



September 2025

## ***Melon fruit from Japan: biosecurity import requirements***

# **Supplementary response to stakeholder comments**

Stakeholders commented or raised concern around some aspects of melon fruit imports from Japan that were outside the scope of the *Melon fruit from Japan: biosecurity import requirements draft report*.

Accordingly, our responses to these aspects are provided in this supplementary response paper.

**Appendix C** of the [final report](#) contains our responses to the comments raised that were in-scope of the risk analysis.

## **Issue 1: Concerns were raised about food safety requirements for imported melon fruit**

The purpose of officers visiting melon fruit production areas in Japan and the resulting draft report was to assess and describe production practices in relation to biosecurity risks. This did not extend to assessing or describing Japan's management of food safety risks during melon fruit production.

In parallel to considering biosecurity import requirements for melons from Japan, the department is also considering new food safety requirements for imported melons. A separate consultation process was held for this work in late 2024.

Under the *Imported Food Control Act 1992*, there is a legislated process for assessing food safety risks, where Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) undertakes risk assessment for imported food. The resulting [imported food risk advice statement](#) is published on the FSANZ website.

The department uses FSANZ risk advice to determine the food safety management required for imported food. Based on the risk advice for melons, we are introducing food safety requirements for their import:

- melons will be classified as a risk food
- melons must be imported with a recognised food safety management certificate.

Under the [Imported Food Inspection Scheme \(IFIS\)](#), each consignment of food classified as a risk food requiring food safety management certificates is assessed to verify it has the necessary certification. If a consignment does not meet the certification requirements, it is held at the border and must either be destroyed or re-exported under supervision.

### **Recognised food safety management certificate**

The criteria for the department's acceptance of a recognised certificate is described in the published legislative [guidelines for determining recognised food safety management certificates – Imported Food Control Act 1992](#).

The food safety management system that is certified must be based on HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) principles consistent with the Codex General Principles of Food Hygiene.

We assess whether the certificate meets our certification requirements, including that it is issued by a Certification Body that is accredited by:

- a) an Accreditation Body (AB), or
- b) a Certification Program Owner (CPO) benchmarked by the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI), or
- c) a private organisation recognised by the relevant competent authority in the exporting country under a government recognised certification program.

The certificate must also be validated through a web-accessible database administered by the relevant AB or CPO.

The accredited certification body is responsible for auditing the producer's food safety management system. This process verifies that the controls implemented by the producer to manage food safety risks specific to their operations are in place.

The requirement for food safety management certification provides assurance to the department that food safety risks have been managed consistent with the FSANZ risk assessment for imported melons and the food safety outcomes of Australia's domestic requirements.

### **Issue 2: Concerns were raised about safe labour and workplace practices in Japan**

Both Australia and Japan are members of the International Labour Organization (ILO). Japan is a long-standing member of the ILO and has been a consistent contributor to its development and initiatives. Japan also strongly supports the ILO's 2030 Decent Work Agenda, which prioritises and promotes safe labour and workplace practices.

As ILO members, Australia and Japan are obligated to uphold the commitments outlined in the ILO Declaration of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up (1998). These include overseeing fair and responsible employment practices and ensuring a safe and healthy working environment across all industries in their countries.

The Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry collaborates with the ILO to promote and ensure responsible supply chains in Japan.

In the context of Australia's trade relations with Japan, matters relating to labour and workplace practices fall under the responsibility of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR). We can assist in connecting stakeholders with relevant contacts in these agencies should they wish to discuss this matter further.

## More information

### Keep informed

For more information on this risk analysis, see our [website](#) or contact us (details below). To receive notices about plant biosecurity policies, [subscribe](#) to 'Biosecurity Risk Analysis Plant'.

**Web** [aff.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis](http://aff.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis)

**Email** [imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:imports@aff.gov.au)

**Phone** 1800 900 090 (When prompted select option 1, then option 1)

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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