



6 August 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/34

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS –APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum advises stakeholders of the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the risk analysis panel for the Import Risk Analysis on the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand.

In our Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) 2002/28 of 26 June 2002, we advised you of the outcomes of the fifth meeting of the risk analysis panel (RAP) for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of apples from New Zealand. That PBPM indicated that the sixth meeting of the RAP was scheduled for 24 July 2002. The purpose of this PBPM is to inform you of the outcomes of the sixth meeting.

At their first meeting, RAP members agreed on the importance of keeping stakeholders informed and asked that Biosecurity Australia circulate a summary of each of its meetings to stakeholders. Accordingly, the RAP's summary of its sixth meeting is at attachment 1 for your information.

The sixth RAP meeting was preceded by a stakeholder workshop, and members discussed the outcomes of that workshop, including issues relating to the pathway scenarios and the unit of analysis (eg a single apple, a carton or a pallet) that it will use in its analysis. The meeting continued detailed consideration of the fruit importation pathway scenario, in relation to *Erwinia amylovora* being transferred from affected apple fruit to a susceptible host in Australia.

The next RAP meeting will be held on 2nd and 3rd September 2002.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Plant Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Consultation

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 Technical and Administrative Services at the following address.

Technical and Administrative Services
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Information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>.

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

Meeting summary

The risk analysis panel (RAP) for the New Zealand apple import risk analysis (IRA) held its sixth meeting on 23 & 24 July 2002. A detailed report from the last RAP meeting was approved and will be placed on the public file.

This meeting was preceded by a workshop with a broad representation of stakeholders, and members discussed the outcomes of that workshop and possible approaches to addressing several of the technical and procedural issues that were raised. A report from the workshop will be prepared, in consultation with attendees, and will be circulated to all stakeholders in due course.

In particular, the RAP discussed a range of issues relating to the pathway scenarios and the unit of analysis (eg a single apple, a carton or a pallet) that it will use in its analysis. The meeting continued detailed consideration of the fruit importation pathway scenario, discussing issues relating to *Erwinia amylovora* being transferred from affected apple fruit to a susceptible host in Australia. The chairs of the provisional technical working groups exploring arthropod and fungal issues provided a status report on the respective activities of each group.

The RAP agreed that the stakeholder workshop met its stated objectives, in that it:

- Allowed participants to provide input on important issues that need to be considered by the Risk Analysis Panel.
- Allowed participants to identify issues that need to be considered in analysing the risk pathways for entry and establishment of fire blight via trade in apples.
- Provided an opportunity for participants to meet the Risk Analysis Panel and understand the process that is being used to analyse the quarantine risks of apple importation.

The next RAP meeting is scheduled for 2nd and 3rd September 2002.

NZ Apple RAP
August 2002