did not find any reasons for the wide variability of diastase levels in fresh mānuka honey. The next steps are to present this research to the ISO Bee Products Standards Group and to publish this research in a peer reviewed journal.