ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/41

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS
DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS PAPER

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) provides the draft import risk analysis report on prawns and prawn products (Attachment A) for consideration and comment. It would be appreciated if comments could be provided by 25 October 2000.

AQPM 2000/19 of 7 March 2000 provided a progress report on the import risk analysis of prawns and prawn products. AQPM 1998/86 of November 1998 presented for public comment the technical issues paper. The risk analysis panel conducting the IRA has taken comments on the issues paper into account in developing the draft import risk analysis report.

The draft IRA report identifies the main disease issues as

- management of white spot disease and yellow head disease which have been associated with serious mortalities in prawn aquaculture overseas.

The draft IRA report identifies the main quarantine issues as

- circumventing the ban on imported prawns for bait use (prawns used for bait are typically small and have a higher likelihood of containing disease agents than larger prawns)
- processing of imported prawns in Australia (this does not currently occur but would be a significant pathway if it did) and
- prawn feeds containing tissues derived from prawns.

The proposed conditions are as follows:

- Uncooked whole green prawns under a specified weight would not be permitted entry;
- Whole uncooked prawns above a specified weight, and processed products such as prawn tails or meat, would be permitted entry if accompanied by official certification, including that the prawns were inspected and graded under the supervision of a competent authority;
- Commercial processing of imported uncooked prawns must be conducted at a premises approved by AQIS;
- Cooked prawns would be permitted entry without specific certification;
Current requirements for the importation of prawn feeds/meals would be maintained and strengthened with a new requirement for supervision by a competent authority.

AQIS proposes that the specified weight under which whole green prawns would not be permitted entry be 15 grams because:

- AQIS investigations have shown that prawns used for bait are typically less than 15 grams; and
- 15 grams is the minimum target size for prawns from aquaculture; therefore, prawns larger than 15 grams are less likely to have been derived from an emergency harvest.

**Next steps**

We welcome your comments on the draft IRA report, the weight cut off point for uncooked whole green prawns and the proposed quarantine conditions by 25 October 2000. Comments from stakeholders will be considered in finalising the IRA and submitting recommendations to the Executive Director of AQIS for consideration and approval.

**Confidentiality**

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1982, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked ‘confidential’ and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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