



Australian Government

Biosecurity Australia

20 August 2009

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2009/20
DRAFT REVIEW OF POLICY FOR THE IMPORTATION OF PHALAEOPSIS
NURSERY STOCK FROM TAIWAN**

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) invites stakeholders to provide comments on the *Draft review of policy: Alternative risk management measures to import Phalaenopsis nursery stock from Taiwan* by 18 September 2009 (30 days consultation).

Currently, *Phalaenopsis* nursery stock is permitted entry into Australia and requires mandatory insecticidal dipping on-arrival and a minimum of three months of post-entry quarantine (PEQ). Consistent with the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), Article 4 *Equivalence*, Taiwan has proposed alternative measures to replace existing risk management measures.

The draft report recommends alternative measures which are equivalent to the existing risk management measures, for the importation of *Phalaenopsis* nursery stock, and which meet Australia's appropriate level of protection.

Biosecurity Australia received a request from Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine (BAPHIQ), in June 2006, seeking acceptance of equivalent measures to Australia's current conditions for commercially produced *Phalaenopsis* orchid nursery stock. Currently, *Phalaenopsis* nursery stock is permitted entry into Australia and requires mandatory insecticidal dipping on arrival and a minimum of three months of post-entry quarantine (PEQ) in Australia.

Consistent with SPS Agreement Article 4 *Equivalence*, BAPHIQ has proposed a systems approach as an alternative measure which may be equally effective in meeting Australia's quarantine requirements. BAPHIQ has requested that *Phalaenopsis* nursery stock produced under the systems approach be exempt from mandatory on-arrival insecticidal dip and three months growth in PEQ facilities in Australia.

Consistent with international obligations, Biosecurity Australia has reviewed existing policy for the importation of *Phalaenopsis* nursery stock from Taiwan and is proposing a systems approach to replace the existing risk management measures. The draft review of policy report is available for consultation until 18 September 2009.

This review of existing policy has identified leaf spots (*Cylindrosporium phalaenopsidis* and *Sphaerulina phalaenopsidis*), flower thrips (*Frankliniella intonsa*), a snail (*Bradybaena tourannensis*) and *Phalaenopsis* chlorotic spot (*Phalaenopsis* chlorotic spot *potyvirus*) as pests of quarantine concern.

The proposed systems approach, including additional measures required by Biosecurity Australia, has three main mitigation measures to minimise the risk of pests entering the importation pathway. The proposed measures include:

- the tissue culture of plants, sourced from pathogen tested mother plants, which are then transferred directly to quarantine standard production houses
- tissue cultured plants are grown in pasteurised, soil free, sphagnum moss in BAPHIQ approved production houses for a minimum of four months

- an insecticidal dip and fungicidal treatment, no longer than 10 days prior to export, of the nursery stock to Australia and phytosanitary inspection by BAPHIQ officers immediately prior to export.

To ensure compliance with the proposed systems approach, AQIS will audit the production system and BAPHIQ's accreditation scheme for *Phalaenopsis* exports to Australia to verify that Australia's quarantine requirements are met.

Comments on the draft report should be submitted by 18 September 2009 to:

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The draft report is available via Biosecurity Australia's website: www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

All submissions received on the draft report will be carefully considered by Biosecurity Australia in finalising the review of existing policy. Biosecurity Australia will then advise AQIS on a recommended quarantine policy.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact Biosecurity Australia.

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 Advices will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter.

The Commonwealth of Australia 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. The contents of the submission will only be treated as confidential if they are marked 'confidential' and they can be classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.



Dr Colin J Grant
Chief Executive