



GERMAC Executive Summary

GERMAC Meeting 30 August 2017

New L3B approvals: location and operators

There is growing interest from private providers to set up new level 3B PEQ facilities. MPI have not approved a Level 3 facility for many years, and are drafting criteria to assess new applications against. MPI proposed that no new Level 3B PEQ facilities should be allowed to be built in horticultural areas and the GERMAC committee overwhelmingly agreed*. MPI is still considering the location of Level 3A facilities.

Post Entry Quarantine Update

The majority of operators of PEQ facilities have submitted a manual to meet the new requirements of the PEQ Standard. Approx. 32 operators have manuals which are close to meeting the requirements, with 17 well below the standard. Five operators have not submitted a manual and do not appear to be active facilities.

All PEQ facilities having submitted a manual can still import plant material, subject to meeting the structural requirements of the PEQ standard. By the end of March 2018, all operating manuals are expected to meet the required standard. MPI plan to work one-on-one with operators to meet this deadline. Operators failing to meet this requirement after 31st March will be suspended.

Offshore Facility Accreditation

MPI confirmed that they have received a request for re-accreditation of the UC Davis facility for *Vitis* and intend to complete a desktop audit to update the Agreement. MPI commented that working together with Australia on the proposal of using the quarantine facilities at Mickleham looks promising for the ability to increase New Zealand's capacity for plants coming into New Zealand. Upcoming audits for WSU and CFIA are now planned for March 2018.

Terms of Reference and CRI membership

The ToRs are being reviewed to align them with MPI's R&A branch wide ToR guide. The following points will be added: confidentiality of information, standard of conduct, conflicts of interest, membership, and attendance. Bill Griffin is retiring from the committee. The committee may look to find a replacement member to continue to represent the CRIs.

Next Generation Sequencing Update

MPI is intended to publish a journal paper in collaboration with Australia on the outcome of the 3-year Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) research project on plant viruses. Detection capability of micro rRNA of host plants produced in response to virus infection was discussed. The importance of developing NGS methods for other plant pathogens and detection of symptomless infection in quarantine were also discussed.

*This sentence was edited based on feedback from a member of the GERMAC committee.