

Proposed new Pathway Management Plan

Fact sheet: Background concept September 2020



KVH is looking to introduce a new regulation framework to better manage biosecurity risk to the kiwifruit industry. Known as the Pathway Management Plan, a proposal is now in the final stages of development for consultation with industry and this overview briefly explains what is being proposed. More detail is available online at www.kvh.org.nz.

Better prepared for the next biosecurity event

Biosecurity is one of the kiwifruit industry's biggest threats and by being prepared we can reduce the potential spread and impact of any future incursions. A review of our response to Psa found that if the industry had biosecurity practices in place as routine practice before Psa hit, the impact to the industry would have been significantly less.

As an industry our biosecurity activities are numerous and have increased significantly over the last 10 years, however they are largely focused on Psa only and may leave us vulnerable for any new incursions that spread by different means.

As an industry we can better manage biosecurity risks with a new Pathway Management Plan that offers better protection, more value for money, and increased simplicity around management of risk.

The proposed Plan has measures to:

- ✓ detect biosecurity threats on kiwifruit industry pathways early, and reduce their spread
- ✓ ensure biosecurity threats can be rapidly traced (back and forward) on kiwifruit industry pathways
- ✓ improve understanding of kiwifruit industry pathway risks and effective cost-management
- ✓ be funded through a new levy that will replace the current Psa NPMP levy.

Simpler, more consistent management of risk

Instead of focusing on a single pest or disease, like Psa, the proposed Plan focuses on protection against a wide range of biosecurity threats to the kiwifruit industry.

It provides for a consistent and pragmatic approach to managing risk across our industry pathways such as the movement of young plants, budwood, pollen, and people and equipment.

Some examples of specific ways the Plan will be put into action and how it will be effective are:

- ✓ growing awareness and improved risk management
- ✓ applying results of science and research
- ✓ implementing standards that include hygiene and traceability requirements
- ✓ carrying out surveillance, monitoring, and testing.

Some examples of activities the Plan will help manage:

- ✓ reporting / providing information
- ✓ on-orchard biosecurity plans
- ✓ movement between the north and south islands
- ✓ hygiene practices when entering / leaving orchards
- ✓ sourcing clean plant material
- ✓ achieving best practice when working / having workers or contractors on-orchard.

What is the cost benefit?

An independent Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of the Pathway Plan proposal indicates that while there are some costs associated with the proposed Plan - such as the time it takes growers to complete the On-Orchard Biosecurity Guidelines - such costs are minor in comparison to the potential damage of a biosecurity incursion.

The net benefit of the Plan over 30 years is estimated at over \$4 billion to the industry, more than double the benefit of biosecurity practices being voluntary with no supporting regulation. It is recognised that these calculations have a high degree of uncertainty associated with them, however an analysis of over 2000 simulations of different scenarios showed that the Plan would have a net benefit to the industry in over 99% of cases. These calculations do not consider wider economic impacts associated with incursions that would only increase the net benefits associated with a Pathway Plan. A copy of this CBA is available on the KVH website at www.kvh.org.nz.

Legislation: what happens now?

We already have some biosecurity practices in place, however most of these are focused on managing Psa.

Since 2013, the National Psa-V Management Plan (NPMP) has been in place to reduce the impact and spread of the disease – it sets out rules and these have largely been effective, as evidenced by Psa still not being detected in the South Island, 10 years after it first arrived in New Zealand.

Legislation: what will change?

The NPMP and proposed new Plan are similar in that they are both regulatory tools under the same part of the Biosecurity Act.

The key difference is that the NPMP is specific to Psa only, and the proposed transition to the new Plan will enable KVH and the kiwifruit industry to manage a much broader range of biosecurity threats.

The NPMP levy will be rescinded and a new levy struck so that overall, the change is cost neutral and no different from the current state.

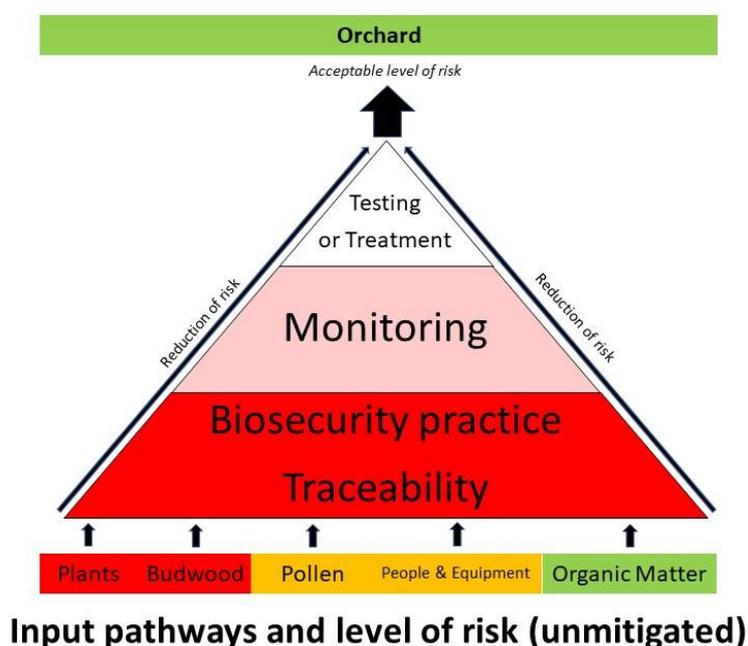
The practices and regional controls associated with the NPMP will also disappear. While this provides an opportunity to remove practices that no longer add biosecurity value to the industry, we must retain those that remain relevant, particularly to protect growers who are still Psa non-detected.

Keeping risk consistently low

The intent is that all risk goods entering an orchard have a consistent and low risk of introducing a biosecurity threat to that property.

As illustrated in the figure below, the risk associated with each pathway varies. It also varies depending on the organism of concern.

Certain mitigations (such as traceability and good biosecurity practices) will be required across all pathways and where additional risk remains, monitoring for specific or generic symptoms may also be required. Sometimes, these practices may still not be sufficient to reduce risk to an acceptable level and an additional layer of testing or treatment may be required.



Ensuring a low level of biosecurity risk

KVH will mostly use an educative approach to improve biosecurity practice and protect our industry investments and livelihoods however, rules are a necessary part of legislation to ensure that collective industry efforts aren't put at risk by the actions of a few. A set of implementation tools and standards will be put in place to ensure that compliance with these rules is made as easy and practical as possible for the industry. A list of the rules is summarised below - see the Pathway Plan proposal on the KVH website (or request a paper copy) for complete wording of each Rule and an explanation of their purpose. KVH has produced individual fact sheets on specific pathways, detailing the applicable Rule(s), tools, and standards for implementation as indicated below.

Proposed rules of the Pathway Plan:

1. *Obligation to report*: This rule is a requirement to report instances that may be associated with elevated risk of kiwifruit pathways such as the presence of pest or pathogens, unusual symptoms, or contaminants (e.g., soil or kiwifruit plant material) associated with a risk item that is moved to, from or within places where kiwifruit plant material is grown, produced or processed. This enables KVH to investigate and take early action to manage risk where necessary.
2. *Provision of information*: This is a general rule that information sought by KVH relating to biosecurity risks associated with kiwifruit industry pathways, must be provided within the specified time frames. Such information is fundamental to decisions on the best approach to management of kiwifruit industry pathway risks, including to understand the likely mechanisms by which risk organisms have spread on kiwifruit industry pathways and to trace movements in specific situations so the management agency can mitigate risks and/or manage compliance.
3. *Kiwifruit orchard biosecurity plans*: see designated fact sheet
4. *Kiwifruit post-harvest and processor biosecurity plans*: see designated fact sheet
5. *Kiwifruit contractor biosecurity plans*: see the contractors fact sheet
6. *Safe movement of kiwifruit plants and shelter belt plants (for planting in kiwifruit orchards)*: see designated fact sheet
7. *Safe movement of budwood*: see designated fact sheet
8. *Safe movement of pollen*: see designated fact sheet
9. *Safe movement of growing media and organic matter*: see the organic matter inputs fact sheet
10. *Movement of risk items between the North Island and South Island*: The Cook Strait represents a defensible barrier to the spread of kiwifruit industry pests and pathogens which is a strategic opportunity for the industry to protect and maintain clean plant material in the event of an outbreak. Therefore, a designated rule exists to provide a higher level of risk management between the North and South Island and vice versa. The measures specified in the rule include notification of movement in advance, quarantine measures (if required based on presence of pests), hygiene for vehicles, machinery, and personal effects. This would maintain protection for South Island growers for Psa and provide a framework to protect North Island growers should another high-risk organism emerge in the South Island.

Although there will be additional actions that some need to undertake to meet these new standards (e.g. investing in upskilling, administration, and other potential costs), the Kiwifruit Plant Certification Scheme (KPCS) is a good example of where a Standard to support implementation will be sensibly expanded from its current rootstock-specific base to encompass other forms of plant material such as mature plants, shelter belt plants, budwood and pollen.

The wording of the Rule(s) cannot be easily changed once they are in place, so have been written in a way that allows for flexibility to respond to changing risk profiles of organisms, or the development of new tools or science in biosecurity threat management.

Timeframes for implementation

- ✓ KVH has been working on the concept of a Pathway Management Plan since 2019 and has already undertaken one high-level round of consultation, with positive feedback and support received.
- ✓ A more detailed formal second round of consultation is taking place throughout September and October 2020, with dedicated grower roadshows across kiwifruit growing regions 15-28 September.
- ✓ Based on feedback received during this second round of consultation, a final Plan and implementation schedule will be submitted to the parliamentary process in early 2021, with implementation intended from 1 April 2022.
- ✓ Let us know your thoughts on the proposed Plan. Speak to any of the team, send an email to info@kvh.org.nz or phone 0800 665 825.