



3 July 2000

PLANT QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/12

REVIEW OF TOLERANCES OF RESTRICTED SEED CONTAMINANTS

This Plant Quarantine Policy Memorandum (PQPM) provides stakeholders with an update on the review of tolerances of restricted seed contaminants in imports of permitted seeds and grains

Following a recommendation arising from the 1996 review of Australian Quarantine, AQIS is reviewing tolerances of restricted seeds contaminants in imports of permitted seeds, particularly seed designated for agricultural sowing.

AQIS held a meeting with State Departments of Agriculture and Peak industry bodies on 28 July 1999 to discuss the scope of the review and a draft Issues Paper. The Issues Paper was circulated on 5 August 1999 to stakeholders for comment.

In February 2000, AQIS completed the technical report and held another meeting with State Departments of Agriculture and Peak industry bodies to discuss issues arising from the technical report and the draft policy paper.

An outcome of this meeting was to collect and analyse additional data on the interception of restricted seeds in permitted seeds, which AQIS is currently doing. The analysis will contribute in the development of tolerances for restricted seeds.

The next step in the consultation process, release of a Draft Policy Paper, is now planned for September 2000.

Should you have any queries on this matter, please feel free to contact Dr Paul Pheloung, Acting Manager, Grains and Seeds Market Access Team, on telephone number (02) 6272 3137; facsimile number (02) 6272 3307 or e-mail: paul.pheloung@aqis.gov.au

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