

Market access requests

Australia exports around two thirds of our agricultural products, and we're constantly working with our farmers to look for new export opportunities. Other countries are also doing this for their farmers.

So how does a country go about getting access to send their products to another country? They submit a market access request.

Anyone can submit a request but usually they are submitted in writing by the government of the requesting country. Normally the request must contain:

- the scientific name and common name of the product,
- where the product is produced,
- what the product is intended for,
- details of pests and diseases the product could carry,
- the farming practices used to produce the product, and
- the export procedures used in the country.

In Australia we receive a lot of requests! We therefore can't assess them all at once. So a request can sit with us for some time before it can be assessed by our scientific experts.

Once the request can be assessed, our scientific experts determine if the product can be safely imported into Australia. One way they do this is by conducting an import risk analysis.

Other countries use a similar approach when they assess our requests to export Australian products.

If you want to learn more, check out our 'Import Risk Analysis' video.