

UPDATE: 13 June 2023

Kia ora

This update highlights recent travel by the Trade and Export Growth Minister to progress New Zealand’s trade interests as well as the recent success of Australia in achieving new market access arrangements. You’ll find links to these well as our regular items of regulatory notifications, consultations, national and international news, and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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# GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS

## WTO and TBT Notifications

Please find attached the most recent WTO and TBT notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented, please contact Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.





## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last three weeks:

* **EU** has been updated withAdditional Declaration 22 under section ‘4.3.2 Specific Commodity Requirements’ for *Astelia* spp. tissue culture; Added Additional Declarations under section ‘4.3.2 Specific Commodity for *Actinidia*spp*.;* andadded note under appendix 1 for *Euwallacea fornicatus sensu lato.* [ICPR EU](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/640)

If you need any further clarification, contact your Independent Verification Agency in the first instance.

## Consultations

#### Proposals to amend the New Zealand (Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds) Food Notice

MPI is seeking feedback on the proposed changes to the New Zealand Food Notice: Maximum Residue Levels for Agricultural Compounds: 6 proposals for new or amended maximum residue levels in Schedule 1and 4 new entries to Schedule 3 (veterinary medicines for which no maximum residue level applies). Consultation is open until 16 June 2023. You can find more information about the proposed changes and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposals-to-amend-the-new-zealand-maximum-residue-levels-for-agricultural-compounds-food-notice-8/?utm_source=notification-email).

#### Proposals for the National Organic Standard

MPI is seeking feedback on the draft National Organic Standard. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has worked alongside a number of technical experts across the organics sector to develop draft proposals for the National Organic Standard. These draft proposals contain the technical rules that will regulate the production and processing of organic food, beverages, and plant and animal products. Consultation has been extended to 16 June 2023 . You can find more information about the proposed standard and how to provide a submission on the MPI [website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/consultations/proposals-for-the-national-organic-standard/?utm_source=notification-email)

# NEW ZEALAND NEWS

## Government News:

#### Trade Minister to represent New Zealand trade interests abroad

Trade and Export Growth Minister Damen O’Connor recently travelled to London to represent New Zealand at the Commonwealth Trade Ministers’ Meeting and then to Paris to vice-chair the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting.

“The Commonwealth Trade Ministers’ Meeting provides an opportunity to connect with our Commonwealth partners and discuss important issues for our region – such as outcomes on climate change and the commitment to a multilateral rules-based trading system.” Damien O’Connor said.

“The OECD Ministerial Council Meeting brings together representatives from 38 Member States under the theme Securing a Resilient Future. As vice-chair, I will have the chance to highlight the ways in which New Zealand is already focussed on a resilient future with our Trade for All agenda and our commitment to open and inclusive trade.” Damien O’Connor said. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/trade-minister-represent-new-zealand-trade-interests-abroad)

#### Agreement between Indo-Pacific partners for supply chain resilience

Trade and Export Growth Minister Damien O’Connor joined ministerial representatives at a meeting in Detroit, USA recently to announce substantial conclusion of negotiations of a new regional supply chains agreement among 14 Indo-Pacific countries.

The Supply Chains agreement is one of four pillars being negotiated within the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) initiative launched in September 2022. IPEF is a novel type of agreement that will provide new channels of collaboration amongst regional countries. It covers new ground on modern issues such as the digital economy and accelerating climate action. The group includes the United States and many of the large Asian countries, including Japan, Korea, India and most members of ASEAN. Together the 14 represented 40% of world GDP in 2021.

The Supply Chains agreement signals our intention to act to improve the resilience, efficiency, productivity, sustainability, transparency, diversification, security, fairness, and inclusivity of supply chains involving IPEF countries. The Supply Chains agreement today signals our intention to act to improve the resilience, efficiency, productivity, sustainability, transparency, diversification, security, fairness, and inclusivity of supply chains involving IPEF countries. [Full article here](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/agreement-between-indo-pacific-partners-supply-chain-resilience)

#### Quicker connections to Japanese consumers with Customs’ Secure Exports Scheme

Accredited exporters will be able to benefit from quicker connections to Japan, with Customs’ Secure Exports Scheme opening up to air freight from 23 June 2023.

The Secure Exports Scheme is designed to help businesses become trusted traders, reduce red tape, improve certainty in key export markets and speed up cargo into and out of New Zealand. Ultimately, it saves businesses time and money. Before 23 June 2023 the arrangement with Japan was only available for sea cargo exports. Craig Chitty, Customs’ Group Manager Revenue and Assurance, said opening it up to air freight will widen options for secure supply chain exporters.

“This move opens the door for fresh produce and perishable goods exporters looking to get their products to Japan securely and quickly. As the world’s third largest economy, Japan is an attractive and important consumer market for kiwi exporters. Customs is pleased we can contribute to the supply chain security and success of accredited New Zealand businesses which rely on air freight for faster connections to their customers.” [Full article here](https://www.customs.govt.nz/about-us/news/important-notices/quicker-connections-to-japanese-consumers/)

## Industry news

#### New Zealand organic apples will help supply short US market

In a typical season, the US brings in offshore apples from Argentina, Chile, and New Zealand. “The breakdown between these three countries of origin varies a little bit every year, but this year, we are seeing a different pattern,” says Maureen Royal with Bridges Organic Produce. “Prior to the harvest season, Argentina and Chile experienced unseasonably cold and hot weather at various times. In addition, several hailstorms damaged the fruit on the trees.” This has resulted in lower supplies. On top of that, the processing markets in Argentina and Chile are paying very high prices. “This makes it more attractive to the grower to keep the fruit in the domestic market as it avoids packing and shipping costs,” says Ben Johnson, Bridges’ President. As a result, some varieties have been diverted directly to the local processing market and aren’t available for export. With less volume coming in from South America, eyes are turned on New Zealand this season. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9535509/new-zealand-organic-apples-will-help-supply-short-us-market/?utm_medium=email)

#### Vietnamese imported US$84.7 millions worth of NZ apples last year

Vietnam, the biggest importer of New Zealand apple among Southeast Asian countries, spent VND2 trillion (US$84.7 million) importing the fruit last year. This is a 54.7% increase over 2021. New Zealand’s export of fruits, especially apple and kiwi, to Vietnam has continually posted double-digit growth rates over the past years. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9537117/vietnamese-imported-us-84-7-millions-worth-of-nz-apples-last-year/?utm_medium=email)

#### A hard year for kiwifruit growers

No surprises, it's been a bad year for the kiwifruit sector with the final numbers recently released by Zespri. These show that total global revenue from fruit sales for 2022/23 was $3.92 billion – down 3% on the record result in the previous season. Global sales volumes were also down, from 201.5 million trays to 183.5 million trays.

Zespri say that the value of kiwifruit lost because of quality issues in 2022/23 was $534 million – well up from the $307 million in the previous season. To top it off, increased costs also reduced grower returns with the return per tray for Zespri Green in 22/23 $5.78, compared to $6.35 the previous year, while returns for Sun- Gold were $9.97, down from $11.51 in 21/22.

Zespri chief executive Dan Mathieson says the results are indicative of what’s been a very difficult period for many primary industries, with growers facing challenges relating to the labour shortage, the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, the climate and rising costs.

“This was one of our toughest ever seasons and the industry worked incredibly hard to deliver our fruit to market, despite facing an extraordinary number of challenges, including a significant labour shortage.” [Full article here](https://www.ruralnewsgroup.co.nz/rural-news/rural-general-news/a-hard-year-for-kiwifruit-growers)

#### Zespri almost tripled number of RubyRed kiwifruit exports this season

Zespri has almost tripled the number of RubyRed kiwis it exported this season. As new orchards have been in production, the cooperative exported 330,000 trays of the red fruit to Japan, China, Singapore and Taiwan. Only 111,000 trays of the variety were exported to the same countries last year, with fruit quality issues plaguing growers of all variety of kiwifruit.

The red kiwifruit variety was naturally smaller than other kiwifruit varieties, but even smaller this season because of the unusually wet weather conditions and many young orchards that recently began carrying fruit. [Full article here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/132289853/zespri-triples-rubyred-kiwifruit-exports)

#### Better returns, but lower yields and higher costs for New Zealand onions

The New Zealand onion harvest was finished on time and the bulk of the seasons exports have been shipped. Planting has started for the new season albeit a bit stop start due to more wet weather.

"The growing season last year was particularly challenging, lack of sunshine and extended wet periods affected yields in the North Island negatively in terms of both size of the onions and quality. The South Island had a very good year in terms of yield per hectare and onion quality," explains Simon Vale from Balle Bros.

The global onion market was very short, this year which had a positive influence on sales. New Zealand onions recently gained access to Thailand, but Simon said that unfortunately NZ pricing was too expensive and buyers sourced cheaper onions from China and Australia instead.

The best performing markets for New Zealand onions were Europe, Indonesia and Taiwan. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9534214/better-returns-but-lower-yields-and-higher-costs-for-new-zealand-onions/?utm_medium=email)

#### Great potential for New Zealand and Vietnam to further strengthen cooperation

According to Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Phan Thi Thang, there is great potential for Vietnam and New Zealand to further strengthen cooperation in terms of trade, industry and investment. Trade between Vietnam and New Zealand has grown strongly since the two countries established the comprehensive partnership in 2009, with an annual average growth rate of 14.2%.

Vietnam is now New Zealand's 13th largest trade partner. The two-way trade hit 1.2 billion USD in 2022, up 14% year-on-year. New Zealand has so far had 39 valid direct investment projects in Vietnam with a total registered capital of over 209.7 million USD, ranking 39th among 143 countries and territories investing in Vietnam.

Vietnam and New Zealand set a goal to lift their trade turnover to 2 billion USD by 2024. Both sides welcomed the completion of the market opening process for Vietnam's lime and pomelo, and New Zealand's squash and strawberry in late last year. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9532078/great-potential-for-new-zealand-and-vietnam-to-further-strengthen-cooperation/?utm_medium=email)

#### United Fresh ushers in Sustainability Guidelines to meet pressing UN deadline

United Fresh recently launched its Sustainability Guidelines, a significant body of work designed to assist fresh fruit and vegetable value chain organisations throughout Aotearoa New Zealand to make meaningful change towards a sustainable future.

In 2015 the NZ government joined 192 other nations in signing a non-binding commitment to meet the United Nation’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a global blueprint intended to usher in peace and prosperity for all the people of the world by 2030. Since 2015, little discernible progress has been made at government level to determine how Kiwi industries should transform their business practices to meet the SDGs. The United Fresh Sustainability Guidelines are set to change that for the fresh produce industry by providing an industry-specific roadmap for the entire fresh produce value chain.

Dr Hans Maurer, Chair of the United Fresh Technical Advisory Group which authored the Guidelines says the industry must act now to make changes on its own terms, rather than wait for government intervention. [Full article here](https://unitedfresh.co.nz/news-events/technical-news) [Sustainability Guidelines here](https://unitedfresh.co.nz/assets/site/23052_UF_Guidelines-_NZ-Fresh-Produce-Value-Chain_v4F1.pdf)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

* Simplified Trade System Summit, Australian Government, Simplified trade system implementation Taskforce, 26 June 2023, Melbourne. [Full details here](https://www.simplifiedtrade.gov.au/events/simplified-trade-system-summit)
* Primary Industries New Zealand Summit, 3-4 July 2023, Tākina, Wellington. [Full details here](https://primaryindustries.co.nz/)
* 2023 Horticulture Conference Week, 31 July- 4 August 2023, Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch. [Full details here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/events/).
* Fresh Produce Safety Conference, 10 August 2023, University of Sydney. [Full details here](https://fpsc-anz.com/fresh-produce-safety-conference-2023/)
* Asia Fruit Logistica, 6-8 September 2023, AsiaWorld Expo, Hong Kong[. Full details here](https://www.asiafruitlogistica.com/)
* CBAFF Conference 2023, 13-15 September, 2023, Wellington. [Full details here](https://www.cbaff.org.nz/2023conference)
* Asian Seed Congress 2023, 20-24 November 2023, Christchurch. [Full details here.](https://web.apsaseed.org/asian-seed-congress)

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## GAIN reports:

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. For import regulations for a particular market, New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site.

**Updated Guide to New Phytosanitary Certificate Requirements of Japan**

From August 5, 2023, Japan will begin to strictly require phytosanitary certificates (PC) for a broad range of previously exempted agricultural imports. This report aims to provide additional details on Japan’s new PC requirements. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Updated%20Guide%20to%20New%20Phytosanitary%20Certificate%20Requirements%20of%20Japan_Tokyo_Japan_JA2023-0034)

## In The News:

#### First trial shipment of Australian avocados to India to arrive Wednesday

In March this year the Australian and Indian governments issued a joint statement welcoming the finalisation of market access for Hass avocados.

Australian avocado grower and exporter The Avolution has played a pioneering role in exporting Australian avocados to India, and this week will see the first trial shipment arrive in India. "Australia will send 10 trial shipments over the next month, to verify the protocol," explains Antony Allen CEO at The Avolution. "They have been picked and arrived in Brisbane last Wednesday where they were prepped and inspected by the Australian Department of Agriculture. They will then be airfreighted on Monday night to arrive on Tuesday.

Australia and India are very closely connected and have had a Free Trade Agreement since the end of last year. This will see tariffs drop from the current 21% to 0% by 2028. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9535795/first-trial-shipment-of-australian-avocados-to-india-to-arrive-wednesday/?utm_medium=email)

#### Avocados Australia welcomes Thailand market access

On Thursday 11 May, Rapibhat Chandarasrivongs, the Director General of the Thai Department of Agriculture, signed the gazette notice for import conditions for Western Australian Hass avocados at a special ceremony held in Bangkok attended by Dr. Somchuan Ratanamungklanon, Director General of Department of Livestock Development, and Amber Parr, Counsellor (Agriculture) from the Australian Embassy Bangkok.

Once the gazette notice is published on the royal gazette, and verification is successfully conducted by Thailand, Hass avocado from Western Australia can be imported into Thailand. Western Australian avocado growers and packers who applied in April to export to Thailand, will be able to export their Hass avocados this coming season once they are audited and accredited. This is great news for the Australian avocado industry as it has been working hard to increase exports to overseas markets.

“The Thailand market is potentially worth AU$10 million for Western Australian growers by 2026 and there is the potential for the east coast production regions to also export to Thailand in future,” said John Tyas, CEO of Avocados Australia. [Full report here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9532424/avocados-australia-welcomes-thailand-market-access/?utm_medium=email)

#### Australian fruit growers hope to earn big after China lifts trade barriers

After two years of trade restrictions, Chinese officials gave the green light this week for the resumption of Australian exports. The lifting of this ban, including mangoes and citrus, is a huge opportunity for local producers. It means citrus, stone fruit, mango and cherry producers can now ship their products into the lucrative market.

Fruit was on a list of exports subjected to official and unofficial Chinese trade barriers imposed in 2020 after Australia called for an independent inquiry into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Full article here](https://www.9news.com.au/national/china-scraps-barriers-on-australian-fruit-exports/5bfbd9c5-7e18-4581-96e9-e8e62ced2b80)

#### Japanese blueberries and grapes rejected by Taiwan for banned pesticides

Shipments of fresh blueberries and grapes from Japan were seized at Taiwan's border after they were found to contain banned pesticides. A total of 9 kilograms of blueberries were confiscated after sample testing on April 28 and detected flubendiamide, a type of synthetic petrochemical pesticide that is banned in Taiwan from being used on blueberries.

This is the second time in six months that Japanese blueberries have failed the safety inspection, but random tests on the fruit will remain. Meanwhile, a 45-kg shipment of Japanese grapes was found to contain the pesticide cyclaniliprole, also banned in Taiwan from being used on grapes. [Full report here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9532138/japanese-blueberries-and-grapes-rejected-by-taiwan-for-banned-pesticides/?utm_medium=email)

#### Chile and South Korea restart trade negotiations to lower citrus tariffs

The South American exporter of citrus and other fruits have restarted negotiations with South Korea to amend the existing FTA between them following a two year break.

Chile currently have access but face higher tariffs in South Korea for their citrus compared to the U.S. who have more favourable import terms. The two countries signed the free trade agreement in 2003 with a seventh round that was held at the end of May, 2023. A lot of the Chilean citrus fruit are currently excluded in the FTA with Korea. Negotiators hope to receive better tariffs for oranges, clementines, mandarins and other citrus [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9534778/chile-and-south-korea-restart-trade-negotiations-to-lower-citrus-tariffs/?utm_medium=email)

#### Chile expects lower production of kiwifruit, but larger size profile

With more than 8,000 tons shipped to North America through Week 20, the Chilean kiwifruit season is underway. Retail promotions will kick off in mid-June and continue through August.

While the Chilean Kiwifruit Committee projects an overall decrease in volume of 14 percent compared with last season, fruit quality is expected to be strong says Carlos Cruzat, president of the Committee. “Fruit this year is between one and one and a half sizes larger and dry matter--which plays a key role in the consumer’s eating experience--is greater than previous seasons,” says Cruzat. This is the result of a warm summer with healthy water supply.

Chile shipped 134,992 tons of kiwifruit across the globe in 2022 with the U.S., Netherlands and Brazil as its top three markets. India has also grown substantially over the past few years becoming the fourth-largest market for the Chilean kiwifruit industry in 2022.  [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9533745/chile-expects-lower-production-of-kiwifruit-but-larger-size-profile/?utm_medium=email)

#### US: Organic food sales break through $60 billion in 2022

Organic food sales in the United States in 2022 broke through $60 billion for the first time, hitting another high-level mark for the resilient organic sector. Total organic sales – including organic non-food products – were a record $67.6 billion\*, according to the 2023 Organic Industry Survey released Wednesday by the Organic Trade Association.

The organic market grew despite challenging headwinds: inflation pressures tightening consumer wallets, supply chain disruptions caused by the pandemic and global political events, a proliferation of competing food labels in the grocery aisles, and a labor shortage felt acutely by organic producers. Inflation heated up costs across the organic supply chain – indeed, the entire food supply chain – and boosted prices in the grocery aisles. As a result, the organic sector reflected the overall food sector, with the value of organic sales rising even as the growth in the volume of sales for some categories slipped.

The sector’s four-percent growth in sales value was nearly twice the pace of growth in 2021. Organic food sales totaled $61.7 billion, while the value of organic non-food sales hit nearly $6 billion. Certified Organic now accounts for 6 percent of total food sales in the United States.  [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9532835/us-organic-food-sales-break-through-60-billion-in-2022/?utm_medium=email)

#### UK fruit exports to the EU down by more than half since Brexit

Recent data from HMRC indicates that exports of fruit from the UK to the EU, including traditional English apples and pears, have more than halved since Brexit. The drop has been put down to the introduction of trade barriers caused by the UK’s departure from the EU, including mandatory health certificates on fresh and chilled food and customs paperwork.

In the year to 31 March 2021, the UK sold £248.5m worth of fruit to the EU. But sales figures dropped to £119m the next year and have remained at that level since, with the latest tax data showing sales for the year to March 2023 of £113.8m. [Full article here](https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9531690/uk-fruit-exports-to-the-eu-down-by-more-than-half-since-brexit/?utm_medium=email)

#### EU food and beverage recalls rise in early 2023

In the first few months of 2023, the number of food and beverage recalls in Europe went up. According to data from Sedgwick brand protection’s latest European product recall report, a 2.9 percent increase in food and beverage recalls, up to 1,154 in Q1 2023, from January to March was recorded.

Contamination – non-bacterial was the leading cause of European food recalls with 486. The most common contaminant was aflatoxins, which were linked to 89 recalls this quarter. This represents an increase from 73 recalls in Q4. Second was chlorpyrifos, which was cited 62 times. Third was pesticides with 30 recalls.

Bacterial contamination was second with 233 recalls followed by undeclared allergens and foreign bodies, both responsible for under 100 recalls. Of recalls for bacterial contamination, 175 were for Salmonella, 29 for Listeria, and five were for both pathogens. [Full article here](https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2023/06/eu-food-and-beverage-recalls-rise-in-early-2023/)

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