

Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee – Meeting Update

Updates on key projects and issues are summarised following each committee meeting.

Meeting 27 held on 9 November 2021 - Summary

The committee met on 9 November 2021 via teleconference, and received operational updates from the department on the Plant Export and Biosecurity Operations, the Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Arrangements, market access activities, and relevant information technology projects.

Proposed amendments to the Plant Rules

The department is proposing to implement changes to the Export Control (Plant and Plant Products) Rules 2021 (the Plant Rules) from 1 January 2022 to better align with current business and regulatory practices. Following an information session for HEICC members on the proposed key changes on 29 September 2021, the formal consultation period on the first round of amendments has now opened. The suite of amendments to the Plant Rules is currently available on the [Have Your Say](#) webpage until 30 November 2021 for your feedback. An [Industry Advice Notice \(2021-60: Plant Export Operations – Public consultation on the Exposure Draft Export Control Legislation Amendment Rules 2021\)](#) containing further information on the public consultation process was also issued on 3 November 2021.

In developing the proposed changes, the department has taken on board feedback from HEICC members about the proposed amendment removing the requirement for preparation of fresh fruit for non-phytosanitary markets at a Registered Establishment. Given the feedback that Registered Establishments play a role in verifying the preparation of fresh fruit, the department is not proceeding with this proposed amendment, at least for the next twelve months, allowing further consideration.

Updated requirements for food manufacturer exporting to China

Following online submissions from food processing and storage facilities, the department has submitted its recommendations for Article 7 foods to the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). If you manufacture, process or store other food products (Article 9 foods) you will need to self-register your business through China's single window mechanism from 1 November 2021. The department understands that fresh fruit production and processing facilities, orchards and exporters are exempt from the new requirements due to existing bilateral arrangements.

The department held a webinar on 22 October 2021 to provide updated information about the requirements for food manufacturer exporting to China and is to hold an additional webinar on 25 November 2021. Recording of the webinar are available from the [Have Your Say](#) webpage.

Further information on China's new requirements for imported food products has been published on the departments' Have Your Say website (see [Industry Advice Notice 2021-53](#) Plant Export Operations – Update on the new registration process for food processing and storage facilities handling product for export to China and product labelling requirements, [Industry Advice Notice 2021-55](#) Plant Export Operations – Reminder that applications are required by 22 October 2021 for food processing and storage facilities handling food products for export to China, and [Industry Advice Notice 2021-58](#): Plant Export Operations – Updated information on registration for food processing and storage facilities handling product for export to China and product labelling requirements).

For additional information on the above summary please contact your industry HEICC representative.