



Newsletter

New Zealand Grain & Seed Trade Association Inc.

NZGSTA Newsletter March/April 2018

Page 1

This newsletter covers the following items of interest:

- **AsureQuality Seed Certification - Canterbury Field Team Update**
- **NZGSTA Workshop on Export Phytosanitary Certification Scheme – 10 April 2018**
- **NZGSTA Workshop on NZ Seed Varietal Certification Scheme -19 June 2018**
- **Proprietary seed sales**
- **Changes to IHS for Pisum Seeds**
- **5% tolerance on seed lot sizes**
- **Certification labels**
- **Seed Crop Isolation Distance Scheme**
- **Grain & seed exports worth \$216m**
- **CPTPP positive for seed trade**
- **National Party spokespeople**
- **Add an Advert to your Member's Page**
- **2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference - Golf day and "Early Bird Registration update"**
- **Calling all Retirees – contact details needed**

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AsureQuality Seed Certification - Canterbury Field Team Update

AsureQuality has advised that South Canterbury Area Co-ordinator Warwick Brown has retired and Mid Canterbury based Mark Clibborn has resigned from their longheld positions at the organisation.

The new team at AQ includes:

- Jacqueline Straathof who looks after the management of the PVR and plot testing programmes.
- The Area Co-ordination role which Mark Clibborn had been managing has been split into two areas; Mid Canterbury and Christchurch.
- Nathalie Wall, who has been delivering seed certification crop inspection work based in the Ashburton office takes over as the Area Co-ordinator for Mid Canterbury.
- Jeremy Sheat, previously in PVR management, with Jacqueline will be the Area Co-ordinator for the Christchurch area.
- Julie Hyde continues as the Area Co-ordinator for North Canterbury.
- The position left vacant by Warwick Brown is being recruited

NZGSTA Workshop on Export Phytosanitary Certification Scheme – 10 April 2018

Thank you to everyone who has entered. The workshop has now reached capacity.

NZGSTA Workshop on Seed Varietal Certification –26 June 2018

Save the date of Tuesday 26 June 2018 for the next NZGSTA workshop on Seed Varietal Certification. This workshop to be held in Ashburton will be of interest to seed company representatives, seed processors, and growers. More details will be circulated to members in the coming weeks.

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Proprietary seed sales

Latest market data from the NZPBRA show over 9000 tonnes of perennial, hybrid, Italian and annual ryegrass seed were sold domestically in 2017, similar to the five-year rolling average.

Different ryegrass types comprise 86% of grass seed sales by volume. White clover comprises nearly 7% of sales by volume. Lucerne sales are around 130 tonnes. The key proprietary seed types in order of sales volume are various ryegrass (perennial, annual, Italian, and hybrid), white clover and lucerne cultivars.

Changes to IHS for Pisum Seeds

MPI has advised that the import health standard (IHS) for 155.02.05 Seeds for Sowing for Pisum seed has been updated with the following changes:

- Methyl bromide and or phosphine to be approved chemical treatments
- Exposure rates for Phosphine and
- When fumigating seeds packed in airtight bags, the bags need to be perforated or opened to allow for gas distribution

The IHS is available is available on the [MPI website](#) at

5% tolerance on seed lot sizes

MPI has issued an advisory regarding 5% tolerance on seed lot sizes.

Effective immediately the Seed Certification Bureau will only issue 400 labels for seed lots of 10 tonne and 1000 labels for seed lots of 25 tonne. However extra tags will be issued for machine dressed crops with an over line of less than 5%.

Examples of how this works:

1. An MD crop of 10,200kg . In this example, as the last 200kg is within 5% tolerance, the whole crop is certified as one lot so 408 tags can be issued.
2. An MD crop of 40,350kg. In this example, there will be three 10t lines and one 10,350kg line

as the last 350kg is within 5% tolerance of the last 10,000kg processed.

3. An MD crop of 40,750kg In this example, there will be four 10,000kg lines and one 750kg line as the last 750kg is outside the 5% tolerance of the last 10,000kg processed.

As per the ISTA and OECD seed scheme rules, maximum seed lot sizes are specified for each individual seed scheme and the maximum seed lot size can be exceeded by no more than 5%. Based on this principle, a NZ Domestic only certified 20,000kg end line has an over line tolerance of 1000kg while a 25,000kg end line from an ISTA accredited seed store can have an over line tolerance of 1,250kg

Certification labels

For many years growers who have mislaid, or lost, stock seed labels have relied on the support of a merchant's letter to confirm the identity and weight of the seed lot in order to complete their Grower Application into the New Zealand MPI seed varietal certification scheme.

With the pending update to the seed certification standards AsureQuality will need to realign it's registration practises to ensure compliance with the MPI Seed Varietal Certification Scheme requirements. For growers this will mean that Grower Applications received by the Seed Certification Bureau with insufficient labels, or incomplete information will not be able to be accepted.

Where the Grower Application is not accepted the grower will be contacted (emailed) outlining the additional information/supporting documentation required to complete their application. The relevant merchant will also receive a copy. If the required information is not received within two weeks of the email being sent then the grower will received a Declined Application notification due to the initial application being incomplete. Growers can still resubmit their applications, however acceptance will be at the discretion of the Seed Certification Bureau, on a case by case basis.

This revised process reinforces the need for growers to ensure that they keep concise records at the time of planting, that is, the date that planting occurred, sowing rate, paddock name and paddock area. Growers must be vigilant in checking that every stock seed bag supplied has a tag attached at the time of delivery and that the tags are all retained following the sowing of the crop.

Seed stores and merchants need to be vigilant at the time of dispatch of certified seed to ensure all seed lines have labels attached to every bag, that the labels are legible and correct, and that they match the customer's order. In despatching certified seed the seed stores and merchants must be able to verify that the seed line has been tested and passed purity and germination certification.

Seed Crop Isolation Distance Scheme

The SQMA have set a \$30 fee for SCID use based on confirmed entries. The charge is to cover Asurequality's administration costs, system maintenance and future development costs. Invoices will reflect this change based on confirmed crops booked in SCID from the 30th June 2017.

Grain and Seed exports worth \$216m

New Zealand's world-class seed industry enjoyed another steady export season in 2017.

According to the Government Statistician's trade data for the 2017 calendar year, earnings from seed exports were \$216 million, compared with \$180 million achieved in the previous year.

Herbage seed (ryegrass, clover and other grasses) account for 45 per cent of total seed exports by value. Vegetable seed has 46 per cent share and cereals make up 9 per cent.

The EU is the biggest market for pasture seed by value.

Northern hemisphere markets remain hugely important for New Zealand specialist vegetable seeds and Asian sales are steady with good

growth opportunities. The Netherlands is the number one export market by value for carrots, radish and other vegetable seeds.

And a significant portion of the total volume of cereal seeds exported was maize seed, largely grown in the North Island.

CPTPP positive for seed trade

On 8 March the Government signed the TPP - now named the CPTPP (Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership).

The agreement gives New Zealand better market access to the signatories of the agreement. Of those, we do not have existing free trade agreements with: Japan, Canada, Mexico and Peru. [The USA is not part of the CPTPP].

For the seed trade CPTPP ensures:

1. Tariff elimination or phase out of tariffs on NZ seed exports.
2. Sanitary and Phytosanitary requirements that do not disrupt NZ seed exports.
3. Legislation protecting plants must be aligned with the internationally agreed UPOV91 convention. In other words, this means the NZ Government will have to reform the Plant Variety Rights Act 1987.

[See TPP doc here.](#)

A future and expanded CPTPP could also include: Indonesia, Thailand, China, Taiwan, Colombia and Korea.

National Party spokespeople

The National Party's shadow cabinet was announced by new leader Simon Bridges on 11 March.

Of interest to the seed trade is Nathan Guy retains the Agriculture portfolio and picks up Food Safety and Biosecurity. His party ranking drops one place to number 12, compared with position 11 under Bill English's leadership.

Hamish Walker - MP for Clutha-Southland – gets Associate Agriculture.

Lawrence Yule (Tukituki) has responsibilities for Horticulture.

Members Page on NZGSTA Website

We have added an option for you, as a member of the NZGSTA, to insert an advertisement for your business on your member’s page.

Our statistics show that over 400 users have visited our site so far in March, many going to our Members page.

This service is FREE to you as a member. Just send a jpg to tricia.radford@seedindustry.co.nz and this will be added.

2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference - Golf day



The NZGSTA is currently seeking expressions of interest for 2018 Conference delegates to play golf at Russley Golf Club on Tuesday 16th October 2018.

Things to know:

- 1.30pm Burger and Beer – tee off from 2.15pm
- Format – four person Ambrose
- Prizes include longest drive, best outfit (team), winning team, and closest to the tee
- Refreshments on course
- You don’t have to be a golfer to join the golf day
- A great chance to network with like-minded seedsmen and seedswomen while having fun

Please send your expression of interest to the [Seed Office](#). Will be part of the registration package.

2018 NZGSTA Annual Conference - Early-bird Registrations open

This year’s Annual Conference will take place in Christchurch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, October 17-18, 2018. It is expected that Conference will attract a record number of attendees to help celebrate our 100 year anniversary.

Moreover, Conference will bring together those involved in the industry for valuable opportunities to network and to look at current issues that are critical to the seed industry. Member companies are urged to bring along management staff members who will form the next generation of the business and expose them to industry and Association affairs.

The Conference programme includes a range of exciting speakers and fun social events including a golf tournament, welcome function and gala dinner.

Invite to Retirees to our Cocktail Function –

We are hoping that many of our retired seedsmen and women will join us at our Cocktail Function on Wednesday 17th October at The Crowne Plaza from 6.30pm – 8.00pm.

Can you help us please? We need names and contact details so we can send an invitation to attend this event which will include the History of the Grain & Seed Industry book launch

Information on registration, events, will be posted on the [NZGSTA](#) website.

Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council for 2018 to be held at the Seed Industry Office unless otherwise stated:-

- 24th May 2018
- 25th July 2018 - TBC
- 16th October 2018 (ChCh)

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