



29 July 2015

**BIOSECURITY ADVICE 2015/ 11**

**DRAFT REVIEW OF POLICY: IMPORTATION OF ZANTEDESCHIA DORMANT TUBERS INTO AUSTRALIA**

This Biosecurity Advice (BA) invites stakeholders to provide comments on the '*Draft review of policy: importation of Zantedeschia dormant tubers into Australia*' by 28 August 2015.

**Background**

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture initiated this review of existing policy in response to requests from the Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand and the Australian nursery industry to review the existing import conditions for dormant Calla lily (*Zantedeschia* species) tubers. *Zantedeschia* species, commonly known as Calla lilies, are used as cut flowers and garden ornamentals.

The Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand and the Australian nursery industry requested the consideration of alternative treatments to methyl bromide fumigation for *Zantedeschia* dormant tubers. In addition, the Australian nursery industry requested a review of the conditions for post-entry quarantine (PEQ). Consequently, several changes have been proposed to strengthen biosecurity measures for *Zantedeschia* dormant tubers, while improving access to new varieties for the Australian nursery industry.

**Proposed measures**

The Department of Agriculture has reviewed the existing policy and proposed several changes, including:

- updating the quarantine pest list for *Zantedeschia* dormant tubers.
- permitting alternative treatments to mandatory methyl bromide fumigation for *Zantedeschia* dormant tubers from all sources, such as a hot water treatment or insecticidal dip.
- permitting entry of tubers produced under a systems approach or certification scheme subject to verification. Systems approaches and certification schemes are based on a combination of production practices, crop monitoring and verification of pathogen freedom. It is proposed that *Zantedeschia* tubers meeting the systems approach requirements will be permitted entry into Australia without requiring growth in PEQ.
- reducing time in PEQ or quarantine approved premises (QAP) for dormant tubers from non-approved sources, from 12 weeks to six weeks.

The ultimate goal of these phytosanitary measures is to protect Australia from exotic pests and diseases through maintaining plant health and preventing the introduction of identified quarantine pests associated with *Zantedeschia* dormant tubers. The department considers that the risk management measures proposed in this draft review of policy will be adequate to mitigate the risks posed by the identified quarantine pests.

The *Draft review of policy: importation of Zantedeschia dormant tubers into Australia* is available at [agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/reviews/current-plant](http://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/reviews/current-plant).

The Department of Agriculture invites comments on the technical aspects of the proposed risk management measures for *Zantedeschia* dormant tubers. In particular, comments are sought on their appropriateness and any other measures stakeholders consider would provide equivalent risk management outcomes. Comments on the draft report should be submitted by 28 August 2015.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact Plant Biosecurity. The Department of Agriculture will consider all submissions received on the draft review in finalising the review of policy.

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A/g First Assistant Secretary

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**Lodging a submission:** There is no specific format for a submission, but they must be in writing, and identify the relevant technical biosecurity issues being raised with supporting evidence. Preferably, submissions should be in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats and lodged electronically via email, but postal submissions are acceptable. Submissions should be received by the department within the stated comment period and addressed to:

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