

Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee – Meeting Update

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

Meeting 24 held on 28 October 2020 - Summary

The committee met on 28 October 2020 via video conference to receive horticulture export related updates from the department and industry on Biosecurity Operations, Plant Export Operations and Finance. Information was also provided on Horticulture Exports, the Authorised Officer program, the Plant Export Management System (PEMS), the Horticulture Exports Cost Recovery Arrangement and market access activities.

Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters

The Australian Government is introducing a package of reforms for the Australian agricultural sector as part of the Economic Recovery Plan to rebuild the economy and recover from the COVID-19 recession. The Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters package, worth \$328.4 million over four years from 2020-21, will slash unnecessary red tape to get products to export markets faster and to support jobs in rural, regional and remote Australia. Budget measures in this package relevant to horticulture include:

- the Digital Services to Take Farmers to Markets measure – to modernise Australia’s agricultural export systems by slashing red-tape and improving regulation and service delivery for producers and exports
- the Harmonised and Streamlined Plant Export Regulation measure – to simplify processes for plant product exports making it easier, cheaper and quicker for plant exporters to move produce into overseas markets
- the More Efficient and Sustainable Export Regulation measure – to assist agriculture exporters through the reform process, with a freeze in fees and charges in 2020-21 and stepped increases spread through to 2023-24.

Further information on the Busting Congestion package can be found [here](#).

Agricultural export legislation

The draft Export Control (Plants and Plant Products) Rules 2020 has been released for the second round of public consultation. Feedback on the draft plant rules was required to be submitted on the department’s [Have Your Say](#) page by COB 5 November 2020.

Plant Export Management System (PEMS)

The mandatory use of PEMS, initially scheduled for 1 October 2020, has been delayed for system integration clients until 1 February 2021. The extension will allow more users to be compliant with the mandate when it is enforced.

PEMS is now mobile phone friendly, allowing inspection and calibration data to be captured in real time. The *PEMS in your pocket* capability can be accessed by using the internet browser on your mobile phone to navigate to PEMS through the department’s website. Further information is available in the PEMS in your pocket [factsheet](#).

Removal of paper export certificates to New Zealand

The department is no longer issuing paper phytosanitary certificate and extra certificates from the Export Documentation System (EXDOC) for grain and horticulture assignments being exported to New Zealand, effective 31 August 2020. The department’s electronic certification system (eCert) is integrated with EXDOC, allowing the transmission of export certificate data to New Zealand.

Manual of Importing Country Requirements

The pre-production release of the Manual of Importing Country Requirements (Micor – previously known as MICoR) is now available for external user testing. Take a look, get acquainted and tell the department what you think at micorbeta.agriculture.gov.au.

Regulatory Practice Statement

The department is currently developing a *Regulatory Practice Statement*. The statement, to be published in early 2021, is intended to be a document that will steer how the department approaches improving regulatory capability and performance.

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