

News and Views

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Products in 'pending approval pile'

To date we have delayed invoicing 'pending' products that are waiting for label, PDS, EPA (or any other) approval, which sometimes takes months. Unfortunately, some applicants have misunderstood this policy and have linked the requirement to pay for assessing/processing an application to gaining approval. This has caused us a number of issues when eventually we raise an invoice. For example, applicants who have not been successful in gaining EPA approval have withdrawn their applications and then objected to paying when billed for the work already completed.

Please note the following change to our invoicing procedure. If your pending application is awaiting a revised label or PDS, then you will not be billed prior to us receiving the final documentation as we expect a PDS or label to be provided promptly. HOWEVER, if your application is awaiting an EPA approval or the promulgation of an MRL, you will be invoiced for the work and time already undertaken on the application, and then a further invoice will be raised for the additional technical assessment. This change will take effect from **1 February 2015**.

Data assessor update

Since the October workshop (see November issue for details) we have already received eight applications from data assessors who wish to become 'listed'. Four of these applicants have been approved as provisionally listed data assessors, with the other four in progress. We are working with MPI's website team to construct the public list, which will be available on our website soon. Contact Sarah Lester (sarah.lester@mpi.govt.nz) for more information.

'One stop shop' website

When NZFSA, MAF, Fisheries and Biosecurity merged to become the Ministry for Primary Industries, MPI inherited six websites with five different operating platforms. Work to create a single website began earlier this year and the first phase of the new MPI website went live on 11 December (for more information, go to <http://www.mpi.govt.nz/about-this-site/building-this-site/>).

It will take several months to complete the transition to a single site. In the meantime, you can still access all ACVM information at <http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz/industry/acvm/>

Staff update

Christmas came early to the ACVM Group this year, and we are pleased to welcome four new staff members.

Alfredo Caicedo-Caldas (Senior Adviser, Veterinary Medicines)

“I was proudly born and raised in Colombia. I studied most of my high school years there before heading to the USA and graduating from Dallas City Community High School. On my return to Colombia, I completed my degree as a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine from La Salle University before engaging in large animal veterinary practice for the next eight years.

In early 1998 I obtained a New Zealand scholarship to do a Master's degree of Applied Science in Animal Science at Massey University. I then had the opportunity to join a Massey University research group, Estendart Ltd (formerly the Animal Health Service Centre), where I happily worked over the past 13 years, with the last nine years as a Senior Research Officer.



In 2001 I became a New Zealand citizen. I am very proud of spending close to 17 years of my life in this amazing country with my partner. We share our beautiful home in Palmerston North with two demanding and high maintenance long-hair cats! One of our strong interests is international travel.”

Rafael Barbieri (Adviser, Agricultural Compounds)



“After seven years working in an academic environment, it is great to start a new direction in my professional career. Over the past years, I have been involved with research programs in the fields of ecology, entomology and pest control. Also, I have developed my skills in effective data analysis – yes, I do like stats!

I am passionate about my profession and see my new role at MPI as a perfect opportunity to thrive on new challenges and use my skills in favour of better food systems, and public and environmental health.

On a personal note, my wife and I moved to Wellington from Brazil about five years ago, mainly for me to undertake my PhD at Victoria University. Not surprisingly, we fell in love with New Zealand's awesome landscape and the Wellington lifestyle. Currently, we spend most of our spare time enjoying the outdoors, some good live music, and cooking.”



Mark Henderson and Gabi Hidvegi

Mark Henderson (Adviser, Approvals)

“Well hello, my name is Mark. I was born in Lancashire, England, where I lived the first 13 years of my life. In 2002 I found myself moving to New Zealand with my family. We resided in Hamilton, until I moved to the wonderful city of Dunedin.

In Dunedin I gained a degree in Zoology from the University of Otago and a National Certificate in Animal Care from the Otago Polytechnic School of Veterinary Nursing. Prior to this role at MPI, I worked as a Laboratory Technician at Hills Laboratories and as an Animal Technician at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

I'm quite the football fan and am a lifelong supporter of Blackburn Rovers FC along with the rest of my extended family. In my free time I dabble in a bit of guitar playing and am quite partial to a good craft beer here and there.”

Gabi Hidvegi (Adviser, Approvals)

“After graduating from Victoria University with a Postgraduate Diploma in Science specialising in Ecology and Biodiversity, I consider it a great privilege to have joined the MPI Approvals team. My advisory position has provided me with a vital stepping stone in the employment market given the current economic climate as well as insight into the frontline of applications under the ACVM, Food, Wine and Animal Products Acts.

I'm passionate about the science and policy related areas at MPI and contributing to making a difference to New Zealand's biosecurity, fisheries and animal welfare. I wish to push myself and further my career at MPI under the guidance of my manager Maree Zinzley before becoming a senior adviser within our ministry in one of the aforementioned areas.

On a personal level, I was born in Budapest, Hungary, and immigrated to Auckland in 1994 before settling down in Wellington in 1997. I'm an avid sports fan (specifically rugby league, football and motorsport) while also being a keen video gamer and fan of comedy/satirical news programmes such as The Colbert Report and The Daily Show. I enjoy making people laugh and always have a joke up my sleeve, which has landed me the title of 'office joker' so watch out on

Level 18! My current personal ambition is to spend two weeks in Melbourne in either March of 2015 or 2016 as I wish to see the opening race of the Formula 1 season at Albert Park, the opening home match of the Melbourne Storm NRL team, and visit Melbourne Zoo and the Sea Life Aquarium."

Farewells

Sadly, we also farewelled several staff members during the year:

- Sekove Tinalevu (our MRL specialist) who is now working for Bayer
- Ben Hamelick (approvals adviser) who has started a career in real estate
- Jayne Philp and Adam Bradshaw (approvals advisers) who have moved to other positions within MPI
- Pauline Calvert (vet med assessor) who has just accepted a position with MSD.

Although we had 'in-house' farewells, we also want to recognise their contributions to the ACVM Group here. We wish them well in their new roles.

Holiday closure

Our office will be closed from 24 December 2014 to 5 January 2015. During this period, if you have an urgent enquiry (emergencies only) contact Maree Zinzley (029 894 2564). The office will not be operating at full strength until the end of January.



**We wish
you all a
VERY
COOL
holiday
season!**