



SEEDS

ACCESS

NZGSTA CODE OF PRACTICE

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ACCESS

- Biosecurity
- Commercial impact
- Time considerations
- Cost implications
- Consultation





ACCESS




- NZ vegetable industry is reliant on imported vegetable seed
- Virtually no plant breeding of vegetable species carried out within NZ
- Alternate to importing vegetable seed is to import the produce itself







BIOSECURITY

- Seeds for sowing need to meet biosecurity requirements to prevent the entry of unwanted organisms into New Zealand
- The plant imports team as part of MPI regulate the importation of seed
- Importers must comply with the import health standard (IHS) for seeds for sowing

COMMERCIAL IMPACT

- Changes to the import health standards can have significant implications i.e. proposed lettuce amendment 2017
- NZ is a very small user of vegetable seed in a global context
- Changes to the IHS must be based on proven risks, established by good science and balanced with commercial impact


TIME CONSIDERATIONS




- Previously most vegetable species were on “Basic” entry requirements in the Import Health Standards
- In the past seed ordered from the Netherlands would take 3 weeks to arrive into NZ
- Currently orders placed with suppliers now require a 4-6 month lead time





COST IMPLICATIONS

- The costs to import vegetable seed into NZ have increased substantially
- Given the small size of the NZ market, it is no longer viable to import some vegetable varieties
- Importing new germplasm for trial evaluation poses an even greater concern


SPECIES	TEST	SEEDS REQUIRED	COST ex GST
Apiaceae	Candidatis Liberibacter	10,000	\$350 negative + \$600 if positive
Capsicum	PSTVd & PCFVd	3,000	\$720
Cucurbit	CGMMV & KGMMV	2,000	\$970 (ELISA) + \$1,620 (PCR) (\$100 extra if treated)
Tomato	PSTVd	3,000	\$570
Pelleted Seed	Purity	10%	\$218

Note: All testing takes up to 10 working days, assuming no backlog.



CONSULTATION

- Future viability of NZ vegetable production requires all stakeholders to be involved in consultations by MPI on IHS amendments
- Interested parties can subscribe to the Plant Import Notifications
- Submissions regarding changes are best channelled through an industry association such as HortNZ or United Fresh.



CODE OF PRACTICE

- Biosecurity
- Traceability
- Quality Assurance
- Claims
- Fair Trade
- Annual Audit



BIOSECURITY

- All seed must be imported in compliance with the IHS – this includes seed for experimental or breeding purposes
- Biosecurity Authority Clearance Certificates (BACC) must be available for all seed shipments



TRACEABILITY

- Products must be identified with a unique lot designation
- Products must be able to be traced from the origin to point of sale





QUALITY ASSURANCE

- A robust quality assurance program must ensure seed quality specifications are monitored and met
- Includes standards and monitoring for germination, foodborne disease testing, weights and measures
- Legitimate laboratories (IANZ accredited), ISF standards, calibration records





CLAIMS

- Seed information must include species, variety, lot designation, germination, quantity, treatment, seller
- Verification of organic status if claimed
- Evidence of certification if using words such as certified, registered, verified, approved etc...






FAIR TRADE

- Terms for how signatories market and promote their products
- Requirement to have a customer complaints procedure
- Process for signatories to have grievances addressed



AUDIT

- Annual audit
- Carried out by independent auditor – currently AsureQuality
- Full compliance of all mandatory points for signatory to achieve “certification”



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