

REVIEW OF SUBMISSIONS ON:

DRAFT IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO NEW ZEALAND OF CARNIOLAN HONEY BEE (*Apis Mellifera Carnica*) SEMEN FROM GERMANY

Biosecurity Authority
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Wellington
New Zealand

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Animal Biosecurity
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Approved for general release

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Biosecurity Authority

INTRODUCTION

The draft import health standard for the importation into New Zealand of Carniolan honey bee semen from Germany was notified in the MAF publication *Biosecurity*, issue 44, 15 June 2003.

MAF received submissions from the following:

Department of Conservation..... 2 August 2003
Dr M. Goodwin..... 29 July 2003

This document summarises the issues raised in the submissions, and presents the MAF response to each.

SUBMISSIONS

1 Department of Conservation

- 1.1 Expresses concern that the draft import health standard is based on a risk analysis that was also out for review and expresses the opinion that the import health standard should be developed after the risk analysis is finalised in the event that substantive changes are required in the risk analysis.**

MAF Comment

MAF believed it would be possible to implement a standard that could be used this season to enable importation of varroa resistant genetic material. Given the tight timeframes for this to be accomplished, the import health standard would need to be consulted concurrently with the risk analysis. The import health standard would be modified according to the conclusions of the review of submissions on the risk analysis.

MAF also believes it can be helpful for submitters to be simultaneously presented with a draft import health standard based on a risk analysis for consultation, as they can then see the translation of the measures recommended in the risk analysis into the import health standard.

- 1.2 Asks what assurance can MAF give that the requirements for country freedom from Africanised honey bee and Cape honey bee will be adequately met, and certification correctly provided, by the exporting country.**

MAF Comment

International trade relies on the integrity of certification. The Zoosanitary Certificate requires certification by the official competent authority that these freedom requirements have been met, or testing for these races has been undertaken. If the official competent authority cannot be assured that these requirements have been met then they would not certify the consignment.

When MAF negotiates certification with the exporting country, we ask for information about the basis on which freedom from the specified diseases (or in this case races of bees) is to be certified, including import measures to prevent entry and any surveillance that is undertaken.

Please refer to the review of submissions for the risk analysis on bee genetic material for further discussion on these requirements. In the case of Germany, a combination of certification that these races have never been reported in Germany, morphometric testing, queen bee excluders and German origin of the bees, is considered appropriate.

2 Dr Goodwin

- 2.1 Comments that it seems inappropriate to be producing an import health standard before the risk assessment process is concluded, as it is pre judging the case.**

MAF Comment

See comments under 1.1