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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

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**ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW OF THE FORMAT OF IMPORT HEALTH STANDARDS (IHS)
FOR FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

COMMUNICATION FROM NEW ZEALAND

The following communication, received on 30 July 2019, is being circulated at the request of New Zealand.

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1. The New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has completed an administrative review of the format of Import Health Standards (IHSs) for fresh fruits and vegetables for human consumption. This includes IHS 152.02 *Importation and Clearance of Fresh Fruit and Vegetables into New Zealand* and 99 country: commodity IHSs that sit outside of IHS 152.02.
 2. As part of this review, MPI has:
 1. created a new IHS format, i.e. commodity IHS;
 2. transferred import requirements from existing IHSs into the new IHS format; and
 3. clarified ambiguities surrounding existing import requirements.
 3. The new commodity IHSs will state the requirements for importing a particular commodity from all countries that have been approved to export that commodity to New Zealand. A Guidance Document: *Import of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables into New Zealand* will offer guidance to IHS users on how to use and understand the import requirements in the new IHS format. Information and guidance on clearance of fresh fruits and vegetables into New Zealand will be captured in a separate document.
 4. On 30 July 2019, MPI will commence a public engagement to seek feedback on the new HIS format. During this engagement, a risk management proposal (RMP), the 121 draft commodity IHSs and draft guidance document for import of fresh fruits and vegetables will be accessible on the MPI web page: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/new-format-for-import-health-standards-for-fresh-fruits-and-vegetables-for-human-consumption/>.
 5. MPI encourages anyone interested in importing fresh fruits and vegetables to New Zealand to:
 - read the RMP which outlines the purpose and scope of this engagement;
 - consider the readability of the new IHS format and the accompanying guidance document; and
 - submit feedback.
 6. Countries with existing fresh fruit and vegetable IHSs will be contacted directly by MPI with further information. The transition to the new format IHSs is expected to be completed by late September 2019. If you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact Sally Jennings.
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