



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



29 January 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/02

GENERIC IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS ON THE IMPORTATION OF FRESH PERSIMMONS

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the commencement of a generic Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of persimmons.

In our PBPM 2001/05 of 16 March 2001 we advised you that the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) had received import requests for fresh persimmons from Israel, Japan and Korea. The purpose of this PBPM is to notify you that an IRA process has been initiated for this request as a matter of priority.

The IRA process is currently under review (the last consultation on the draft 'Administrative Framework for Import Risk Analysis' closed on 15 November 2001). Considering the advanced stage of the review and the proposed changes to the process, we propose this IRA follow the revised process, the final documentation for which is expected to be finalised early in 2002.

A number of countries have expressed interest in exporting persimmons to Australia and there is a need to review the existing policy for persimmons from the USA and New Zealand. Therefore, AFFA will consider persimmons in a generic IRA.

The main reason for conducting generic IRAs is to address a number of import access requests simultaneously from countries for which an IRA on a particular commodity has not been conducted previously. This allows the use of resources in the most cost effective way. A generic IRA can also give Biosecurity Australia (BA) the opportunity to review existing conditions for the importation of a commodity to ensure that the import conditions in place are appropriate and effective. BA is currently conducting a number of generic IRAs, including pineapples, coniferous sawn timber, wood packaging materials, Allium species and ornamental bulbs.

Scope

The generic IRA for persimmons will consider quarantine risks associated with pests and diseases of persimmons from all potential sources, in particular those countries that have lodged specific import access requests, namely Israel, Korea and Japan and also review existing policy in regard to New Zealand and the USA. Any other country not covered by existing policy that may in future wish to gain access would still be required to submit its pest and disease list for consideration.



Edmund Barton Building
Barton ACT
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
ph +61 2 6272 3933
fax +61 2 6272 5161
www.affa.gov.au

ABN 24 113 085 695

The existing conditions for persimmons currently cover importation from the USA (California, Arizona and Texas only), and New Zealand. These conditions specify inspection for non-precleared fruit and methyl bromide treatment to address risks from live quarantine pests. For the USA the phytosanitary certificate must carry an endorsement to the effect that the fruit has been sourced and packed in an area (State or county) free of all economically significant fruit flies or in excess of 80 km from any fruit fly declared areas.

Indicative timetable

We estimate that the IRA process will take approximately 2 years. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect to release the technical issues paper in late 2002.

IRA team

Biosecurity Australia considers the following technical expertise is required to conduct the risk analysis on the importation of persimmons:

- plant pathologist
- entomologist
- risk analyst

The required technical expertise is available within Biosecurity Australia and we propose that an in-house team of scientists conduct the risk analysis. It is important to note that the consultation process will ensure that other scientific and technical expertise in Australia and overseas will have several opportunities to contribute to the IRA.

Your comments are invited

You are invited to comment on the proposed scope of the IRA, the indicative timetable and the proposal to use an in-house team of scientists. Biosecurity Australia will take your comments into consideration in making its recommendations to the Executive Manager. We will accept written submissions until the close of business on Thursday 28 February 2002. Responses should be forwarded to:

Technical and Administrative Services
 Plant Biosecurity
 Biosecurity Australia
 Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
 GPO Box 858
 CANBERRA ACT 2601
 Tel: (02) 6272 5094
 Fax: (02) 6272 3307
 Email: plantbiosec@affa.gov.au

Confidentiality

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 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.

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.

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 above address.

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

We look forward to receiving your response.

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

Contact:	Technical and Administrative Services
Telephone no:	02 6272 5094
Facsimile no:	02 6272 3307
E-mail:	plantbiosec@affa.gov.au