



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

30 November 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/36

**IMPORTATION OF GRAIN FOR PROCESSING AT AQIS APPROVED
FACILITIES IN METROPOLITAN AREAS**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum informs stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia has assessed low risk sources of bulk grain and recommends that imports of wheat from selected sites in Canada and the United Kingdom and sorghum and maize from selected states in the USA be allowed, subject to strict quarantine conditions, including processing at AQIS-approved facilities in metropolitan areas.

Australia has existing quarantine arrangements for the importation of bulk grain from production areas assessed as being of low risk, subject to strict quarantine controls on arrival in Australia and processing at approved premises in metropolitan areas, during drought periods.

Low risk sourcing is based on the absence or low pest status of pathogens of quarantine concern to Australia. This is to minimise risks arising from the release of dust, and hence pathogens, during discharge from vessels and loading of trucks moving imported grain to processing facilities. Other risks associated with bulk grain are managed by a regime of secure containment and processing at AQIS-approved premises in metropolitan areas.

Biosecurity Australia has reassessed the pest status of grain from the United Kingdom, United States and Canada, which were permitted sources of imports in the 2002–03 drought. From information gathered on their pest status, including site visits by departmental officers, Biosecurity Australia recommends that imports of wheat from selected sites in Canada and the UK, and sorghum and maize from selected states in the US be permitted for metropolitan processing only. The conditions for entry are very similar to those permitted in the 2002–03 drought. AQIS is now working closely with importers to make certain all requirements can be met before it issues import permits.

To address quarantine risks associated with diseases and weed seeds, imported grain must be processed in metropolitan areas. Processing procedures include hammer milling and steam pelletisation, which are effective treatments to kill pathogens and arthropod pests, and devitalise the grain and weed seeds, that is they cannot germinate.

Biosecurity Australia is assessing the pest status of maize, sorghum, wheat, sunflower and soybean from sources such as Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, China, the Ukraine and South Africa. Initial assessments for grains from Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina have been completed and on-ground visits to the production areas in these countries to verify their pest status are being planned for December.

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