

National Kiwifruit Pathway Management Plan

Fact sheet: April 2022



The Government has formally approved the establishment of the National Kiwifruit Pathway Management Plan, effective from 1 April 2022. The kiwifruit industry has made significant gains in biosecurity practices since the early days of the Psa incursion in 2010, however the legal basis for many of these practices are limited to the single organism of Psa under the National Psa-V Pest Management Plan (NPMP). The NPMP is due to expire in 2023 and will be succeeded by the new Pathway Plan which provides ongoing protection for the industry but is not limited to a single organism.

This factsheet provides an overview of the Pathway Plan and more detail can be found 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 Plan's objectives are:

1. To reduce the spread of harmful organisms on kiwifruit industry pathways: and
2. To ensure that harmful organisms on kiwifruit industry pathways are detected early; and
3. To ensure that the origin and spread of harmful organisms on kiwifruit industry pathways can be rapidly traced; and
4. To increase and sustain awareness in the kiwifruit industry of
 - risks associated with the spread of harmful organisms on kiwifruit industry pathways; and
 - practices to manage those risks.

Simpler, more consistent management of risk

Instead of focusing on a single pest or disease, like Psa, the Pathway 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 Pathway 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.

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 new Pathway 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 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.

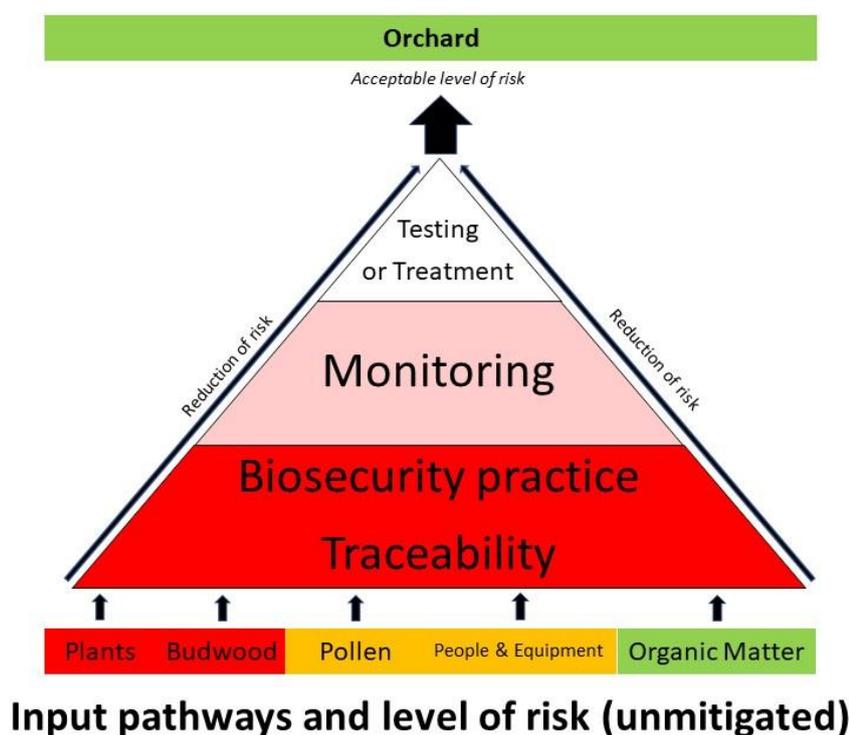
The practices and regional controls associated with the NPMP will also disappear. While this provides an opportunity to remove practices that no longer add biosecurity value to the industry, we must retain those that remain relevant, particularly to protect growers who are still Psa non-detected.

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 continue to 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 Order in Council for specific wording of the rules, and the protocols which provide guidance on how to meet these requirements (both available on the KVH website)

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*: Growers are required to have and operate to an orchard biosecurity plan for that orchard. This builds on the previous requirements for Psa-V risk management plans under the NPMP.
4. *Kiwifruit post-harvest and processor biosecurity plans*: Post-harvest and processors are required to have and operate to a biosecurity plan. This replaces the previous requirement to have a risk management plan under the NPMP.
5. *Kiwifruit contractor biosecurity plans*: Kiwifruit contractors are required to have and operate to a biosecurity plan. For contractors working on producing vines this will be part of the CAV scheme.
6. *Safe movement of plant material*: The movement of plant material presents the greatest risk of spreading pests and diseases between orchards and as such the rules are similar to those under the NPMP. KVH has developed the KPCS certification scheme to provide a simple means of demonstrating compliance with these rules. Certification to the KPCS Standard or equivalent such as Plant Pass, meets the requirements of the Pathway Plan and NPMP for these plant material types.
 - a. *Plants and shelter plants (for planting in kiwifruit orchards)*
 - b. *Orchard plants*
 - c. *Budwood*
 - d. *Pollen*
7. *Safe movement of growing media and organic matter*
8. *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.