



# Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter September/October 2015

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## Updating MAO systems

During the month MPI conducted the last of the series of MPI Approved Organisation (MAO) Awareness Workshops on the revised phytosanitary certification standards for seed (horticultural, and forestry) exports.

Attendance at the workshops was mandatory for the maintenance of a company's MAO status.

It should be noted that failure to attend the workshops and update existing MAO systems for IVA approval means an organisation's approval will be suspended or terminated.

The dates as published by MPI that apply to seed MAO's (as they are not classified as seasonal) are as follows:

- If the MAO annual systems audit is between June 2015 and the end of March 2016 then they must be approved to the new standard by 1 Nov 2015
- If the MAO annual systems audit was between April and June then they must be approved to the new standard by 31 March 2016.
- MPI requires an updated system that has been successfully evaluated by an IVA to the new standard sent to them by an IVA no later than 2 weeks prior to 1 Nov 2015.

## Maize Performance Trials

New Zealand's first Maize Hybrid Performance Trials (MPT) has been completed, and the analysed results for the 2014-15 pilot season has been published (28 August).

The results booklet presents the results taken from the three specially designed trial sites established in spring of 2014. These were in Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Canterbury.

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<b>Vice President:</b>	Barry McCarter 09 307 0000
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Thomas Chin	03 349 8430
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Tricia Radford	03 349 8430

The NZ Plant Breeding and Research Association (NZPBRA) and the Foundation for Arable research (FAR) developed the independent maize hybrid testing scheme with support from PGGW Seeds and Pacific Seeds.

The second year of the MPT trials is due to be planted again from October 2015.

#### **Fungicide treatments on Coriander**

Last year Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) made amendments to the Pisum and Phaseolus import schedules in regards to fungicide treatments. The amendments caused a few issues to members' imports however this was satisfactorily resolved with Association intervention.

Presently, we are aware that MPI will be changing the fungicide requirements for coriander, and searching for efficacy data on *Cephalosporium gramineum*, which is regulated on cereal crops and is a perennial problem. On the latter, any input from members would be welcome.

Members are asked to particularly ensure that their imports are in compliance with MPI requirements before shipment this year, as having to deal with obtaining fungicide equivalencies on an individual basis will result in delays.

#### **New Health and safety laws**

New health and safety legislation has been passed by the Government (27 August). Of interest to our sector the Government has chosen not to classify dairy, sheep and beef farms as "high risk industries" i.e. they will be excluded from provision having to have and train a health and safety representative. Under the law, workplaces with fewer than 20 employees will not require representatives unless the industry is deemed "high risk".

Pertaining to Association member business activities, needing to have formal methods of worker health and safety participation and representation, include: some types of crop growing (eg lucerne cropping, mustard, hay and

silage, hops, lavender), grain mill and cereal product manufacturing, Freight Transport, Warehousing and Storage Services, Fertiliser and Pesticide Manufacturing.

It should be noted that that a key element to the legislation is the requirement for all businesses to develop an effective working relationship between all parties (Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs), officers and workers).

Interesting, the penalty regime sees a PCBU which is a body corporate that commits an offence under the new law may be fined a penalty of up to \$500,000, \$1.5 million or \$3 million.

The new law will come into force on **4 April 2016**. This will allow duty holders to become aware of their new responsibilities under the law.

The Annual NZGSTA conference will host an important panel discussion on what the health and safety law means for grain and seed industry members.

#### **Amendments to IHS**

MPI advises that they have made some recent amendments to the seed for sowing import health standard. Of direct interest for Association members are the changes affecting:

- Cucurbits. Specifically, imports into NZ now require specific testing for Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV)
- Zea mays. Specifically, imports require specific measures for *Sugarcane mosaic virus*

#### **IHS Consultations**

MPI has released the **Import Health Standard: 155.02.05 Importation of Seed for Sowing and the Protocol for Testing Seed Imports for the Presence of Genetically Modified Seed** for public consultation. See:

[Draft IHS for seeds for sowing, and changes to protocol for testing for the presence of genetically modified seed](#)

MPI invites comments on proposed changes to the:

- General requirements for the importation of seeds for sowing (Import Health Standard 155.02.05: Importation of Seeds for Sowing), and
- Protocol for Testing Seed Imports for the Presence of Genetically Modified Seed.

Industry members can either forward comments to the Association for collation ([tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz)) or file directly with MPI their submissions by **Thursday 8 October 2015**.

Further, MPI advises that the following import health standards are expected to be out for consultation over the coming weeks:

- Grains/Seeds for Consumption, Feed & Processing
- Facility standard: Post-entry Quarantine for Plants . (The PEQ standard sets out the requirements for facilities importing plant material that requires quarantine on arrival in NZ)

#### **Green Party portfolio changes**

The Green Party has reshuffled its portfolios following the election of new co-leader James Shaw. The fourth ranked list MP Eugenie Sage has taken over the primary industries job from 14th-ranked MP Steffan Browning. Browning remains the spokesman on: Organics, GE, Biosecurity, Pesticides, and Food Safety.

#### **Fed Farmers new Arable Chairman**

At their AGM in Wellington the Grain and Seed Industry Group of Federated Farmers voted to change their name to the Arable Industry Group. Guy Wigley from South Canterbury takes over the Chairmanship from Ian Mackenzie.

#### **\$7.3m for pasture research partnership**

The Government has announced that its investing \$7.3 million with Pastoral Genomics (an industry-

led research partnership between DairyNZ, Beef+Lamb NZ, Grasslands Innovation, NZ Agriseeds, DEEResearch, AgResearch, and Dairy Australia) over five years to improve pasture grasses and lift the performance of livestock farming.

The partnership intends to use non-regulated biotechnologies, including genomic selection that does not involve genetic modification, to help progress breeding and commercialisation of high-performing forages for grazing livestock. The forage cultivars are expected to have improved nutritional content and be more resilient to drought and disease.

#### **Grains Industry Forum**

On Wednesday 7 October the NZGSTA will host a grain industry forum to discuss global grain trends, outlook and the implications for the NZ industry.

The forum will commence at 10am and finish around midday. We will hear from the following speakers:

- Graydon Chong, Senior Analyst, Food & Agribusiness Research & Advisory from Rabobank
- Emma Dent, AgriHQ Grains Analyst
- Guy Wigley, Federated Farmers Arable Industry Group Chair and Brian Leadley , Vice Chair Grains

To attend the forum, please email your RSVP to: [tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz)

We think the forum will stimulate good discussion and debate. We look forward to seeing you at the forum.

#### **New EPA CEO**

Dr Allan Freeth has been appointed Chief Executive of the Environmental Protection Authority. He replaces Rob Furlong.

**NZGSTA ANNUAL Conference 2015 UPDATE**

Conference 2015 is fast approaching. Just a brief reminder of what's on offer this year.

This year's program includes our AGM, business group meeting, key note presentations, a panel discussion and two field trips.

Our opening day will feature a presentation from the Minister of Primary Industries, the Hon Nathan Guy. This will be followed by keynotes from Health & Safety Panel, Dr Nick Roskrug. In the evening, our welcome function will be held upstairs in the Maritime Rooms, Quay Street. The next day we will have the AGM and the morning session will include another key note presentation from Prof. Jacqueline Rowarth. In the afternoon we have a field trip to look at salad leaf production and packaging in Pukekohe. Conference Dinner will be held in the SkyCity Revolving Restaurant. On Friday there is an additional field trip for a behind the scenes look at the Ports of Auckland.

If you haven't registered to attend the Conference, visit our website at: [www](http://www.nzgstas.co.nz) or contact

Tricia Radford at

[tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz](mailto:tricia.radford@seedindustrynz.co.nz)

**SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE –**

**Available for members' use**

The Seed Industry Office is located at:

**185 Kirk Rd, Innovation Park, Templeton, CHRISTCHURCH**

The office is handily located on the southern outskirts of Christchurch, just off State Highway 1. We are only 10 minutes from the airport.

Our boardroom is available for meetings, and members are welcome to call in and re-charge a cell phone, make a fax, or just stop in for a coffee break when passing through Christchurch. Please let Tricia know if you wish to book the boardroom.

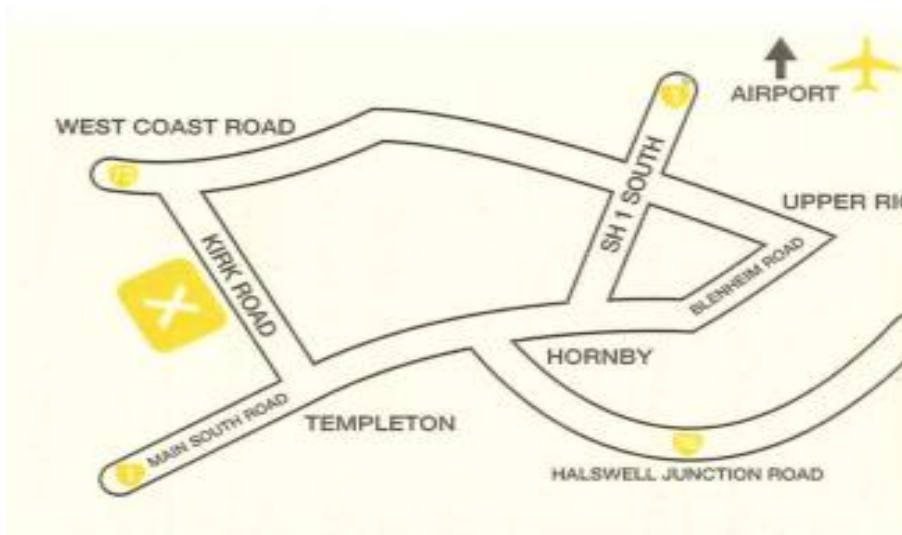
**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW CONTACT DETAILS:**

**New PO Box 23143, Templeton 8445**

Ph: (03) 349-8430

Fax: (03) 349 8436

**DIRECTIONS TO SEED INDUSTRY OFFICE, 185 KIRK ROAD, TEMPLETON**



**Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council for 2015/2016**

- **20<sup>th</sup> October 2015 – Auckland (AGM & Conference 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> October)**

Please advise Thomas Chin of any matters you wish to have discussed at a meeting.