



FRESH HUB - 02nd September 2020 – IVA

Welcome to the September 2nd Fresh Hub Newsletter.

In this edition we examine the theme of IVA with a spotlight on assurance programmes and how to make them an asset.

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COVID and All That

The Auckland Lockdown reverts from Level 3 to something the Prime Minister refers to as Level 2.5. The rest of the country remains at Level 2. Back to normal again. Or is it? Of course, some things will feel perfectly normal. The roads will be busy again. The cafe underneath our office will have people sitting on chairs again, eating with fork and knife. The bottle store next door will let people onto their premises again to select their poison instead of serving behind a make-shift counter built into the front door.

Our team will assemble again in the office, bringing back all the IT equipment they had hurriedly loaded into the back of their cars on the day the Lockdown was announced. And the courier drivers can deliver and leave the bits and pieces we order on-line during the course of a week at the bottom of the stairs again, as they still will be too lazy to walk up the stairs to collect an electronic signature, which is what they are meant to be doing.

Business as usual then, at least in our little corner of the supply chain.

It is pretty obvious though that not every business in Auckland will get back to normal so fast. Auckland is not just a light industrial area in Albany. Auckland is also greengrocers and butchers in multiple numbers in every suburb. Auckland is the wholesale market companies in South Auckland. Auckland is the open air weekend markets in Avondale, Mangere, Otara and elsewhere. Auckland is all and sundry involved in making sure our system of feeding our people works.

And what has become pretty clear is that our system of feeding our people is, to say the least, very vulnerable.

Just growing produce won't do. It needs to get off the farms. Just having stores doesn't cut the mustard, unless there are some fruits and vegetables available to be sold in those stores.

Just telling people who have not set foot into a supermarket for years to change their shopping habits of a life time is unrealistic.

Just expecting supermarkets which are already finely balanced miniature ecosystems in 'normal' times to gear up to meet a substantive overnight increase in demand displays a breath-taking lack of appreciation for Economics 101.

As does the call for growers to donate their produce, which thankfully is heard less often at present.

Yet we can all agree that we live in unprecedented times and that these "Times they are a-Changing", to quote Bob Dylan!



What cannot change though are commitments to quality, food safety and consistency because that is what consumers continue to expect from their fruits and vegetables. And as we all know, consumers are people – and “People Make the World Go Around”, to quote The Stylistics!

Dr Hans Maurer



Registration to Official Assurance Programmes (OAPs) is Calling

As we roll into September and the fresh produce industry is very busy with planning the fast approaching production season, growers, packhouses, storage & treatment facilities and exporters should not forget that participating in the Official Assurance Programmes (OAP) for the export of fruit and vegetables requires registration.

OAPs are documents that describe crop specific phytosanitary requirements of an importing country and are developed by MPI to give importing countries the confidence that plant products from New Zealand meets the import requirements for those markets. OAPs typically use a system approach for the control of specific pests, starting from the grower through to exporter. An example of OAP is that one related to the management of Codling Moth for markets sensitive to this pest (Australia, China, Taiwan, Korea and Japan).

Every OAP is different, and they can include requirements related to the field pest management, traceability of the product, harvest, packhouse hygiene, labelling, phytosanitary inspection and security.

There are about 20 different OAPs available. They can be accessed online by obtaining a password on the [MPI website](#).

Organisations that intend to export to countries where an OAP is required need to:

- Register by the deadline set by the programme
- Develop procedures that meet the requirements of the programme
- Get these procedures evaluated and audited by an IVA
- Gain approval from MPI before implementation

Failure to comply with the OAP requirements may lead to suspension of the organisation from the programme.

The upcoming registration date for OAPs are:

Registration Deadline	Type of Programme
30 September	OAP for the export of Persimmons to China
	OAP for the export of Persimmons to the United States of America
31 September	Export of Specified Plant Commodities to Thailand: Strawberry
1 October	OAP for the export of Apples to Australia
	OAP for the export of Apples to China
	OAP for the export of Apples to Taiwan
	OAP for the export of Apples to Japan
	OAP for the export of Apples to the Russian Federation



30 October	Export of Specified Plant Commodities to Thailand: Apple
	Export of Specified Plant Commodities to Thailand: Tomatoes
	Export of Specified Plant Commodities to Thailand: Capsicum
31 October	OAP for the export of Cherries to Japan
	OAP for the export of Cherries to Korea
	Export of Specified Plant Commodities to Thailand: Apricot
	Export of Specified Plant Commodities to Thailand: Cherry
	OAP for the export of Summerfruit to Western Australia
	OAP for Potato Cyst Nematode and Potato Wart
1 November	Export of Specified Plant Commodities to Thailand: Avocado

If you have any questions in relation to your OAP registration, procedures, implementation or evaluation, please contact Max Ciccioni on 027 445 1309 or mciccioni@agrchain-centre.com.



Relevant Links for Information on Quality Assurance

- How to achieve Quality Assurance is not a new concept, this 1983 article from the Harvard Business Review examines how companies must build quality into their products or services from production through to retail and may require working closely with suppliers and customer. [More information can be found here.](#)
- A 2014 article in the Harvard Business Review, found that “companies that take a grassroots, peer-driven approach develop a culture of quality, resulting in employees who make fewer mistakes—and the companies spend far less time and money correcting mistakes.” [Click here to read the full article.](#)
- In 2016, Matthew Dolan provide a conscious overview of the what the NZGAP assurance programme is and how it can be utilised. [Click here to read more.](#)
- The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) have many Official Assurance Programmes to support the export of fresh fruit and vegetables in a way that mitigates risk and meets the requirements of overseas importing country phytosanitary requirements. [The first list of documents can be found here.](#)
- A short video giving insight into the quality and phytosanitary assurance programmes for the fresh produce industry in Washington State, USA. [The video can be watched here.](#)