

Proposed new Pathway Management Plan

Fact sheet: Post-harvest and processor biosecurity plans



Long term growth and success of the kiwifruit industry requires biosecurity risks to be managed across the supply chain. KVH is proposing to introduce a Pathway Management Plan for the kiwifruit industry to prevent the spread of pests and diseases before we know they are here. This will give us the best possible chance of eradication and minimising the impact to our industry.

Our approach to risk management focuses on six improvement areas. If we can manage risk across these areas, we will be a long way towards protecting our investments from future biosecurity risk. This is one of a series of fact sheets available at www.kvh.org.nz, along with more detailed information and frequently asked questions that explain the implications of changes in these key improvement areas.

What is being proposed?

Post-harvest operators and processors manage significant movements of people, vehicles, equipment and fruit that can be contaminated with kiwifruit leaf and plant material; moving these between orchards and the main post-harvest or processing facility. Post-harvest operators and processors already recognise this and play a key role in managing biosecurity risks associated with their own operations.

Under the Pathway Plan it is proposed that every post-harvest and processor must have and operate in accordance with a Kiwifruit Post-Harvest and Processor Biosecurity Plan. This plan would outline practices and procedures to ensure vehicles, harvest bins and equipment are free of visible soil or leaf material, waste material is correctly disposed of and other general hygiene requirements to reduce the likelihood of spreading biosecurity threats between orchards. These plans will also serve as an easy option for post-harvest and processors to document and demonstrate they meet the requirements of the plan that may relate to them (i.e. if they act as a supplier of plant material). See the set of rules document on KVH website for wording and explanation of proposed rules.

KVH will maintain a protocol and pro-forma “systems audit report” that assists post-harvest operators and processors to comply with this rule. Note that these will also address/accommodate other rules under this Plan that any post-harvest operators and processors may need to comply with (excluding rules relating to plant material and the KPCS) – this provides for a single biosecurity risk management plan and associated audit.

What are the changes and what do they mean for me?

There is currently a requirement under the National Psa-V Pest Management Plan (NPMP) for post-harvest and processors to have a risk management plan for Psa, which KVH audits on an annual basis. Under the Pathway Plan the Biosecurity Plans would be in place to manage a broader range of biosecurity threats, but in practical terms there would be little difference to post-harvest and processor operators who have already adopted good biosecurity practice.

While KVH would continue to operate these plans on an annual basis, it is proposed that a \$200 audit fee is introduced as a means of maintaining consistency with other pathways that are independently audited on a user pays basis.

Take the opportunity to have your say

KVH is consulting with growers and other industry groups (nurseries and post-harvest for example) about the proposed new Plan. Based on feedback received, the Plan and implementation schedule will be finalised, with changes likely to come in to effect from 1 April 2022. Let us know your thoughts on the proposed Plan by Friday 30 October 2020. Speak to any of the team, send an email to info@kvh.org.nz or phone 0800 665 825.