



19 December 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/50

TRUSS TOMATOES FROM NEW ZEALAND – DETERMINATION ON IMPORT CONDITIONS

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides stakeholders with Biosecurity Australia's determination on import conditions for truss tomatoes from New Zealand, based on a review of existing import conditions for individual tomatoes from New Zealand.

Biosecurity Australia has completed a review of the importation policy for truss tomatoes from New Zealand. 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 truss tomatoes from New Zealand under the existing import conditions established for individual tomatoes from New Zealand. Only one additional quarantine pest was found to be potentially associated with truss tomatoes from New Zealand compared to individual tomatoes. This pest is potato spindle tuber viroid (PSTVd).

The review recommends that the importation of truss tomatoes from New Zealand be permitted under the existing import conditions established for individual tomatoes plus an additional condition to manage the risk of PSTVd. In summary:

- Existing condition C6000 Import Requirements for All Fruit and Vegetables.
- An additional declaration on the phytosanitary certificate that the "The truss tomatoes in this consignment have been produced in New Zealand in accordance with the AFFA-MAF Agreed Conditions Governing the Entry of Truss Tomatoes from New Zealand to Australia."

The "AFFA-MAF Agreed Conditions Governing the Entry of Truss Tomatoes from New Zealand to Australia" include that:

- All truss tomatoes for export to Australia from New Zealand are to be produced in accordance with the "Code of Practice for the management of Potato Spindle Tuber Viroid (PSTVd) in greenhouse tomato and capsicum crops". The Code of Practice has been produced by the Vegfed (New Zealand industry body) PSTVd Technical Advisory group in consultation with the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF).
- All growers who wish to export truss tomatoes to Australia are to be registered with MAF Plants Biosecurity.
- Only registered growers will be eligible for MAF phytosanitary certification.
- Registered growers are to be audited annually before export by MAF or an accredited Independent Verification Agency (IVA) for compliance with the Code of Practice. Audit reports are to be made available to AFFA on request.

MAF phytosanitary certification is to be withheld while cases of non-compliance are investigated and resolved. Resolution of on-going non-compliance is to be negotiated with AFFA.

Based on the review, Biosecurity Australia has determined that truss tomatoes be permitted entry into Australia from New Zealand under the conditions outlined above.

The details of the import conditions for truss tomatoes from New Zealand will be listed on the AQIS ICON database at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/icon>.

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