



## AQIS NOTICE

Issue Export of Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce to Taiwan		Date issued: 19 December 2008
<b>AQIS Notice Number:</b> 2008/7		<b>AQIS File Number:</b> AFFA01/7727
<b>Date of Effect:</b> 29 January 2009	<b>Date of Expiry:</b> Until further notice	<b>AQIS contact:</b> Edwina Mulhearn ☎ 02 6272 4152 ✉ organic@aqis.gov.au
Distribution Category		Last Notice in the category
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved Certifying Organisations  cc <input type="checkbox"/> Manager AQIS Horticultural Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager AQIS Grain Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager AQIS Meat Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager AQIS Dairy Export Program <input type="checkbox"/> Manager AQIS Export Fish Program		nil
Instruction issued under: <i>Export Control (Organic Produce Certification) Orders</i>		

### PURPOSE

1. To advise Approved Certifying Organisations (ACOs) of requirements for the export of organic and bio-dynamic produce to Taiwan

### BACKGROUND

2. On 29 January 2009 Taiwan is introducing a new regulatory regime governing the certification of organic foods.
3. Australia has been negotiating with Taiwan's Agriculture and Food Agency (AFA) for an equivalence arrangement in relation to the import of organic produce into Taiwan.

### ISSUES

4. While the AFA has indicated that it is generally satisfied with the Australian system for managing certification for organic produce for export one issue remains outstanding.

5. Taiwan has a zero tolerance for the presence of contaminants in organic produce. This requirement is contrary to section 3.1.9 of the National Standard for Organic and Bio-Dynamic Produce as shown below.

*3.1.9. Where product has been contaminated with non-permitted substances as a result of factors beyond the control of the certified operator, then:*

- a. chemical residue tests of the product must register below 10% of the Maximum Residue Limit before the product can be sold as in-conversion, organic or bio-dynamic.*
- b. Product...*

6. AQIS has undertaken to ensure that Taiwan's requirement for zero tolerance for contaminants in organic produce destined for Taiwan is met. This will be achieved through:
  - a. The issue of this Notice to ACOs requiring compliance to Taiwan's requirement.
  - b. Including the review of this requirement in audits of ACOs and certified organic operators conducted by AQIS.

## **INSTRUCTION**

AQIS approved certifying organisations are required to:

7. **ADVISE** all certified organic operators of Taiwan's requirements, including that the operators QM manual must be amended to reflect this requirement.
8. **AMEND** ACO QM manuals to reflect this requirement.
9. **ASSESS** compliance of certified organic operators during routine audits and
10. **DOCUMENT** evidence of findings in operator inspection reports.
  
11. From the **1<sup>st</sup> February 2009**, AQIS will review compliance with this instruction during audits of the certifying organisations.