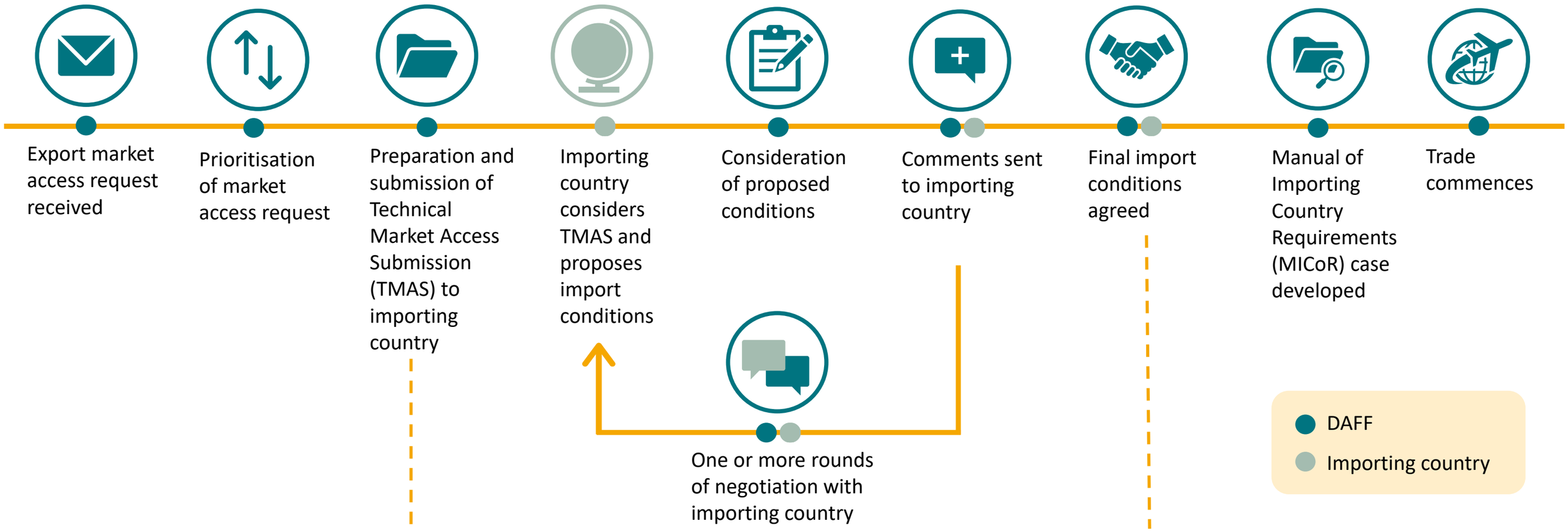
Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Technical market access process for plants and plant products

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) creates new agricultural export opportunities by negotiating technical market access for prioritised Australian commodities. We consult with export industry groups throughout the technical market access process.



Timeframes vary depending on each country's prioritisation, the duration of research and consultation by both countries, and the negotiation process which can be complex, lengthy and dynamic.

For more information, contact mcs@aff.gov.au

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Technical market access process for plants and plant products

A request for export market access is made directly to DAFF via industry organisations that coordinate market access requests or via a peak industry body.

Before a new negotiation window opens with a trading partner, DAFF assesses requests against national prioritisation principles and criteria and identifies priorities to pursue.
Not all requests will be progressed.

If prioritised, DAFF prepares a Technical Market Access Submission (TMAS) and sends it to the importing country for consideration.

The importing country may request additional information and clarification.

The importing country considers the TMAS. If prioritised, they may undertake a risk analysis before developing import conditions, which may be specified within a protocol.

Proposed import conditions are usually published via an SPS notification allowing 60 calendar days to comment.

DAFF considers the proposed import conditions, which may involve further research and consultation with industry.

DAFF sends comments to the importing country.

Negotiation of proposed import conditions may continue over several rounds.

Final import conditions are agreed.

DAFF publishes the Manual of Importing Country Requirements (MICoR)* case.

If required, DAFF drafts and publishes a work plan in consultation with industry.

Trade commences, in accordance with import conditions. Import permit may be required.

Horticulture protocol markets** may require accreditation of properties (and potentially audit) prior to the export season.

Timeframes vary depending on each country's prioritisation, the duration of research and consultation by both countries, and the negotiation process which can be complex, lengthy and dynamic.

*MICoR is only provided as a guide. Exporters must confirm with their importer or the importing country's relevant authority that they meet the importing country requirements.

**Protocol markets are those with a specific agreement or understanding in place between that country and Australia regarding a specific product.