



14 November 2007

To Registrant of Registered Trade Name Products under the ACVM Act

Dear Registrant

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS – ACVM ACT CHANGES

Further to the Special Edition of Agvet Link you received recently on regulatory reform.

As outlined in that Edition, NZFSA plans to release public discussion documents over the next few months (including one on cost recovery under the ACVM Act). One of the first discussion documents to be released will be on fundamentals and framework of the ACVM Act outlines our thinking on some key operational interpretations and the risk criteria and thresholds used to determine the level of regulatory oversight of agricultural compounds. This thinking has the potential to bring in a number of product groups which were originally excluded from the ACVM Act via operational interpretations. As a guide, the types of products that may be affected are:

- Public Health Insecticides (both commercial and household)
- Speciality Agricultural Chemicals such as commercial and home garden lawn and turf products
- Disinfectants, Sanitisers and Cleaners
- Water Treatment Products
- Timber treatment products
- Antifouling products

It should be noted that whilst these product groups may be brought in under the scope of the ACVM Act, the level of regulatory oversight may be minimal in some instances.

In addition, the paper includes some proposals on the risk criteria and thresholds used to determine the level of regulatory oversight for these product groups and products already covered in the scope of the Act. Furthermore, the information requirements necessary to support those products requiring registration may also be affected.

An important aspect of this process is to engage with stakeholders to hear their views on what is being suggested. As each industry sector may have a different perspective we wish to ensure each has an opportunity to express them. Therefore, we intend to hold focussed meetings with each industry sector to facilitate this. There will also be a session for those stakeholders currently within the scope of the Act to discuss some of the more generic points from this first discussion document.

It is also noted that there will be some organisations who will straddle across various industry sectors. However, there is no intention to restrict such organisations from attending more than one meeting, although it is appreciated that there will be some duplication of discussions when this does occur.

The discussion document is in the last stages of being finalised and while no decision has been made on when it will be released, it is possible this will occur before these stakeholder meetings in December 2007. Irrespective of the date of its release, NZFSA believes it is important to start this engagement process as soon as possible. It is hoped these meetings will assist stakeholders in preparing any submissions in response to the discussion document.

In addition to these meetings, the ACVM Group is taking this opportunity to also run a workshop on the role of data assessment and the process for recognition by the ACVM group as a data assessor. This will be held in conjunction with the ACVM Act workshop to enable attendance at both meetings if required. The process for recognition as an assessor will be covered as well as the introduction of new data assessment templates, content of a DAS report and the expectations for the role of an assessor.

Auckland and Wellington are to be the venues for these meetings. The dates are: 11 and 12 December 2007 in Auckland and 13 December in Wellington.

NZFSA intends to have follow up meetings with stakeholders in February 2008, therefore, should you be unable to attend one of the meetings in December 2007 it is hoped you can attend those held in February 2008. As there are a number of stakeholders based in Australia, meetings will also be held there. Details of these February 2008 meetings will be circulated before the end of this year.

Should you wish to attend one of these meetings, please complete the attached form and return to NZFSA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'WH', written in a cursive style.

Warren Hughes
Programme Manager (Approvals & ACVM Standards)