

Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee – Meeting Update

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

Meeting 30 held on 12 October 2022 - Summary

The committee met on 12 October 2022 in person and via teleconference to discuss plant export operations, the horticulture exports cost recovery arrangements, market access activities, and relevant information technology projects. Routine operational updates covering audit and assurance, assessment services, and the Authorised Officer program were provided for information out-of-session.

Plant Export Reform

The Plant Export Reform Program will simplify processes for plant exporters and industry participants involved in the production, treatment and logistics of exporting plant and plant products. The committee noted the progress of four projects relevant to horticulture products:

- Harmonised Regulation – The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the department) has partnered with the Tasmanian and Victorian State governments on two projects; to respectively automate area freedom certification and standardise irradiation as a phytosanitary treatment.
- Industry Systems Recognition –The department now recognises current food safety and quality certification to a Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) approved scheme, including GLOBALG.A.P, Freshcare, British Retail Consortium (BRC) Global Standard for Food Safety, and Safety Quality Food (SQF). Relevant policies and instructional material have been updated and the factsheet *Changes to food safety recognition for horticulture experts – an overview for industry* has been provided to committee members for distribution to industry stakeholders.
- Packhouse Grower Supply Model – The grower supplier model pilot was conducted from March to August 2022. The report on the pilot, currently being drafted, is to be shared with industry members once completed. While the model will not be implemented in time for the 2022-23 citrus season, it will be extended to a few other new participants. The goal is to extend the grower supplier model to commodities other than citrus towards the end of 2023.
- Technology for Assurance – The department has engaged with several technology companies who are developing, or have developed, technology that could be utilised in the horticultural export pathway (for example, the feasibility of x-ray imaging technology to detect pests in samples of fruit; and transferring treatment data from industry systems into PEMS using an Application Programming Interface (API)).

Further information is available from the department's [Busting Congestion for Plant Exports](#) webpage.

Horticulture Exports Program

The department is developing new training for crop monitors which is anticipated to be available in time for the 2023-24 export season (excluding citrus).

Digital Systems update

The July-September 2022 release for the Plant Export Management System (PEMS) introduced automated Request For Permit (RFP) authorization email requests. Further information is available from the department's [Plant Exports Management System \(PEMS\)](#) webpage.

The July-September 2022 release for EXDOC updated the business rules to include scientific names for products in an RFP; to remove irrelevant fields for horticulture RFPs; and to develop validation rules for discharge ports.

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