THE AUSTRALIAN APPLE AND PEAR INDUSTRY'S TECHNICAL RESPONSE

"ADDITIONAL INFORMATION"

TO

IMPORTATION OF APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

REVISED DRAFT IRA REPORT

DECEMBER 2005

COMMISSIONED BY

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APRIL 2006

WHEAT BUG.

Further to the information detailed in the "The Australian Apple and Pear Industry's Technical Response" dated the 30th March 2006 the Australian Apple and Pear Industry would offer the following new information that has become available after the close of submissions.

This information on Wheat Bug is complimentary and supplementary to the information presented in Pages 368 to 370 and 390 to 394 of the 30th March submission.

The New Zealand hitchhiker pest Wheat Bug, *Nysius huttoni*, has recently been found in Europe.

IDENTITY:

Name: *Nysius huttoni* White

Taxonomic Position: Animalia: Arthropoda.
Insecta: Hemiptera: Lygaeidae.

Common Names: Wheat bug

Significance:
Previously undetected outside of New Zealand, *Nysius huttoni* has been found in the South West area of the Netherlands and the adjoining North Western area of Belgium. *Nysius huttoni* is a polyphagous sap-feeding insect that can cause serious damage to wheat and plants in the Brassicaceae family.

Pathways:
Hitchhiker. Has been found on apple fruit packages exported from New Zealand.

Hosts:
Brassica spp., *Medicago sativa* (alfalfa), *Trifolium dubium*, *T. pratense*, *T. repens* (clovers), and Poaceae such as: *Avena sativa* (oat), *Bromus*, *Hordeum sativum* (barley), *Lolium*, *Secale cereale* (rye), *Triticum aestivum* (wheat).

The following weeds have been reported as hosts: *Anagallis arvensis*, *Calandrinia caulescens*, *Capsella bursa-pastoris*, *Cassinia leptophyla*, *Chenopodium album*, *Coronopus didymus*, *Hieracium*, *Polygonum aviculare*, *Rumex acetosella*, *Senecio inaequidens*, *Silene gallica*, *Soliva sessilis*, *Spergularia rubra*, and *Stellaria media*.

It is also suggested that the presence of mosses (e.g. *Ceratodon*, *Sphagnum*, *Polytrichum* spp.) may be crucial for the over wintering period.

OTHER INFORMATION:

References:

For more details please visit the full report published by the EPPO Reporting Service 2006, No. 02, p. 6.
Available online: http://www.eppo.org/PUBLICATIONS/reporting/Rse-0602.pdf

References taken from EPPO Report:

Aukema B, Bruers JM, Viskens G. 2005. A New Zealand endemic *Nysius* established in The Netherlands and Belgium (Heteroptera: Lygaeidae). *Belgian Journal of Entomology* 7, 37-43.

Bejakovich D, Pearson WD, O'Donnell MR. 1998. Nationwide survey of pests and diseases of cereal and grass seed crops in New Zealand. 1. Arthropods and molluscs. Paper presented at the 51st Conference of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society. Available on-line: http://www.hortnet.co.nz

Every D, Farrell JA, Stufkens MW, Wallace AR. 1998. Wheat cultivar susceptibility to grain damage by the New Zealand wheat bug, *Nysius huttoni*, and cultivar susceptibility to the effects of bug proteinase on baking quality. *Journals of Cereal Science* 27(1), 37-46. (Abstract).

He XZ, Wang Q. 1999. Laboratory assessment of damage to swede, *Brassica napus rapifera*, by wheat bug *Nysius huttoni*. Paper presented at the 52nd Conference of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society. Available on-line: http://www.hortnet.co.nz

CONCLUSIONS:

The Australian Apple and Pear Industry would further highlight the conclusions and recommendations presented in the 30th March 2006 submission and believe that given this new information the RAP must implement these actions immediately.

1. The Australian Apple and Pear Industry does not consider Biosecurity Australia should have excluded Wheat Bug from the analysis by reclassifying it as a contaminant. The evidence suggests that importation of fruit from New Zealand represents a high risk pathway for this pest, such that specific risk management strategies are required for fruit imports from New Zealand. Appropriate risk management options are suggested.

2. Wheat Bug must be subjected to the full semi-quantitative analysis on account of the high risk pathway for this pest into Australia provided by fruit imports from New Zealand.

3. Wheat Bugs must be included as a targeted pest in pre-clearance and on-arrival inspections.

4. **In the absence of satisfactory risk mitigation measures for Wheat Bug, the Australian Apple and Pear Industry considers that all New Zealand apples bound for Australia must be fumigated before leaving New Zealand.**