**Information available about the Consignment based inspection scheme**

**Introduction**

Australia’s Department of Agriculture (DOA) runs a Compliance-based Inspection Scheme (CBIS) for the importation of selected plant products to Australia.

The scheme rewards importers of these products who demonstrate consistent compliance with Australia’s biosecurity requirements with a risk-based inspection rate. Compliant importers benefit from the CBIS through smoother clearance of goods at the border and reduced costs. See information on the DOA’s website http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/plant-products/risk-return

**Note this information in this document has been compiled as per December 2019 . More up to date information will be available from the importing broker or the DOA web site**

**Who can send produce under the CBIS**

Currently only commodities listed by DOA can be sent through the CBIS system. For New Zealand As of January 2020 this is restricted to Avocados, Capsicums and Stonefruit.

**Qualifying for risk-based inspection rates**

**Importers** of products on CBIS are eligible to qualify for the risk-based inspection rates. The scheme is applied to eligible products through the Agriculture Import Management System (AIMS) and currently does not require any additional action by importers and brokers.

To qualify for the reduced inspection rate, importers must initially pass a defined number of consecutive inspections on the eligible products. The number is most commonly 5 or 10 compliant consignments.

**Inspection rates under CBIS**

Once an importer has qualified under the scheme, future consignments will continue to be monitored and managed under risk-based inspection rates.

The inspection rates range from 10 to 50 per cent depending on the commodity . For New Zealand capsicums the frequency is currently 20% i.e. 1 in 5 consignments will need to be inspected. If one of those consignments is non-compliant the importer will need to requalify ( i.e. there will be 100% inspection of consignments of the commodity imported by that broker until the qualification number is reached.)

**Working details**

DOA has stated under the CBIS trial there should be no delays for that consignment when it arrives at the border. Importers can pre book an inspection and do not have to register to be involved in the CBIS system.

Pest identification –As with normal consignments pest identification in a lab will not be paid for by DOA i.e. the identification will be charged to the importer.

**Please find below answers from DOA to specific questions about CBIS.**

1. **Can CBIS accommodate (report in detail on) a consignment that has multiple commodities?**

This will be facilitated if information is entered into the Agriculture import management system (AIMS) **in line mode**. If the information is entered in container mode this is not possible.

1. **CBIS appears to operate at a broker level and information may not be flowing to importers. Can the system send an email to more than one party?**

As described under question 1 this area will be facilitated if the import information is entered intoAIMS in line mode. If this is the case it will be possible for all consignments to be traced to an importer. DOA provides monthly reports to importers on the CBIS results which can then be passed on to their exporters.

1. **What are the border procedure/policy when a pest is detected and the timeframes around this?**

Most identification is conducted within 24-48 hours depending on the type of preparation and/or mounting that is required for the specimens detected and submitted. This may also vary according to the type of pest detected, the life stage and/or status of the sample.

1. **Can failed product be reworked in Australia to remove seed?**

On-arrival reconditioning is available as an option.

1. **What happens when an importer voluntarily opts for fumigation and the pest is later identified as a non-actionable pest? Does this information get loaded into the CBIS system and is it counted as a pass?**

Currently, CBIS counts all potential Biosecurity Risk Material (BRM) detected at inspection as an actionable item regardless of whether it is later identified as actionable/non-actionable.

Once an organism is identified as a possible pest in a CBIS inspection the status of it does not change in the CBIS recoding system. I.e. the consignment will continue to be regarded as non-compliant and the consignment will not be regarded as pest free affecting the importers ranking.

If the importer elects for voluntary fumigation, then the pest ID and actionable status will still be recorded and can be considered at a later date when the department reviews inspection rates under CBIS. If all (or the vast majority) of detections on a pathway are nonactionable, this may be considered as evidence that the inspection rates can be relaxed.

Whether the pest is actionable or not will determine if the consignment has to go for mandatory fumigation. It is important to remember that this regulation on actionable status is separate to the CBIS tool.

1. **Will DOA recognise voluntary fumigation as a pre-treatment (e.g. Vapormate) and also recognise its effect on risk reduction for entry into CBIS?**

CBIS looks at end-result compliance only. If Vapormate improves compliance, then we expect importers to be motivated to choose product from the cleanest suppliers so that they can maintain their compliance posture. This is why DOA offers biosecurity performance reports to importers of targeted commodities on the CBIS, so they can make informed choices.