



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

28 February 2007

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/05

**REVISED CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF
NEW ZEALAND AVOCADOS**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum informs stakeholders that the current phytosanitary conditions for New Zealand avocados have been reviewed based on new technical information. The technical review concluded that there is no avocado scab present in New Zealand. The revised policy removes the emergency phytosanitary conditions imposed in late 2006 and is expected to come into effect 14 days after the date of this notification.

Following the initial report of avocado scab being in New Zealand, Biosecurity Australia introduced a number of measures in 2006 to reduce the risk of the disease entering Australia. These measures included:

- the implementation of a copper based spray program to be applied during periods when the trees and fruit are susceptible to infection
- a post-harvest treatment of the fruit, which is considered effective in killing the fungus
- enforcement of NZ grade standards with respect to fruit lesions
- inspection of fruit for symptoms of avocado scab and rejection of any consignment containing fruit with symptoms.

Biosecurity Australia has since reviewed the status of avocado scab in New Zealand and considered information submitted by the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry supporting country freedom from this disease. Biosecurity Australia has assessed all information available, including through a visit to NZ, and has consulted with key Australian scientists and with industry representatives. Biosecurity Australia has concluded that the initial reports of avocado scab were a misdiagnosis by New Zealand and that there is no evidence that the disease was ever present in NZ.

Accordingly, quarantine measures for avocado scab for New Zealand avocados are no longer required. The above measures will be removed, effective 14 days after the date of this Biosecurity Australia notice.

Consultation

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below). Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available from our website www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

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