

# **Provisional final import risk analysis report for table grapes from the People's Republic of China**

## **Questions and Answers – 21 October 2010**

### **Import risk analysis (IRA)**

#### **Why is this IRA being undertaken?**

Australia is responding to China's market access request for table grapes, dating from 2005.

#### **What is an IRA and how does it work?**

An import risk analysis (IRA) is a regulated process that identifies and assesses risks posed by the pests and diseases relevant to an import proposal. If those risks exceed Australia's appropriate level of protection, the IRA specifies what measures should be taken to reduce those risks to an acceptable level. The IRA process is described in the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook 2007 (update 2009)*, available on the Biosecurity Services Group website.

The IRA involves releasing a draft IRA report for a 60-day stakeholder comment period, considering and incorporating the comments into a provisional final IRA report. The provisional IRA report is then published for an appeals period. Appeals are considered by the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel, which is independent of the Biosecurity Services Group.

A final IRA report is published after an import policy determination is made by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.

#### **What is the purpose of the provisional final report?**

The provisional final IRA report identifies quarantine risks associated with importing table grapes from China, and recommends quarantine measures to reduce the risks to a very low level, in line with Australia's approach to biosecurity.

In preparing the report, stakeholders' comments and scientific literature have been carefully reviewed.

This is a standard IRA which means it has a 24-month timeframe and is open to appeal.

Publishing the provisional final IRA report provides stakeholders, who feel that there was significant deviation from the regulated IRA process that adversely affected their interests, with an opportunity to appeal before the final report and policy recommendation are provided to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.

#### **What is the progress of the China table grapes IRA?**

The Biosecurity Services Group has completed a provisional final IRA on table grapes from the People's Republic of China. The IRA covers the plant pest and disease risks associated with the proposed importation of table grapes from China, and the management of those risks. It does not deal with human health issues.

This IRA formally commenced in August 2008, and followed the regulated approach including stakeholder consultation.

A draft IRA was released on 19 February 2010 for the 60-day stakeholder comment period. Eight submissions were received and the Biosecurity Services Group has considered these comments in preparing the provisional final IRA report.

The IRA recommends the importation of table grapes to Australia from People's Republic of China be permitted, subject to specific quarantine measures.

The IRA identifies a range of pests and diseases requiring quarantine measures. The recommended measures are a combination of risk management measures and operational systems that will reduce the risk associated with the importation of table grapes from China into Australia to achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection.

**Has this IRA been fast-tracked?**

No, the normal process has been followed. This IRA formally commenced on 18 August 2008, and followed the standard regulated approach with specified timeframes for key steps.

All the key steps have been met in preparing the provisional final IRA report.

**What quarantine pests have been identified in the provisional final IRA report?**

The 22 pests and diseases of quarantine concern are kanzawa spider mite, harlequin ladybird, scarab beetles (three species), grape whitefly, Oriental fruit fly, grapevine phylloxera, mealybugs (three species), tortricid moths (four species), thrips (two species), grape cluster black rot, black rot, spike stalk brown spot, brown rot and grapevine leaf rust. The two sanitary pests of concern are black widow spider and European black widow spider.

**What quarantine measures have been recommended for table grapes from China?**

The quarantine measures recommended in the provisional final IRA report are a combination of risk management measures and operational systems including:

- area freedom or cold treatment for Oriental fruit fly
- a systems approach (vineyard control and surveillance, fruit bagging and visual inspection and remedial action) for kanzawa spider mite, grape whitefly, mealybugs, tortricid moths and thrips
- a systems approach (vineyard and packing management, and visual inspection and remedial action) for harlequin ladybird and scarab beetles
- area freedom or sulphur pad treatment for grapevine phylloxera
- area freedom for grape cluster black rot, black rot and spike stalk brown spot
- area freedom or a systems approach for grapevine leaf rust and brown rot
- area freedom or a systems approach for sanitary pests, black widow spiders

- a supporting operational system to maintain and verify the phytosanitary status of consignments. Biosecurity Services Group (BSG) will verify that the proposed phytosanitary measures have occurred. A BSG officer will be present under an off-shore verification arrangement to inspect and verify pest freedom prior to export.

**Will Australia be adequately protected from exotic pests?**

A comprehensive risk assessment of pests has been undertaken and, where appropriate, risk management options have been recommended to address risks associated with exotic pests and diseases. The assessment is based on the latest available scientific information and the measures recommended reflect Australia's overall approach to managing quarantine risks.

**Are there any regional differences for Australian states?**

Regional differences have been identified for two quarantine pests requiring management measures. Kanzawa spider mite has been identified as a quarantine pest for Western Australia. Western flower thrips has been identified as a quarantine pest for the Northern Territory.

The proposed quarantine measures take account of these regional differences.

**Does Australia allow any imports of table grapes now?**

Australia imports table grapes from the United States and New Zealand. Australia also allows imports from Chile, although no trade has occurred to date.

**Does this give the go-ahead for the importation of table grapes from China?**

No. The release of this provisional final IRA report does not give the go-ahead for importation of table grapes from China.

The appeals process for this provisional IRA report was extended to 60 days in order to align it with the 60-day stakeholder

consultation period for the draft pest risk analysis (PRA) report for *Drosophila suzukii*.

After the conclusion of the independent appeal process, the Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia will provide a final IRA report and a recommendation for a policy determination to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine who will decide whether to grant an import permit and any conditions that may be attached to a permit if the import is granted.

## **Consultation**

### **How does Biosecurity Services Group consult stakeholders?**

The regulated import risk analysis process requires the Biosecurity Services Group to consult with stakeholders at key stages of the process for specified periods of time. As well as informal consultation at the commencement of the IRA, this includes the public release for comments of a draft report, use of external experts, and opportunity for appeal.

The Biosecurity Services Group received comments from stakeholders on the draft IRA report which was issued in 2010. These comments were considered in preparing the provisional final IRA report. In addition, the Australian table grape industry was consulted on a range of issues, including *Drosophila suzukii* (or spotted wing drosophila).

The Biosecurity Services Group has consulted with domestic and international stakeholders during the IRA process.

### **Has industry been consulted in developing the Chinese table grape IRA?**

Yes, both formally and informally.

Formally, the industry through Australian Table Grape Association Inc. (ATGA) provided submissions during the consultation period for the draft import risk analysis report.

Informally, the Biosecurity Services Group held face-to-face meetings and several teleconferences with interested table grape growers and representatives of ATGA.

The communication between industry and the Biosecurity Services Group is ongoing.

## **Appeals process**

### **How can an appeal be lodged?**

Written appeals should be submitted by 20 December 2010 to:

Secretariat  
Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel  
Corporate Policy Division  
Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Email: IRAAP@daff.gov.au

### **Who considers the appeal?**

The appeals process is independent from the Biosecurity Services Group. The appeals panel is convened by the Chair of the Biosecurity Advisory Council (BAC). The Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel (IRAAP) Chairman will consider any appeals received and decide in each case whether the statement of reasons provide evidence warranting consideration by an IRAAP. If so, they will convene a panel to consider the appeal(s). The other members are:

- another member of BAC (nominated by the Chair); and
- a senior officer from the Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry (nominated by the Secretary of the Department).

### **How long will it take for an appeal to be considered?**

The appeals panel has 45 days after the closing date for appeals to consider its findings and report to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.

### **What happens if an appeal is upheld?**

If an appeal is upheld, the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel (IRAAP) may offer advice to the Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia. The IRAAP will consider the appeal(s) and report its findings to the

appellant(s) and the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.

### **What happens when the final policy is adopted?**

Following the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine's determination of a quarantine policy, the Biosecurity Services Group (BSG) is responsible for implementing the policy.

The BSG will ensure that procedures to meet the quarantine conditions for the pests and diseases of concern are in place. Once the conditions are established, trade may commence. The BSG will be present to verify that the recommended phytosanitary measures have occurred and to pre-clear consignments before export to Australia.

### **Spotted wing drosophila**

#### **How has *Drosophila suzukii* been assessed in the provisional final IRA report?**

Given the recent detection of *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted wing drosophila) in the USA, its significance and the number of fruit import pathways potentially affected, a separate pest-initiated pest risk analysis (PRA) for all pathways was considered the most appropriate way to progress the management of this pest. Importantly, the addition of *D. suzukii* to the pest categorisation table in the draft IRA report for table grapes from China released on 19 February 2010 ensured stakeholders were informed on how the Biosecurity Services Group was dealing with this pest.

#### **What is Australia doing about spotted wing drosophila?**

Australia introduced emergency quarantine measures in response to the risks associated with the import of *D. suzukii* host fruits including cherries, stone fruit, strawberries and table grapes. Emergency measures were applied before trade in host commodities recommenced this season. These measures apply to current imports and those that are imminent as a result of an IRA or policy review.

Once emergency measures are applied, under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, Australia has an obligation to conduct a PRA to assess the long term risk and introduce any longer term measures. Biosecurity Services Group announced the commencement of a PRA on 31 March 2010. The draft PRA report was issued on 21 October 2010 with a formal consultation/comment period of 60 days. The PRA report will be used to confirm or modify emergency measures.

### **Background information**

#### **Does Australia export table grapes?**

Australia exports table grapes to many countries, including Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Vietnam. Access into China has also recently been gained.