



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

10 January 2007

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/01
ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS TO IMPORT GRAIN

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum informs stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia has completed assessments of additional low risk sources of bulk grain for potential importation to Australia. Advice has now been provided to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) that imports of maize, sunflower, sorghum, soybean and wheat from Argentina and soybean from Paraguay could be permitted, subject to strict quarantine conditions. These conditions include a requirement for 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.

Low risk sourcing is based on the absence of significant fungal 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 assessed the pest status of maize, sunflower, sorghum, soybean and wheat from Argentina and soybean from Paraguay. This assessment has included information gathered during site visits. Biosecurity Australia has now recommended to AQIS that imports of the above commodities from Argentina and Paraguay could be permitted for processing in metropolitan areas. The conditions for entry are very similar to those in place during drought conditions in Australia in 2002–03. AQIS is now working closely with importers to make certain all requirements can be met before any import permits are issued.

To address quarantine risks associated with diseases and weed seeds, imported grain must be processed in metropolitan areas. Processing by hammer milling and steam pelletisation is considered an effective treatment to kill pathogens and arthropod pests, and devitalises grain and weed seeds to prevent germination.

Biosecurity Australia is continuing to assess further low risk sources of grain from Brazil, including consideration of information obtained through a visit to Brazil that was recently undertaken by Biosecurity Australia. Biosecurity Australia will inform stakeholders of the results of this assessment when finalised.

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