



4 October 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/44

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – BULK MAIZE (*Zea mays* L.) FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) informs you of the release of the Final Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report on the importation of bulk maize from the USA.

In response to an import access proposal from the Australian feedlot industry Biosecurity Australia has conducted an import risk analysis (IRA) to import bulk maize from the United States of America into Australia.

The Executive Manager, Market Access and Biosecurity, has now determined that the importation of maize from the USA be permitted subject to the application of phytosanitary measures as specified in section 7 of the final IRA report. Imports will be subject to quarantine conditions, including steam heat sterilisation, prior to export to ensure that all seeds present (i.e. maize, other crop seed admixture and weed seeds) are rendered non-viable and all plant pathogens and arthropod pests present in the grain are killed. The conditions have been developed in line with the original request to have risk managed offshore. These requirements maintain Australia's appropriate level of protection and accord with Australia's international rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The outcome of this IRA applies only to offshore treatment and does not change the existing policy of processing imported grain at approved premises in ports of entry. Under the existing policy grain on arrival must be transported from the vessel to AQIS approved storage and/or direct to AQIS approved processors under quarantine supervision. The processing must include devitalisation of the grain and contaminant seeds and an approved steam heat sterilisation treatment.

The final IRA report is available from the AFFA website at www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity or copies can be requested from Technical and Administrative Services.

Biosecurity Australia has followed the process outlined in the *Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) Import Risk Analysis Handbook*. Any stakeholder of the opinion that the process outlined in the Handbook has not been followed properly, including that the risk analysis failed to consider a significant body of relevant scientific or technical information, may appeal to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine, who is also the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia, by Monday 4 November 2002. Appeals should be addressed to:

The Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Respondents 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 or 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 the Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

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.

Should you require additional information, please contact Technical and Administrative Services.

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