New phytosanitary security policy for horticulture exports

Information for PFA and PFPP Farms

**Purpose**

This factsheet explains how changes to the horticulture exports phytosanitary security policy affects farms within Pest Free Areas (PFA), including fruit fly and other pests and diseases, and farms considered to be a Pest Free Place of Production (PFPP).

**Overview**

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is working to develop new and improved market access for Australian producers and exporters.

We are ensuring Australia’s agriculture industry remains globally competitive and is a leader in innovative trade policy.

The new phytosanitary security policy, ensures Australian produce maintains a high level of protection during movements from farm to export. It will maintain our strong, consistent and strategic platform to negotiate new or expanded market access opportunities for Australian horticulture producers and exporters.

**What has changed?**

**Instructional material**

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

**Security of goods**

- Phytosanitary security must be maintained for all goods intended for export, from the time the goods attain a phytosanitary status.

- Goods are considered to have a phytosanitary status where in-field controls are applied, they are grown in a PFA or PFPP, post-treatment, or post-inspection, before they receive a phytosanitary certificate and export permit.

**Movement of goods**

- Goods with a phytosanitary status must only be transported to either an accredited property or a registered establishment, except for PFA product moving within the PFA.

- Transfer certificates that were previously issued for goods moving from one premises to another, will be replaced with transfer records (see Figure 1).

**Key points.**

- The new policy covers requirements for PFA and PFPP farms regarding phytosanitary security, including the transfer of goods and packaging.

- The new policy was published on 16 September 2019 and became enforceable from 16 December 2019.

- Transfer certificates will not be issued from 16 December 2019 (except where required by an importing country).

- New instructional material and templates for industry are available on the department’s website.
Movement of goods (continued)

- 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).
- They 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.

What do the changes mean for me?

- For goods from PFA and PFPP farms you will need to:
  - initiate a transfer record for the movement of goods from your premises to the next (not required for movements within a PFA)
  - secure the goods and ensure that security can be maintained for the duration of the journey.
- Check the new policy as the requirements for how goods can be packaged have changed.
- A departmental transfer record template is available, however industry can develop their own version of the transfer record template as long as it meets the minimum information requirements.
- Registered establishments and accredited properties will be audited against the new policy from 16 December 2019.

Will this cost industry more?

- Transfer records are managed and issued by industry, so 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.

What instructional material will be available?

- The following instructional material is available to industry:
  - Guideline: Maintenance of phytosanitary security for horticulture exports
  - Work instruction: Completing a transfer record for horticulture exports
  - Reference: Transfer record for horticulture exports
- The instructional material can be found on the department's Plant Export Operations Manual.

Contact

For questions about the new policy, contact the Horticulture Exports Program.