Notification to external stakeholders on intended key changes to the MPI Target Evaluation Team

December 2013

The Ministry for Primary Industries recently conducted a review of its Target Evaluation operations. The aims were to:

- Reduce the backlog in processing BACC applications, and
- Find other ways to enhance our service, including better positioning the team for handling emerging biosecurity risks.

Several initiatives will be implemented by the team over a period of time, including:

- Addition of new staff
- Addition of two new verification processes that will reduce the need for MPI interaction with certain supply chains (see below for more information)
- Addition of a web-based queue tracking system so you can see where your application is relative to the queue
- Addition of a dedicated webpage for industry, FAQs and fact sheets

Our primary focus from now until the end of 2013 will be on clearing the current queues, progressing with the first two initiatives above, as well as to clarify our charging practice.

We will also be doing further analysis relating to our hours of operation, the review of service delivery target hours and expansion of limited weekend work options. We expect that this will carry through to the first quarter of 2014.

The new weekday business operating hours will be adjusted to 7am to 5pm. This will include having phone access to Target Evaluators during these hours. Before we go ahead with the changes, we want to look further into the various options we have on the service delivery targets as well as on the other potential additional service options mentioned above.

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Manatū Ahu Matua

About the two new processes:

We're adding two new verification processes that will reduce the need for MPI interaction with certain supply chains. With these changes you should experience a faster turnaround of your BACC applications and more verification activities for low risk supply chains.

<u>Multi-use Permit Number (AF9) Scheme</u> can be used to clear low risk goods (from selected low-risk supply chains) that have been held for MPI clearance. This provides you with an ability to use a special number when processing your Cusmod entries so you don't have to request clearance from MPI. This saves you *waiting* time and reduces the queue length.

<u>Original Documentation Scheme</u> means you don't have to submit original documentation for all your applications requiring original documentation. You would still be required to submit a copy (for clearance purposes) and hold the original documentation on file for audit purposes. This saves you time and travel/courier costs for sending the originals. It also saves you *waiting* time for clearances requiring originals prior to getting final clearance or redirection from MPI.

Both schemes are being developed at present and I hope to get more detailed information out to you in the next few weeks.

For more information, please email: Jim.McLaggan@mpi.govt.nz

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Operational Programmes

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