ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/11

IMPORTATION OF UNCOOKED PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS
ADVICE ON QUARANTINE MEASURES

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides advice on the implementation of a white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) testing program which is part of the interim conditions for imports of uncooked prawns and prawn products. The full range of interim measures will come into effect on 4 June 2001.

ABPMs 2000/57 and 2001/06 announced interim measures for the importation of prawns and prawn products which included a testing regime to demonstrate freedom from WSSV. In consultation with State and Territory governments and other experts, Biosecurity Australia has developed a testing program which will apply to all consignments of whole green and unpeeled headless prawns. Prawns will stay in quarantine bond until the results of the test are available. Batches that return positive results must be re-exported, destroyed or further processed in a facility approved by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) for that purpose.

In the period preceding development of the testing protocol a 100% inspection regime was implemented as were size limitations and processing controls. From 4 June 2001, the full range of interim measures (Attachment A) including import permits, certification, size limitations, inspections, testing, declarations and record keeping will apply.

Note that the conditions as listed in Attachment A are interim conditions. These will remain in place only until the current import risk analysis on prawns is completed and the final quarantine conditions are announced.

For further information please contact the officers whose details appear below.

Importers can obtain applications for permits, details of fees and other relevant information from the AQIS section of the AFFA website: www.affa.gov.au or by contacting the AQIS Biologicals Unit on telephone (02) 6272 4578 or facsimile (02) 6273 2097.

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.
Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity 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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