



9 July 2026

Import risk review for natural casings

Response to submissions received from the 2024 issues paper

The department received a number of submissions on the *Import risk review for natural casings: issues paper*, which was released for public consultation on 26 November 2024. A combined response document has been prepared as there was similarity between many of the questions and comments received.

Swine vesicular disease (SVD) should be removed from the review in line with World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) recommendations for natural casings.

Hazard identification is a key step in the risk analysis process which is undertaken to determine which pathogenic agents (disease agents) could potentially lead to adverse consequences as a result of importing a given commodity. Potential hazards are only retained for further risk assessment if they meet certain criteria.

SVD was identified as a potential hazard but has not been retained for further assessment in the biosecurity import risk assessment (BIRA) issues paper for natural casings.

The effect of salt composition and additional time-temperature parameters should be considered for classical swine fever (CSF) inactivation.

The BIRA issues paper for natural casings considers the effectiveness of 30-day salt treatment at temperatures below and above 20°C in the inactivation of CSF virus and compares the effect of salt vs phosphate supplemented salt. The full assessment can be found in section 4.4 of the BIRA issues paper.

Research on storage temperatures of 8-12°C should be included to better align with usual practice in the casings industry.

The "Community Guide to Good Practice for Hygiene and the application of the HACCP principles in the production of natural sausage casings" specifies storage of casings at temperatures between 8° to 12°C. Storage temperatures of 8-12°C have therefore been considered the standard practice in the BIRA issues paper and research at these temperatures has been included where available. Full descriptions of the parameters set for standard industry practices can be found in section 1.1 of the BIRA issues paper.

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Higher temperature (>20°C) salting and storage of casings should be considered for foot and mouth disease (FMD) inactivation.

Temperatures above 20°C have been assessed in the context of the 30-day salting treatment for the inactivation of FMD virus in the BIRA issues paper. The full assessment can be found in section 4.5.

Temperatures above 20°C have not been assessed for the storage of natural casings as they are not considered standard practice. See section 1.1 of the BIRA issues paper for further details.

Exposure of casings to prolonged temperatures above 20°C has a detrimental effect on product quality.

Storage of casings for over 6 months at 10°C and 20°C has been demonstrated to result in similar mechanical properties, with decreases only found at storage temperatures of 40°C or above. In addition, temperatures above 20°C have only been assessed for the 30-day salting treatment as the BIRA issues paper considers storage temperatures of 8-12°C as the standard industry practice. See section 1.1 of the BIRA issues paper for further details.

Broader hazards should be considered in the risk assessment, including new and emerging wildlife diseases.

The issues paper focused on 5 key animal diseases to assist stakeholder's in providing feedback on the department's interpretation of the science underpinning industry's proposal (see section 2 of the issues paper). The BIRA issues paper contains an outline of the methods used for identifying and retaining hazards as well as the results of the preliminary hazard identification. In total, 61 disease agents including several emerging disease agents were considered as potential hazards, with 16 retained for further risk assessment.

Description of the methods for hazard identification can be found in section 3 of the BIRA issues paper, and details of all disease agents identified as hazards can be found in Appendix C.

It is unlikely that sheep and goats, which are strict herbivores, would ingest intestines derived from animals infected with peste des petits ruminants virus (PPRV)

The department has assessed the likelihood of establishment or spread of PPRV as a result of the import of natural casings as negligible in the risk assessment presented in the BIRA issues paper.

The full assessment can be found at section 4.9 of the BIRA issues paper.

More information

Learn more about the [BIRA for natural casings](#).

Web: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/risk-analysis/animal/natural-casings>

Email: animalbiosecurity@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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