



# Reviewing laboratory test reports for tomato seed for sowing

Date updated: 31 March 2025

**Important:** This document is updated from time to time. Please ensure you are using the most current version.

## When reviewing the laboratory report, ensure you check:

- ☐ that the report includes the full botanical name of the species being tested
- ☐ for *Solanum lycopersicum* (including synonyms and hybrids) that all the following pathogens have been tested for:
  - *Pepino mosaic virus*
  - *Columnnea latent viroid*
  - *Pepper chat fruit viroid*
  - *Potato spindle tuber viroid*
  - *Tomato apical stunt viroid*
  - *Tomato brown rugose fruit virus* (ToBRFV)
  - *Tomato mottle mosaic virus* (ToMMV)
- ☐ For the wild tomato species (and their synonyms) *Solanum chilense*, *S. chmielewskii*, *S. parviflorum*, *S. peruvianum*, and *S. pimpinellifolium* (except where included in a hybrid with *S. lycopersicum* or its synonyms) that all the following pathogens have been tested for:
  - *Tomato brown rugose fruit virus* (ToBRFV)
  - *Tomato mottle mosaic virus* (ToMMV)
- ☐ that the test results for all listed pathogens show a 'Negative' or 'Not detected' result
- ☐ that the correct minimum sample size was used for each pathogen:
  - 3,000 seeds or 20% of each seed lot for *Pepino mosaic virus* testing conducted prior to 23 June 2021, subject to the conditions of the transitional arrangement being met<sup>1</sup>.
  - 20,000 seeds or 20% of each seed lot for all other pathogens and for *Pepino mosaic virus* testing conducted on or after 23 June 2021, or where the conditions of the transitional arrangement are not met<sup>1</sup>.
- ☐ that the sub-sample sizes do not exceed:
  - 400 seeds for PCR tests, or
  - 1000 seeds for PCR tests, **only applicable for reports issued by the Naktuinbouw laboratory, Netherlands**, or
  - 250 seeds for ELISA tests targeting *Pepino mosaic virus*.
- ☐ that reports issued by a laboratory **OTHER** than the Naktuinbouw, include a statement confirming that '[Tomato brown rugose fruit virus](#) and [Tomato mottle mosaic virus](#) testing was conducted using primers and protocols that were on the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry list of approved primers and protocols at the time of testing'

<sup>1</sup> Refer to import permit for the conditions of the transitional arrangement

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(**Note:** This statement may alternatively be included as an additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate)

- ☐ if a sub-sample for ToMMV and/or ToBRFV returns a positive result using the Levitzky *et al.* (2019) protocol, ensure that further sequencing has been performed to verify the identity of the pathogen found.
- ☐ that the report includes the seed lot numbers tested
- ☐ that the seed lot numbers match the seed lot numbers on the phytosanitary certificate and other documentation
- ☐ that the report includes the name and address of the testing laboratory
- ☐ that the report includes the date of testing (**Note:** Some countries use other date formats i.e. month/day/year)
- ☐ for any other information or comments on the report that indicate the presence of any other pathogen.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What if the seed lot was tested for *Pepino mosaic virus* before 23 June 2021, but a supplier's declaration with all required declarations cannot be provided?**

Seed lots that do not comply with all of the conditions of the transitional arrangement for *Pepino mosaic* testing will be subject to onshore testing with a full 20,000 seed sample.

**What happens if the seed lot number/s on the laboratory report do not match the seed lot number/s on the phytosanitary certificate and other documentation?**

Seed lot number(s) on laboratory reports must match the seed lot numbers on the phytosanitary certificates. It is not acceptable to use other documentation to create a link between different lot numbers. Laboratory reports that do not use the same seed lot number as the phytosanitary certificate will not be accepted and the seed lot will be provided with options for onshore testing, export or disposal.

**What if the approved protocol/primer statement or detail is not included in the test report?**

If the approved protocol/primer statement or detail is not included in the test report, contact Plant Import Operations at [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au) for assessment.

**What if only one sub-sample in the laboratory report is positive for a regulated pathogen?**

If any sub-sample returns a positive result on any targeted pathogen, the seed lot is regarded as testing positive and will not be permitted entry into Australian territory.

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**What if some of the target pathogens are not included in the test report?**

If only some of the target pathogens have been included in the test report, then the seed lot(s) must be directed for onshore testing for the remaining pathogens only, unless additional laboratory reports for the same seed lot can be presented for the remaining pathogens.

**What if the report mentions that bioassay tests were used?**

The department does not accept testing conducted by bioassay, either alone or in combination with polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. If you are reviewing a laboratory report and the testing method states bioassay either alone or in combination with PCR, contact Plant Import Operations at [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au) for assessment.

**What happens when a laboratory report indicates ‘inconclusive test results’?**

Seed laboratory reports indicating an “inconclusive test result” for a pathogen must be referred to Plant Import Operations at [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au) for assessment. Generally, inconclusive test results are treated as a positive test result and the seed lot will not be permitted entry into Australia.

**What happens if the report indicates that other pathogens were detected?**

The department reserves the right to take action to manage the detection of any non-targeted pests. If the seed laboratory report indicates that pathogens other than those specified in import conditions were detected in the seed lot, refer the report to Plant Import Operations at [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au) for assessment.

**Where do I go for further support?**

For further assistance, please email Plant Import Operations at [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au) or phone 1800 900 090.

For more information about importing seeds for planting visit:

[www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/plant-products/seeds-for-sowing](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/plant-products/seeds-for-sowing).