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Standards Management Officer FSANZ

SUBMISSION regarding TUTIN in HONEY. [REDACTED]

8 October 2012

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2.4.1 Tutin

I read that it is proposed to extend the present Tutin in Honey Standard for a further 2 years.

I am concerned that Food Safety credit the lack of any Tutin in honey incident to their Tutin in Honey Regulations. However this lack of an incident is more directly connected to no one ignorant of the regulations collecting and distributing honey to friends and shops.

There is an upsurge in beekeeping at present with many more starting to keep a hive. However many also do not know that such hives have to be registered and also doubtful if they know anything at all about Tutin in honey and the consequences.

Without a return to active participation by Apicultural Advisory Officers in the beekeeping community who get to know about new beekeepers through the beekeeping grapevine, it is only a matter of time and we will have a repeat poisoning incidence. This should be of concern to Food Safety.

The present Standard has proved costly to our business and All Tests of All honey including comb honey have come back Not Detectable. This is not a surprise seeing the local DOC entomologist who I spoke to when the standard was proposed said she had never seen any Passion Vine Hoppers in the Buller forests, even though familiar with the Hoppers when stationed in Auckland. To continue testing for non-existent Tutin appears to be nothing more than Bureaucratic overkill and should cease immediately. I expect many other parts of New Zealand has a similar history. It would be more cost effective if Food Safety embarked on regular advertising advising of the need for hives to be registered and honey produced in risk areas requiring testing.

If the Standard is to be continued, then serious consideration should be given to reducing the areas of risk to those that showed traces of Tutin in honey. Any other action will just add unnecessary costs and clerical work to beekeepers.

I have kept my submission brief as much of my submission was presented at the introduction of the Standard although at that time basically ignored.

Yours faithfully

G.LJeffery (Manager)