INTERIM CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORT OF UNCOOKED PRAWNS

1. GENERAL

1.1 Import permit

The importer must obtain a permit to import uncooked prawns and prawn products into Australia from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) prior to the goods being imported.

1.2 Size limitations

- Only prawns greater than 15g in weight may be imported whole.
- Prawns less than 15g in weight must have the head removed as a minimum.
- The Competent Authority must certify to size and presentation.

2. CERTIFICATION

The Competent Authority in the exporting country must certify that the uncooked prawns:

- have not been subjected to emergency harvest due to suspicion or the confirmation of the presence of disease;
- have been processed, inspected and graded in a premises approved by and under the control of the Competent Authority; and
- are free from visible signs of infectious disease and are fit for human consumption.

In addition, the Competent Authority must certify that

- for uncooked whole and unpeeled, headless prawns each package is marked with the words ‘for human consumption only- not to be used as bait or feed for aquatic animals’.
- for uncooked whole prawns they are greater than 15 grams individual weight (ie, the graded count is not more than 29 to the pound, or 66 to the kilogram) and the package must show the graded count on size.

The certificate must be presented on official letterhead, be signed by a person authorised by the Competent Authority and bear an impression of the official stamp on each page.
3. **POST ARRIVAL**

3.1 **Inspection on arrival**

- All consignments of whole green and unpeeled headless prawns will be directed into quarantine bond where they will be inspected to ensure fitness for human consumption. This is assessed using a number of indicators including appearance, size and presence of by-catch.

3.2 **Testing**

- All batches of whole green and unpeeled headless prawns will be tested for white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) using a sampling and test protocol designed to detect WSSV infection present at 5% prevalence with at least 95% confidence.

- 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 AQIS for that purpose.

3.3 **Declaration and record keeping**

- Importers must declare for all consignments that the imported product will not be sold for use as bait or for commercial processing except as defined in under section 3.4.

- Importers must keep records for all consignments of imported prawns. These records must be available to AQIS for audit and traceback purposes.

3.4 **Processing**

- Imported green prawns must not be subjected to commercial processing (this includes repackaging) except by commercial processors which have entered into a compliance agreement with AQIS.

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DAVID BANKS  
General Manager  
Animal Biosecurity