



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



19 April 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/12

CITRUS FROM THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT – DETERMINATION ON IMPORT CONDITIONS

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides stakeholders with Biosecurity Australia's determination on import conditions for citrus from the Arab Republic of Egypt, based on a review of existing import conditions for citrus from an area of similar phytosanitary status.

Plant Biosecurity of Biosecurity Australia has completed a review of the importation policy for citrus from the Arab Republic of Egypt. As provided for in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Process Handbook* (1998) and the *Draft Administrative Framework for Import Risk Analysis* (2001), Biosecurity Australia considered the import request for citrus from Egypt under the existing import conditions established for citrus from Israel. The quarantine pests potentially associated with citrus imported from Egypt are either the same as those associated with fresh citrus fruit imported from Israel, or are otherwise of very low risk.

Biosecurity Australia conducted this review in close consultation with the Australian Citrus Growers Incorporated (ACGI), including liaison with technical experts in the citrus industry, to ensure that all scientific issues were thoroughly covered. The review paper incorporates responses to the comments and issues raised by ACGI during the consultation and ACGI has advised that they support the release of the Egyptian Citrus Review Paper.

The review recommends that the importation of citrus from Egypt be permitted under the existing import conditions established for citrus from Israel. The review paper is on the AFFA website at: <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>. If you require further information regarding the review paper, please contact Technical & Administrative Services at the address below.

Biosecurity Australia accepts the review recommendation and, accordingly, determines that fresh citrus fruit be permitted entry into Australia from Egypt under the same conditions as are currently in place for fresh citrus fruit imported from Israel.

This determination satisfies Australia's obligation under the WTO Agreement on the *Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures* not to "arbitrarily or unjustifiably discriminate between Members where identical or similar conditions prevail". The determination also conforms with IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, Reference Standard *Principles of Plant Quarantine as related to International Trade, Principle 16. Non-discrimination*, which states "Phytosanitary measures shall be applied without discrimination between countries of the same phytosanitary status...".

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 details of the import conditions for citrus from Egypt will be listed on the AQIS ICON database at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/icon>.

Mary Harwood
Executive Manager
Biosecurity Australia

Contact:	Technical and Administrative Services
Address:	Plant Biosecurity Biosecurity Australia AFFA GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone no:	02 6272 5094
Facsimile no:	02 6272 3307
E-mail:	plantbiosec@affa.gov.au