

Dear Stakeholder

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the outcome of the first round of consultation on the import risk analysis (IRA) for apples from New Zealand.

My letter of 15 April 1999 invited all stakeholders to comment on the type of risk analysis process to be followed in this instance. After careful consideration of all comments received AQIS has decided to proceed with the IRA using the routine process. This decision is based on consideration that this proposal is technically less complex and does not require assessment of significantly greater or different risks than those AQIS has previously examined.

AQIS will now form an in-house team of scientists with expertise relevant to this particular IRA. The team will conduct the routine IRA using procedures based on international standards. The steps of the routine process are outlined in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which has been distributed to stakeholders. During this process, AQIS will seek input from stakeholders and external technical experts if this proves necessary.

The draft IRA is expected to be released in November 1999. You will be informed if there are any significant variations to this timeframe.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the following address:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantquar@aqis.gov.au

Information on all IRAs the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is currently conducting is available on the AQIS Homepage at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/docs/plpolicy/plhome1.htm>

AQIS expresses its appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to this consultation phase.

Yours sincerely

Digby Gascoine
Director
Policy and International Division

28 June 1999