



25 November 2020

██████████ ██████████
Head of Unit
Plant Health
Directorate-General of Health and Food Safety
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Dear ██████████ ██████████

Subject: Confirmation of the New Zealand freedom declaration for *Xylella fastidiosa*

In reference to your letter of 8 October 2020, ref SANTE.DDG2.G.1/PDR/ca (2020)5934381, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) confirms that New Zealand's declaration "New Zealand is free from *Xylella fastidiosa*" submitted in line with Decision (EU) 789/2015 remains valid under Regulation (EU) 2020/1201.

MPI also confirms that *Xylella fastidiosa* is known not to be present in New Zealand based on inspection, sampling and molecular testing undertaken by MPI in accordance with relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures and using a test listed in Regulation (EU) 2020/1201 Annex IV.

The following points are provided for your information to support New Zealand's declaration of *Xylella fastidiosa* freedom:

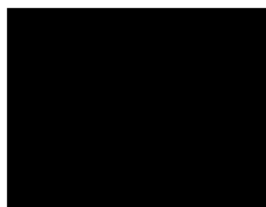
- New Zealand's sampling and diagnostic methods used for *Xylella fastidiosa* are aligned with ISPM 27 "Diagnostic protocols for regulated pests". New Zealand was a major contributor to the development of ISPM 27 and led the development of the diagnostic protocol for *Xylella fastidiosa*.
- New Zealand routinely uses real time Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and the Loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) based on Harper et al. 2010 (and erratum 2013), and the conventional PCR based on Minsavage et al. 1994 for identification to species level.
- New Zealand use Multilocus sequence typing (MLST) based on Yuan et al. 2010, and genome sequencing for identification to subspecies and sequence type level.
- New Zealand have validated the above methods through inter-laboratory testing programmes with overseas laboratories, such as EUPHRESKO, and MPI's Plant Health & Environment Laboratory is accredited to ISO 17025 "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories".
- New Zealand also regularly use the above methods to test suspect samples collected at the New Zealand border, in post entry quarantine in New Zealand, and from samples collected during general surveillance and high-risk site surveillance programmes.
- To date, New Zealand has not had any positive detections of *Xylella fastidiosa* from samples collected in New Zealand.

MPI will continue to apply the following declaration to phytosanitary certificates issued plants that require *Xylella fastidiosa* freedom:

“New Zealand is free from *Xylella fastidiosa*”

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Director Market Access

CC [Redacted], Director Animal & Plant Health