



**Australian Government**  
**Biosecurity Australia**

07 May 2007

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/10**

**ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS TO IMPORT SOYBEAN**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum informs stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia has completed an assessment of low risk sources of soybean for potential importation to Australia. Advice has now been provided to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) that imports of soybean from parts of Brazil and the USA 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 pre-shipment and 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 soybean from Brazil and the USA. This assessment has included information gathered during site visits. Biosecurity Australia has now recommended to AQIS that imports of soybean from the province of Paraná, Brazil and Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, USA 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 an effective treatment to kill pathogens and arthropod pests, and devitalise the grain and weed seeds to prevent germination.

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