



Australian Government

Biosecurity Australia

7 October 2009

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2009/25

RELEASE OF FINAL IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS

This Biosecurity Australia Advice notifies stakeholders of the release of the final import risk analysis (IRA) report for prawns and prawn products for human consumption. Stakeholders have 30 days, until 6 November 2009, to lodge an appeal in response to the final IRA report.

Biosecurity Australia has now completed the final import risk analysis (IRA) report and policy recommendations for the importation of prawns and prawn products from all countries. The report was issued by the Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia on 7 October 2009.

A revised draft IRA report was released in November 2006 for stakeholder comment. Following consideration of the 51 stakeholder submissions received, in July 2007, Biosecurity Australia announced stronger interim measures. These measures varied from the draft IRA report with inclusion of marinated prawns as 'highly processed prawns' and removal of measures for necrotising hepatopancreatitis bacterium (NHPB) for frozen prawns. In September 2008, the interim risk management measures for infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV) were removed. This followed advice from the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, as chair of the Aquatic Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Diseases (AqCCEAD) of Australia's changed aquatic animal health status with regard to IHHNV.

Releasing this final report follows consideration of 51 stakeholder submissions. A draft final IRA report was reviewed by the independent Eminent Scientists Group (ESG) to ensure that stakeholder comments had been taken properly into account. The ESG report to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine is available from the Department's website: www.daff.gov.au/biosecuritycoordination/eminent_scientists_group (Biosecurity Australia Advice 2009/18). In light of comments from stakeholders and the ESG, amendments have been made to the final IRA report.

Key changes from the draft report are

- removal of risk management measures for IHHNV
- inclusion of marinated products as a highly processed prawn product, subject to inspection
- clarification that risk management measures for NHPB only apply to unfrozen product.

The final IRA report recommends risk management for white spot syndrome virus (WSSV), yellowhead virus (YHV), Taura syndrome virus (TSV) and NHPB (in the case of unfrozen product) to meet Australia's appropriate level of quarantine protection. The IRA recommends that imported prawns

- be sourced from a country or zone that is recognised by Australia to be free of WSSV, YHV, TSV and NHPB (the last disease agent, for unfrozen product only); or
- have the head and shell removed (except for the last shell segment and tail fans) and, if not from a disease free source, have each batch tested on arrival with negative results for WSSV, and YHV; or

- be 'highly processed', that is head and shell-off (except for the last shell segment and tail fans), and coated for human consumption by being breaded or battered, marinated in a wet or dry marinade, marinated and placed on skewers or processed into dumpling, spring roll, samosa, roll, ball or dim sum-type product; or
- be cooked to a standard where all protein is coagulated and no uncooked meat remains.

Biosecurity Australia will consider other measures that provide an equivalent level of protection.

This IRA is being completed under the pre-regulated process according to the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook* (2003). Stakeholders may lodge an appeal with the independent Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel (IRAAP). The IRAAP considers appeals, supported by a statement of reasons, based on one or both of the following grounds:

- there was a significant deviation from the process set out in the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook* (2003) that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder
- a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

Stakeholders will have until 6 November 2009 to lodge an appeal in writing with the IRAAP. The IRAAP normally has up to 45 days to consider any appeals and report its findings to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.

For important information on lodging an appeal please visit the IRAAP webpage:
http://www.daff.gov.au/corporate_policy/import_risk_analysis_appeals_panel.

Appeals should be submitted to: iraap@daff.gov.au

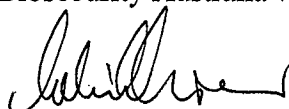
OR

IRAAP Secretariat
 Corporate Policy
 Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
 GPO Box 858
 CANBERRA ACT 2601
 Facsimile: (02) 6272 3025

If there is no appeal, or once any appeals are resolved, the process is complete and policy recommendations will be submitted to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine for determination.

The final IRA report for prawns and prawn products is available from the Biosecurity Australia website at www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. If needed, a printed copy of the document can be requested from the contact officer below.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer. Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website.



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