



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



21 May 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/24

PLANT BIOSECURITY: UPDATE ON IMPORT ACCESS PROPOSALS AND ON STATUS OF IMPORT RISK ANALYSES

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides stakeholders with a list of plant and plant product import access proposals received by Plant Biosecurity since March 2001. It also contains advice on the status of Plant Biosecurity's current import work program.

Each year Biosecurity Australia receives many proposals and applications to import agricultural commodities. Plant Biosecurity maintains a register of plant and plant product access requests and as resources become available, examines these proposals and determines which of them necessitate an IRA being conducted.

Most import proposals are for commodities from sources where the pest and disease status is similar to cases covered by existing policy, so they can usually be assessed relatively quickly and do not require an IRA. Proposals requiring an IRA are prioritised, taking into account factors such as:

- the availability of the necessary technical information;
- the order of receipt of proposals;
- the existence of a related proposal;
- the breadth and nature of interest in the establishment of a new policy;
- the need to consider access by a particular date;
- the availability of resources within Biosecurity Australia; and
- the requested priority order expressed by trading partners which have several market access requests.

Since the last report to stakeholders (PBPM 2001/05 of 16 March 2001) Plant Biosecurity has received a number of import access requests. These are listed at Attachment A.

Plant Biosecurity is currently conducting 22 IRAs. Since the last report to stakeholders Plant Biosecurity has completed one IRA (tablegrapes from the USA) and ceased work on one IRA (yam beans from Samoa). A list detailing the current status and next steps for these IRAs is provided at Attachment B.

Attachment C provides information on the status of other import access proposals on Plant Biosecurity's current work program.

Stakeholder comments are welcome at any time on the IRA work program and priorities.



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For more information, or if you wish to be placed on, or taken off, a mailing list for a particular IRA or import access proposal, please contact the Technical and Administrative Services team of Plant Biosecurity, whose details appear below.

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.

In addition to the attached information, I also recommend that you regularly check our homepage for information on plant quarantine issues: <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>

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ATTACHMENT A

**PLANT BIOSECURITY
IMPORT ACCESS PROPOSALS RECEIVED
SINCE MARCH 2001**

Request	Date received
Bolivia 1. Achachairu (<i>Garcinia rheedia</i>) fruit	2001
India 2. Drumstick Fruit	2001
Japan 3. Radish (<i>daikon</i>)	2001
New Zealand 4. Herbs 5. Watercress	2001 2001
Pakistan 6. Kinnow orange 7. Apples	2001 2001

ATTACHMENT B

**PLANT BIOSECURITY
IMPORT RISK ANALYSES**

IRA	Status	Comments and Next Steps
Allium (in-house team)	Letter of 2 July 1999 to stakeholders on determination on type of process.	Release of the technical issues paper has been delayed as BA is progressing work on other IRAs that are considered a higher priority.
Apples, NZ (Risk Analysis Panel)	A final inventory of issues identified in the submissions on the draft IRA was released to stakeholders in PBPM 01/23 of 20 November 2001. The 3 rd RAP meeting was held on 16-17 April 2002 and stakeholders were informed of the outcomes in PBPM 2002/13 of 23 April 2002.	The RAP is currently working on a scientific review paper in response to stakeholder comments on the draft IRA report.
Bananas, Philippines (Risk Analysis Panel)	PBPM 2002/18 notified stakeholders of the availability of a technical information paper compiled as a resource for the RAP during the development of the draft IRA report. PBPM 2002/19 advised stakeholders of a change to the RAP membership.	PBPM 2002/20 and 2002/23 advised stakeholders of workshops in Coffs Harbour and Innisfail in June 2002. Release of draft IRA report.
Bulbs - Ornamental, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Israel and New Zealand (Risk Analysis Panel)	PBPM 2001/17 of 14 August 2001 provided stakeholders with update on the IRA. A second Technical Working Group has been formed to address industry and environmental concerns and a phone conference with the Risk Analysis Panel was held on 28 March 2002.	Release of revised draft IRA report.
Citrus, Florida (in-house team)	Letter of 10 August 1998 to stakeholders on the determination on the type of process. US quarantine authorities have provided additional information on the spread of citrus canker in the US.	BA has decided to release a technical issues paper for this IRA. The paper is being revised to take into account the latest information on citrus canker.
Citrus, Italy (in-house team)	Letter of 7 May 1999 to stakeholders on the determination on the type of process.	BA is currently conducting two other IRAs on citrus fruit that are considered higher priority, so the IRA on citrus from Italy has been delayed. The next step will be a technical issues paper.
Citrus, South Africa (in-house team)	Letter of 14 July 1998 to stakeholders on determination on type of process.	This IRA is on hold pending receipt of additional information requested from the South African authorities. Next step will be the release of a technical issues paper.

IRA	Status	Comments and Next Steps
Coniferous sawn timber, New Zealand, Canada and the US (Risk Analysis Panel)	Comments on the issues paper closed on 13 April 2001. Meetings were held in Sydney on 14 & 15 June 2001 with the RAP, TWG and stakeholders to discuss the scope of the analysis and the issues paper.	Release of Draft IRA.
Lime, New Caledonia (in-house team)	Letter of 18 May 1999 to stakeholders on the determination on the type of process.	Work is progressing on a technical issues paper.
Lychees and Longans, China (in-house team)	Stakeholders provided with a summary of the stakeholder meetings held in Brisbane and Mareeba in PBPM 2001/07 of 3 April 2001.	Work is progressing on a technical issues paper.
Maize, USA (Risk Analysis Panel)	PBPM 2000/15 of 30 August 2000 provided stakeholders with a copy of the revised draft IRA for comment.	Release of the final IRA.
Mangosteens, Thailand	PBPM 2002/14 of 23 April 2002 advised stakeholders of the Executive Manager's decision on the proposed scope, timing and team membership for this IRA.	Appeal period closes on 24 May 2002.
Mushrooms, Generic (Risk Analysis Panel)	Issues paper released on 11 November 1999.	Release of draft IRA has been delayed as BA is progressing other IRAs that are considered a higher priority.
Papaya, Fiji (in-house team)	Stakeholders advised of delay on 18 May 1999 due to a request sent to the Fijian Government requesting further heat disinfestation data.	Examination of technical data relating to high temperature forced air treatment provided by Fiji.
Persimmons, Generic (Korea, Japan, Israel)	PBPM 2002/15 of 23 April 2002 advised stakeholders of the Executive Manager's decision on the proposed scope, timing and team membership for this IRA.	Appeal period closes on 24 May 2002.
Pineapples, Generic (in-house team)	PBPM 2002/11 of 15 April provided stakeholders with a copy of the draft IRA paper for comment.	Comments close on 14 June 2002. Next step is a final IRA report.
Snow Peas, Africa (in-house team)	Letter of 7 December 1998 to stakeholders on the determination on the type of process.	Release of the technical issues paper has been delayed as BA is progressing work on other IRAs that are considered a higher priority.
Sweet Corn, Idaho USA (in-house team)	PBPM 2002/10 of 3 April 2002 provided stakeholders with the final IRA paper. Appeals closed on 3 May 2002.	The Secretary has advised BA that he has received appeals against the final IRA.

IRA	Status	Comments and Next Steps
Table Grapes, California (in-house team)	PBPM 2002/05 advised stakeholders of augmented quarantine import conditions for the entry of table grapes from California. These conditions were developed to address concerns over the spread of Pierce's disease and its vector the glassy-winged sharp shooter in California since completion of the IRA.	Completed.
Table Grapes, Chile (in-house team)	Letter of 15 April 1999 to stakeholders on the determination on the type of process.	Work is progressing on a technical issues paper.
Tomatoes, Netherlands (in-house team)	Stakeholders advised of delay in letter of 29 July 1999 due to change in commodity pathway from individual fruits, to include fruits in truss.	Work is progressing on a technical issues paper.
Unshu mandarins, Japan	PBPM 2002/16 of 23 April 2002 advised stakeholders of the Executive Manager's decision on the proposed scope, timing and team membership for this IRA.	Appeal period closes on 24 May 2002.
Wood packing materials, Asia (Risk Analysis Panel)	PBPM 2001/02 of 9 February 2001 provided stakeholders with a copy of the issues paper. Comments closed on 13 April 2001.	The RAP, which is the same for both timber IRAs, is currently focusing on the IRA for coniferous sawn timber. BA is also considering the implications of the recently release international standard on wood packing materials
Yam Bean, Samoa (in-house team)	PBPM 2002/21 of 15 May 2002 advised stakeholders of the cessation of this IRA.	IRA ceased do to reprioritisation of access requests by the Samoan government..

ATTACHMENT C

**OTHER IMPORT PROPOSALS ON
PLANT BIOSECURITY'S CURRENT WORK PROGRAM**

Commodity	Country	Status
Shandong Pears	China (Shandong Province)	Assessing whether extension of existing import policy or new IRA is required.
Grapevine nursery stock	Global	Review of Post Entry Quarantine protocols progressing.
Mangoes	India	Preliminary review of import proposal.
Olive plants	Israel and Italy	Draft review papers of the Specific Commodity Understandings were circulated to stakeholders on 29 June 2000 through Plant Quarantine Policy Memorandum (PQPM) 2000/11. Next step is release of final review papers.
Citrus	Mexico	Preliminary review of import proposal.
Avocados	Mexico	Preliminary review of import proposal.
Truss tomatoes	New Zealand	Extension of existing conditions for tomatoes to include truss.
Mangoes	Pakistan	Preliminary review of import proposal.
Mangoes	Samoa	Preliminary review of import proposal.
Olive plants	Spain	Extension of SCU for Israel and Italy to Spain.
Walnut plants	Spain	Develop import conditions for accredited sources.
Clonal grasses and sugarcane	Global	Plant Biosecurity is reviewing the current import conditions for clonal grasses in consultation with industry and AQIS specialists.