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Submission on the proposed changes to the Import Health Standard for Vehicles, Machinery and Parts

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## INTRODUCTION

1. Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) advocates for and represents the interests of New Zealand's 6,000 commercial fruit and vegetable growers. The horticulture industry is valued at \$6.39b with \$4.2b in exports annually.
2. The industry employs over 60,000 people, occupies some 80,000 ha of land and provides critical regional development opportunities in Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Gisborne, Manawatu, Marlborough, Nelson, Canterbury and Central Otago.
3. New Zealand growers supply the majority of fresh and processed fruit and vegetables to domestic consumers, as well as exporting crops to discerning consumers in 130 countries. Biosecurity is essential to support production, secure market access, and provide confidence for investment – all critical to ensure the horticulture industry continues to prosper.
4. An incursion of an invasive pest such as the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB – *Halyomorpha halys*), could potentially cause significant economic impact to the New Zealand horticulture industry. BMSB has proven to be a devastating pest in its invasive range due to feeding damage that reduces fruit and vegetable quality and increased pest management and production costs.

5. The commercial crops in New Zealand currently identified as a host, and therefore at risk from BMSB, have collective sales value in excess of \$4 Billion p.a. (free on board value for export). It is estimated that BMSB establishment in New Zealand, if not managed, would result in average yield losses of 26% for eighteen host crops after 10 years (NZIER, 2017). This is a significant cost to the horticulture industry and New Zealand.
6. Brown marmorated stink bug not only presents a significant biosecurity risk to New Zealand horticulture, but is also a major nuisance pest to the general public, and may negatively impact native flora and fauna. There are currently very few pest control options available for use against BMSB in New Zealand, and early-warning surveillance methods are extremely limited.
7. HortNZ acknowledges the extensive work undertaken by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to manage the changing risk profile of BMSB.
8. HortNZ was heartened to see a reduction in interceptions of live BMSB last season after stricter import health standard (IHS) requirements were put in place. HortNZ supports further efforts to reduce the risk of entry of this pest on inanimate pathways.

#### **COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES: IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR VEHICLES, MACHINERY AND PARTS**

9. HortNZ acknowledges that the requirements under this IHS are complex and commends MPI's efforts to take on board end-user feedback and increase readability.
10. HortNZ welcomes the inclusion of types of vehicles that were previously excluded from the requirements, namely all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), golf carts, quad bikes and side-by-side racers (SxSs) (MPI 2021b, 2021b). These vehicles can have complex structures that provide ideal overwintering sites for BMSB, therefore they also present a risk that needs to be managed.
11. HortNZ is supportive of expanding the list of actionable BMSB countries (schedule 3) to include Poland (MPI 2021b). This aligns with the proactive approach of adding countries to the schedule that either a) already have established BMSB populations or b) have a highly suitable climate for BMSB establishment and are in close proximity to a region/country with significant number of BMSB.
12. HortNZ requests that the BMSB situation in the United Kingdom and Chile continues to be closely monitored. We would like assurance that these countries will be added to schedule 3 in a timely manner if the BMSB risk profile increases.
13. HortNZ understands that MPI will continue to monitor the vehicles, machinery and parts import pathway from countries which don't currently appear on schedule 3 but have native populations of BMSB – namely China, Taiwan and South Korea (MPI 2021b). HortNZ would like to emphasise that endemic populations (not just invasive

populations) can pose a risk to New Zealand, and it is our expectation that rapid action will be taken to manage risk on this pathway if interception numbers increase.

## **CONCLUSION**

14. HortNZ welcomes the opportunity to discuss the points raised in this submission.

15. This submission is supported by:

- Central Otago Fruit Growers Association
- Katikati Fruitgrowers Association Inc.
- Te Awanui Huka Pak
- Teviot Fruitgrowers Association
- Tomatoes NZ
- Vegetables New Zealand Inc

## **REFERENCES**

MPI (2021a) Draft Import Health Standard for Vehicles, Machinery and Parts. 30 April 2021.

MPI (2021b) Risk Management Proposal: Amendment to the Import Health Standard for Vehicles, Machinery and Parts. April 2021.

## **ENDS**