

Dear Stakeholder

## **IMPORTATION OF KOREAN PEARS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of an extension to the phytosanitary requirements under which the Republic of Korea can export Korean pears to Australia. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) proposes that Korean pears may be inspected on-arrival in Australia as an alternative to a preclearance inspection of fruit in Korea.

Australia is required as a signatory to the World Trade Organization (WTO) under the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) to accept equivalent sanitary or phytosanitary measures to achieve an appropriate level of sanitary or phytosanitary protection.

For on-arrival inspection to be equivalent to the preclearance inspection, AQIS proposes that several duties which would have been carried out by the preclearance officer are to be carried out by Korea's National Plant Quarantine Service (NPQS).

These duties are:

### Record keeping

- The following records must be kept and audited by NPQS:
  - pest and disease management records
  - detection survey results
  - fruit fly trap records

NPQS must ensure that these records are kept accurately, and if required can be audited by AQIS.

### Pre-packing measures

- NPQS must ensure that field control measures are efficacious against pests and diseases of quarantine concern to Australia, that harvested fruit have intact bags and that packing houses have an appropriate level of hygiene.

### ***Packing house measures***

- NPQS inspectors must also ensure that only mature, unblemished fruit will be selected for export and that the selection procedures result in fruit free from live pests and diseases of quarantine concern to Australia, leaves, twigs and soil.

AQIS is confident that with the aforementioned additions, on-arrival inspection is equivalent to preclearance inspection. Additionally, AQIS has excellent first hand knowledge of the

orchard and packing house systems in Korea, following visits by independent and AQIS specialists to the production areas on three separate occasions since September 1998.

Hence, on-arrival inspection is determined to be an appropriate phytosanitary measure to reduce the likelihood of the quarantine pests and diseases being associated with Korean pear fruit to negligible levels. AQIS is confident that this change does not compromise the decision reached in the Final IRA on Korean pears (*Final Import Risk Analysis on the Importation of Fresh Fruit of Korean Pear (Pyrus ussuriensis* var. *viridis* T. Lee) from the Republic of Korea – March 1999).

You are invited to comment on the decision to include on-arrival inspection in Australia as an alternative to preclearance inspection of Korean pear fruit. Your comments will be taken into consideration by AQIS in finalising its position on the proposed extension. AQIS will accept written submissions on this issue until the close of business on 20 August 1999. Responses should be forwarded to:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6272 5094  
Fax: (02) 6272 3307  
Email: [plantquar@aqis.gov.au](mailto:plantquar@aqis.gov.au)

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to the review will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared in the review. If a request for anonymity does not accompany a submission, the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of the *Privacy Act*. The contents of a submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act*. I regret that the AQIS import risk analysis process, as documented in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, does not provide for extensions to the formal consultation stages.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the above address. Information on all IRAs being conducted by the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is available on the AQIS Homepage at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/docs/plpolicy/plhome1.htm>

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Brian Stynes  
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Policy and International Division

28 July 1999