

Standards, Compliance and Regulatory Focus Group August 2022 Meeting Summary

Manuka honey definition reassessment

While the two external review panels have largely completed their reviews, the additional analysis required in response to their comments is taking longer than initially thought. MPI now expect the scientific analysis to be completed by November 2022. MPI plan to consult internally about the results prior to releasing them publicly.

Market Access

On 1 June 2022, Japan dropped glyphosate testing to the standard imported food testing plan level. However, testing honey for glyphosate is still required in New Zealand for export certificates.

MPI Tutin Research

MPI has been doing some operational research on the tutin standard on option 2 (geographical location) and option four (seasonal emergence of the vine hopper). Field research is due to commence to look at the distribution of vine hoppers around New Zealand, particularly around the latitude 42 degrees south line. Honey testing will also be undertaken to get a baseline on distribution of the vine hopper and the levels of tutin in honey as the effects of climate change may be causing greater spread of vine hoppers and earlier emergence.

MPI Export Assurance Consultation

The export assurance group in MPI are currently doing some consultation. Export assurances under the Animal Products Act and the Wine Act are supported by legislation, but assurances for phytosanitary certificates, organics and seed varietal certificates are only administrative systems and are not supported by legislation. MPI are looking at options to bring everything all under one legislative system, especially as there is increasing demand from other countries for other assurances. ApiNZ intend to write a submission to MPI on this issue.