



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

3 May 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/13

RELEASE OF THE FINAL REPORT FOR THE TECHNICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR AUSTRALIA'S REQUIREMENT FOR WOOD PACKAGING MATERIAL TO BE BARK FREE

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) is to notify stakeholders of the release of the final report for the *Technical Justification for Australia's Requirement for Wood Packaging Material to be Bark Free*.

In 2002, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) approved the standard *International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade* (ISPM 15). Australia recognises that the implementation of ISPM 15 is an important step in preventing the importation of timber pests associated with wood packing material in international trade.

Australia has accepted wood packing material that is treated in accordance with ISPM 15 since 1 September 2004, with the additional long standing requirement that the material is free of bark. Under the WTO SPS Agreement, Australia may apply measures more stringent than international standards where these are based on scientific risk assessment and the international standards are inadequate to provide the appropriate level of biosecurity protection.

This review provides the technical justification to support the continuation of Australia's long standing requirement that wood packing material is free of bark in order to reduce the quarantine risk to a very low level to meet Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

The requirement of wood packaging material to be free of bark is justified because it :

- enhances the visual inspection process;
- removes the effects of bark on methyl bromide fumigation and minimises treatment failures;
- minimises the risk of entry of the quarantine pests that depend on bark for food, shelter and one or more stages of development;
- reduces the risk of infestation and re-infestation after treatment; and
- minimises the risk of introduction of soil-borne pests and contaminating arthropod pests.

The final report for the *Technical Justification for Australia's Requirement for Wood Packaging Material to be Bark Free* is available from the Biosecurity Australia website at www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. A hard copy of the document can be requested from Technical and Administrative Services at the following address:

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Consultation

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder on our register, or if you wish to be removed from the stakeholder register, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services.

Information on all import risk analyses and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Biosecurity Australia 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 1988*.

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 1982*.

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