



12 August 2003

**PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/21**

**REVIEW OF IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR CEREAL SEEDS FOR SOWING FROM NEW ZEALAND**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the commencement of a review of the Australian import conditions for winter cereal seeds for sowing from New Zealand.

The purpose of this PBPM is to notify you that Biosecurity Australia is commencing a review of import and post-entry quarantine conditions for seeds of winter cereals (barley, oat, rye, triticale and wheat) for sowing from New Zealand.

Limited quantities of seeds of winter cereals have been imported into Australia for breeding purposes for many years. The seed imports are subject to quarantine conditions, including inspection, seed treatments and growth in post-entry quarantine facilities, in order to manage the risks of seed-borne pests and diseases of quarantine concern to Australia. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has approved some private premises for open quarantine nurseries since 1988.

AQIS implemented revised conditions in 2001 for the importation of seeds of barley, oat, rye, triticale and wheat from New Zealand into open post-entry quarantine, after consultation and broad support from industry and State departments of agriculture. However, New Zealand has since made changes to its quarantine inspection procedures, seed certification scheme and Import Health Standards.

Biosecurity Australia will review the Australian import and post-entry quarantine conditions in collaboration with AQIS and Plant Health Australia. A review of the quarantine pest list and a joint audit of the New Zealand certified seed scheme is planned.

If you wish to comment on technical aspects of this review, please submit your comments by 11 September 2003. Comments should be forwarded to:

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

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this review, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services at the above address.

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.

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

We look forward to receiving your response.

Bill Magee  
A/g General Manager  
Plant Biosecurity

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