

Standards, Compliance and Regulatory Focus Group May 2022 Meeting Summary

Mānuka Honey Definition Reassessment

Since the last meeting of this group in March, the two external review panels have largely completed their reviews. As the review panels have requested some additional analysis be completed prior to completing their review reports, this means that the release of the results of the review will be delayed by up to four weeks and is now expected to be in the third quarter of 2022.

Market Access

MPI advised that the implementation of the new certificate for bee products and corresponding update of the China Overseas Market Access Requirement (OMAR) has been delayed as China Customs has asked for several additional changes. China has now published a set of registration conditions for registering new manufacturers (Decree 248) for bee products. MPI is currently assessing how well New Zealand's current system matches these conditions.

The changes to the model honey certificate for the United Kingdom have been completed and everyone should now be using the new certificate.

Diastase research

The research paper on diastase levels in mānuka honey commissioned funded by Apiculture NZ is underway. This paper is intended to be published in a peer reviewed journal.

International Standards Organisation: honey projects

The development of a standard for raw honey has recently been added to the work program of the ISO bee products standards group.

Sustainable Futures and Fibre Funding (SFFF) Project

The SFFF project to develop a strategic plan for the future of the honey sector is now underway. The first step is to undertake a stocktake of the current state of the industry. A survey to collect a snapshot of what current participants see as the key issues as well as potential solutions to challenges was released at the beginning of May. The response to this survey has been very positive with lots of people also having volunteered to engage further with the contractors. A presentation at the annual Apiculture Conference in Christchurch is on this project is scheduled. This presentation will include results from the survey.