Environmental Protection Authority
Te Mana Rauhī Taiao

Form: Call for expression of interest to prescribe certain organisms as ‘not new’ organisms

for the purposes of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act

Introduction

Fill this form if you or your organisation seeks to make a proposal to prescribe certain new organisms as ‘not new’ organisms.

Species are classed as new organisms under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act if they were not present in New Zealand before 29 July 1998. As such, you require HSNO Act approval for propagation or distribution of the organism.

To change its ‘new’ organism status (which means that an organism will no longer be regulated as ‘new’ under the HSNO Act), an organism must be deregulated under section 140(1)(c) of the HSNO Act, by an Order in Council given by the Governor General prescribing organisms that are not new organisms for the purposes of this Act.

The Environmental Protection Authority will use the information in this form in the decision-making process (which is likely to include a public consultation component). Clearly label and include any confidential information as a separate appendix.

Proposing a candidate new organism does not guarantee the status of the organism will be changed. Organisms will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. We may advise you to apply using another pathway if there’s an appropriate one available.

Submission details

Once you have completed this form, you may:

- send by post to: Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Wellington 6140
- or email to: submissions@epa.govt.nz

Submissions open on the 22 March and close on 4 June at 5.00 pm.

Privacy Act

We are collecting your personal information in your submission relating to prescribing an organism as ‘not new’, and will use the information you provide in this form to contact you in relation to your submission. We may also use your contact details for the purpose of requesting your participation in customer surveys. We will store your personal information securely. Your information may be made public unless you select the box below to request that we keep it confidential. You have the right to access the personal information we hold about you and to ask for it to be corrected if it is wrong. If you would like to access your personal information, or have it corrected, please contact us.

☒ **Please keep my personal information confidential.**

Part 1

Name of person or organisation making the proposal: Bioforce Limited

Postal address: 24 Milano Boulevard Karaka, Auckland 2113 New Zealand

Date: 28/05/2021

Part 2

Details of the new organism(s) proposed to be prescribed as 'not new' organism(s)

Please complete this section for each organism proposed to be prescribed as a not new organism.

1. Name of the organism

Pepino Mosaic Virus

2. Why do you want to prescribe this organism as 'not new'?

Including:

a. Is there any information on the economic or environmental impacts of the organism?
b. What is the benefit of making this organism 'not new'?
c. Can these benefits be quantified?
d. Can these benefits be achieved by alternative means?

We would like to denew Pepino Mosaic Virus to use the strain which has recently arrived in New Zealand as an immunisation for tomato crops. It is common practice in Europe to inoculate new tomato plants with mild strains of Pepino Mosaic Virus to mitigate any potentially more aggressive strains from entering and killing the plants mid crop. To do this a mild strain of the virus must be cultivated, it is not possible to achieve by other means.

3. Describe the biology of the organism

Including:

a. What are the biological characteristics of the organism?
b. Where is it found overseas?
c. Does it cause a disease?
d. Does it have potentially beneficial characteristics?
e. What adverse effects could making this organism 'not new' have on people or the environment, if any? Can these be quantified?

Pepino Mosaic Virus is found through Europe, North America and China. The virus in a mild form has little to no observed ill effects on tomato plants. Aggressive strains of Pepino Mosaic Virus will damage fruit and eventually kill the plant. The onlylimiting effect may be reduced market access for fruit from inoculated plants.

4. Has the organism formed a self-sustaining population in New Zealand?

Including:

a. Where and when has the population(s) of the organism been found in New Zealand?
b. How does this organism spread?

Pepino Mosaic Virus has been found in a number of Auckland greenhouses growing tomatoes. The original observation was only discovered after April 2021. The organism is spread by the transfer of plant sap, it is not transferred by pest insects on tomato plants.

5. Is any person attempting to manage, control or eradicate the organism under any Act or is the organism the subject of an enforcement action or action under a civil penalty regime?

Including:

a. If the organism has been part of an official incursion response or other MPI response or management activity, describe what happened here including why the response was stood down.

MPI in the last 2 months has tried to contain the virus to the first glasshouse the virus was detected in.

6. Is there reason to believe that this organism was deliberately imported in contravention of an Act of Parliament? If so, please explain.

This virus was not deliberately imported. It is believed the virus has arrived on contaminated seeds.

7. Is there any other information you wish to include?

Click here to enter text.

Part 3

8. Provide references to the information you provided (if applicable)

Click here to enter text.