

Accreditation (nurseries, pollen operators, budwood distributors)

Desired outcome

All nurseries, pollen operators and budwood distributors apply effective biosecurity risk management practices, and supply plant material to the kiwifruit industry without spreading Psu-V.

Background

Movement of plant material, including nursery stock, pollen and budwood, is a high-risk pathway for the further spread of Psu-V. KVH has worked with the key industries involved in movement of plant material (i.e. nurseries, pollen operators and budwood distributors) to develop risk management practices that are consistent with achieving NPMP objectives.

KVH currently approaches this in two ways, by:

1. Providing an accreditation programme for nurseries; and
2. Requiring nurseries that are not accredited, and pollen and budwood operators, to register with KVH and have and implement a KVH-approved risk management plan.

NPMP requirements

The NPMP enables KVH to establish movement controls that apply to risk items, including nursery stock, pollen and budwood. These are tailored to each risk item (or groups of similar risk items where appropriate) and to regions (i.e. to achieve the different objectives for exclusion, containment or recovery regions). By establishing movement controls, KVH is able to 'restrict', 'regulate' or 'prohibit' particular movements, and through this approach can permit movements and apply conditions. This enables KVH to allow movements where risks are managed to an acceptable level. Accreditation, registration and risk management planning (as above) are the key ways that KVH is able to recognise risks are being managed to an acceptable level, and KVH establishes these requirements as 'conditions' when setting movement controls.

Implementation approach for accreditation of nurseries, budwood distributors and pollen operators

The specific movement controls that apply to nurseries, budwood distributors and pollen operators are referenced in Appendix 2, and up to date movement control notices and protocols will be maintained on the KVH website.

The approach to accreditation - including standard setting, audit requirements and support that KVH will provide (e.g., templates, best practice advice etc.) - is set out for nurseries, pollen operators and budwood distributors below.

Nurseries

Nurseries are able to be accredited to the *KVH Kiwifruit Nursery Standard and Guidelines*.

To achieve the standards for accreditation, every nursery must have specific and documented procedures in place including; procedures to reduce the introduction of inoculum to the nursery; inspection and monitoring; sampling and testing; site management, hygiene; movement procedures; and record keeping. The Nursery Standard includes recommended actions to minimise risk for routine nursery activity such as selecting plant material, seed sowing, planting of seedlings and transporting nursery produce.

Accredited nurseries must be audited by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) on an annual basis. A satisfactory inspection will result in a certificate of conformance that will remain effective for one year or until the facility is suspended or certification is withdrawn. IVA agencies and accreditation status (current, suspended, or withdrawn) of accredited nurseries will be made available on the KVH website.

KVH has developed an interim protocol for the movement of nursery stock, including rootstock, plants and seedlings. 'Movement of Nursery Stock' is available on the Nurseries page on the KVH website (<http://www.kvh.org.nz/indnurseries>).

A nursery is defined as 'any entity that propagates Actinidia plant species to any age for sale or movement outside of the property'; this includes orchards with nursery plantings intended for sale or distribution outside of the property boundaries.

Nurseries that are not accredited with KVH, are required to register on the KVH website or phone KVH on 0800 665 825. These nurseries are also required to complete a *Psa-V Nursery Stock Risk Management Plan*.

KVH is reviewing its approach for nurseries / movement of kiwifruit seeds and plants, and the proposed approach and timeframes for this are summarised in Box 3.

Box 3. KVH review of approach for nurseries / movement of kiwifruit seeds and plants under the NPMP

KVH is developing three standards that nurseries can be accredited to; a 'bronze', 'silver' and 'gold' standard. Two of these ('silver' and 'gold') will be high health standards. The ability to move plants (domestic and offshore) will reflect the standard achieved. Nurseries not accredited by KVH will be very limited in their ability to move plants.

The approach KVH is taking and indicative timeframes are as follows:

- KVH has initiated review of the existing *KVH Kiwifruit Nursery Standard and Guidelines*. This is to be revised as a "Bronze" accreditation standard, which is equivalent to the current standard but captures lessons from the past 18-months (nursery experience, R&D results, and tracing report findings). The review will be complete, and the new "Bronze" accreditation standard available, in September 2013. The movement controls that apply to a "Bronze" accredited nursery will be equivalent, but slightly tighter, than current controls.
- Nurseries that are not accredited will only be able to move plants within a recovery region, and to *Psa-V* positive orchards only.
- KVH plans to develop two additional high health standards – a "Silver" and a "Gold" standard – which nurseries would be able to be accredited to in early 2014 (subject to research outcomes). Nurseries that achieve the highest standard of accreditation (i.e. a "Gold" standard, likely to be aligned with a tissue culture pathway) would be able to move plants to all orchards across all kiwifruit regions. Nurseries that achieve a "Silver" standard (likely to be aligned to a hot water treatment pathway), would still be subject to some movement restrictions or conditions, but these would be limited / less than current restrictions.
- KVH also intends to recognise 'equivalence' where nurseries operate under an alternative nursery management standard (e.g., a quarantine standard issued by MPI, or equivalent biosecurity standard set by the nursery and garden industry) that achieves the same or greater level of risk management.

To support accredited nurseries, KVH and Zespri are also working together to develop best practice advice for nurseries.

Budwood Distributors

KVH defines a budwood distributor as 'any entity or person that sells or distributes kiwifruit budwood outside of the KPIN from which it is collected'. The movement of budwood is a high-risk pathway, as *Psa-V* can be present within budwood asymptotically (i.e. without expressing symptoms).

One of the movement control 'conditions' for budwood is a requirement that budwood distributors must register with KVH, and have and implement *Psa-V Budwood Risk Management Plan*. A protocol for movements of budwood, and a *Psa-V Budwood Risk Management Plan* template and model plan are available on the 'Budwood/Grafters' page on the KVH website (<http://www.kvh.org.nz/indgrafters>).

Pollen Operators

KVH defines a pollen operator as ‘any entity or person that harvests, processes and/or distributes kiwifruit male flowers and pollen for use in commercial pollination’.

One of the movement control ‘conditions’ for pollen is a requirement that operators must register with KVH, and have and implement *Psa-V Pollen Risk Management Plan*. A protocol for movements of pollen, and a Psa-V Pollen Risk Management Plan template and model plan are available on the ‘Bees and Pollen’ page on the KVH website (<http://www.kvh.org.nz/beekeepers>).