

## An Important Reminder to all Velvetters: Regulated Control Scheme for Deer Velvet Harvest

- The National Velvetting Standards Body (NVSB) de-velvetting programme has now been regulated by the Ministry for Primary Industries.
- The Regulated Control Scheme for Deer Velvet Harvest (RCS) came into force on 7 August 2017 and is now a mandatory requirement. See:  
[www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/19379](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/19379)
- The RCS applies to a farmer, a velvetter, any person who handles or stores deer velvet, and any person who transports deer velvet after harvest.
- The prime purpose of the RCS is to ensure that deer velvet intended for export complies with market access requirements throughout its harvesting, handling, storage and transport.
- Details and a link to the RCS can be found on the DINZ website or at:  
[www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/19379](http://www.mpi.govt.nz/document-vault/19379)
- Copies of the Q&A explanation sheets can also be found on the DINZ website:  
[www.deernz.org](http://www.deernz.org)
- A photo gallery of examples of velvetting facilities is being compiled on the DINZ website. Current photos show some “clean zones” meeting the requirements, some with work in progress and some that require work in order to comply.
- The RCS sets out the requirements that must be met in order to be able to sell your velvet for the purposes of export from this season onwards.
- The RCS requires all consignments of velvet going off-farm to be accompanied by a Velvet Status Declaration (VSD) to identify the velvet moving through the supply chain. New VSD books are being sent to all velvetters registered with the NVSB and all known velvet buyers. Velvetters who have not received a VSD booklet should contact DINZ at [info@deernz.org](mailto:info@deernz.org) or phone 04 473 4500.
- When selling velvet for export, velvetters will need to sign off a VSD stating that the harvest, handling, storage and transport of their velvet has met all the requirements of the RCS.
- Auditing of velvet facilities to ensure they meet the RCS requirements can only be undertaken by MPI recognised persons. Current NVSB auditors will become recognised persons under the Act. Other recognised persons such as MPI compliance officers can also audit velvetting premises in future.
- If you are a velvetter and are concerned, confused and or unsure what to do and need assistance then please contact any of the following:

### National Velvetting Standards Body (NVSB) persons

#### NVSB Executive

John Tacon                      021 242 2873



**Deer Industry**  
New Zealand

#### NVSB Committee

Ian Scott                              027 473 2657

Peter Allan                            03 201 6313

Paddy Boyd                          03 680 6637

Andrew Conway                      021 201 3032