New phytosanitary security policy for horticulture exports

Information for Authorised Officers

Purpose
This factsheet covers changes to the phytosanitary security policy for horticulture exports. In particular, transfer certificates, which affects Authorised Officers (AOs) that inspect horticulture goods for export.

What has changed?

Instructional material
- New instructional material for the phytosanitary security of horticulture exports has replaced Volume 14: Product security.

Transfer documents
- Transfer certificates that were previously issued for goods moving between establishments have been replaced with transfer records (see Figure 1).
- The only circumstance where a transfer certificate will still be issued, is when it is required by the importing country authority (currently only USA protocol markets) and will be based on the information in the transfer record.
- A transfer record must be jointly completed by the dispatching and receiving entities, each time goods with a phytosanitary status are transferred from one premises to another (regardless of distance).
- Transfer records are not required for movements from an accredited farm to accredited packhouse/registered establishment unless already commercially packed, or when PFA product moves within the PFA.

Phytosanitary status
- Goods are considered to have a phytosanitary status where in-field controls are applied, they are grown in a Pest Free Area (PFA) or Pest Free Place of Production (PFPP), post-treatment, or post-inspection, before authorisation.

Inspections
- AOs validate the transfer record for the last movement that occurred before the inspection, then upload it to the Plant Exports Management System.

Key points
- The new policy covers requirements for horticulture accredited properties and registered establishments regarding phytosanitary security, including the transfer of goods.
- The new policy was published on 16 September 2019 and became enforceable from 16 December 2019.
- Transfer certificates are no longer to be issued from 16 December 2019 (except where required by an importing country).
- AOs must validate transfer records for goods with a phytosanitary status at the time of inspection.
What is required of me?

Implementation

- From 16 December 2019, the policy became enforceable and you must now comply with the new instructional material for any goods that have moved with a phytosanitary status prior to inspection.
- Report any non-conformities to the department's Audit and Assurance Group.

Enquiries

- You must be able to answer basic questions about transfer records and transfer certificates, and direct clients to the department’s website for more information.
- Complex questions should be directed to the Horticulture Exports Program.

Figure 1: Transfer record template for horticulture exports.
Will this cost industry more?

- Transfer records are managed and issued by accredited properties and registered establishments, there will be no charge for these documents from the department.
- The current fee remains for transfer certificates issued by the department under the circumstances outlined in this factsheet.
- There may be a small increase in fees for audits as it could take up to 15 minutes longer to ensure compliance with the policy and to check transfer records.

What do clients need to know?

- Clients will need to read and comply with the new policy from 16 December 2019.
- There will be changes to the way we manage the security of horticulture goods that move from one establishment to another.
- The approved methods of security for fruit fly PFA and irradiated products have changed.
- Clients will no longer need to request a transfer certificate, except when required by the importing country authority.
- A transfer record must be completed by each entity in the movement pathway, showing the transfer from one premises to another.
- Transfer records for the last movement before inspection must be provided to the inspection AO.
- Clients need to provide a copy of their transfer record to the department’s Assessment Services Group if requesting a transfer certificate.
- A transfer record template and work instruction on how to complete the record will be on the Plant Export Operations Manual (PEOM).
- Clients can develop their own version of the transfer record template as long as it meets the minimum information requirements outlined in the work instruction for validating supporting documents.
- An Industry Advice Notice (IAN) was released to notify clients of the change. Clients can subscribe to receive IANs via the department’s website.

What instructional material is available?

- The following documents have been created or updated as part of the new policy:
  - Guideline: *Maintenance of phytosanitary security for horticulture exports* (new)
  - Work instruction: *Completing a transfer record for horticulture exports* (new) - only on the PEOM
  - Reference: *Transfer record for horticulture exports* (new)
  - Work instruction: *Validating supporting documents for plant exports* (updated)
  - Work instruction: *Inspecting horticulture exports using end-point sampling* (updated)
  - Work instruction: *Inspection horticulture exports using in-line sampling* (updated)
- The instructional material can be found on the PEOM. Departmental AOs can also access these documents on the Instructional Material Library.

Contact

- For questions, please contact the Horticulture Exports Program.
- To report non-conformities, please contact the Audit and Assurance Group.