

Standards, Compliance and Regulatory Focus Group

February 2023 Meeting Summary

MPI Mānuka Honey Definition Reassessment

MPI's internal consultation is still underway. Once this process is completed, MPI plan to release the results publicly. No changes will be made to the Honey GREX as a result of this reassessment. If any changes are likely to be made to the GREX, MPI will undertake a full public consultation process.

Market Access

MPI are currently providing support for the modification, renewal and registration process for businesses wishing to retain their ability to export products to China. Businesses are being encouraged to engage with their verifiers and MPI as soon as possible. MPI sent out a reminder email to exporters at the end of February and are liaising with ApiNZ to provide information on the process for members in the Beekeeper Journal and the Friday Update emails.

Food safety advice for beekeepers in flood affected areas

MPI has been developing food safety advice for flood affected sectors and has been asked to develop specific advice for the honey sector. MPI has already provided advice for other sectors including the wine and apple sectors. Situations range from fully submerged hives to honey that has been packed in drums and the drums were only splashed by floodwater. Generally, if a product has been in contact with flood waters it is hard to rule out contamination using testing, so these products are generally assumed to be unfit for human consumption. ApiNZ and MPI will work together to develop advice and MPI will release it on their website.