PIRSA

Chief Inspector Biosecurity Notice

9 June 2020

Empty produce bins previously used for transporting fruit fly host material condition enforced from 15 June 2020

On 6th January 2020, version 16.1a of the South Australian Plant Quarantine Standard (PQS) was adopted. Version 16.1a and subsequent versions of the PQS include provisions to ensure that empty produce bins which have been used to transport fruit fly host material are certified as being clean before entering the state. Ensuring that fruit bins are clean of host fruit before entering South Australia mitigates the risks associated with a significant potential entry pathway for fruit fly into the state. This regulation provides the least cost-prohibitive option for industry to manage this risk.

In recognition that industry may require a period of time to adapt to this change, in particular due to the change coming into effect over the holiday period, and the introduction of a new compliance arrangement for bins to facilitate this movement, it was agreed to allow industry a period of time to adapt to the changes. During this period, transporters without appropriate certification have been advised of the need for this rather than placing them under quarantine direction. Transporters with improperly cleaned bins containing left over fruit have been subject to quarantine direction or redirected out of South Australia. This grace period has allowed relevant businesses time to understand the requirements and for importers to become compliant. Previous communication was that the transition period would extend until the end of May, and I can now advise that the new requirements will be enforced in full from 15 June 2020.

If you have any concerns or would like further information, please contact the Plant Health Market Access hotline on 08 8207 7814 or PIRSA.PlantHealthMarketAccess@sa.gov.au. Regards,

Ross Meffin General Manager, Plant and Food Standards



