



## Hong Kong: Import ban on Tasmanian raw oysters and shellfish from the Blackman Bay harvest area, Tasmania (2017-06)

**Date of issue:** 27/09/2017

**Date of effect:** 22/09/2017

**Reference Number:** MAA 2017 - 06

**Attention:**

- Industries—Seafood
- Export establishments approved to prepare oysters for export
- Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (TSQAP)

**Purpose**

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) has been advised by Hong Kong's Centre for Food Safety (CFS) of the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) that an immediate import ban has been implemented for molluscs and shellfish produced in Blackman Bay lease area 44. The effect of this is that no bivalve molluscs (Pacific oysters) harvested from the Blackman Bay harvest area, Tasmania, on or after 22 September 2017 can be exported to Hong Kong until further notice.

This ban will remain in place regardless of the status of the harvest area. The department will provide further advice to industry of any changes to these requirements.

**Background**

The CFS ban follows the detection of paralytic shellfish toxin (PST) levels above regulatory limits during routine monitoring activities conducted by TSQAP. Following this detection, the harvest area was immediately closed by the TSQAP Manager and product harvested from this area during the period 12 September to 22 September 2017 was recalled.

A shipment of pacific oysters subject to the recall was exported to Hong Kong. The import ban has been implemented by the CFS as a response to this recall notification.

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**Further information**

Contact [exports@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:exports@agriculture.gov.au) if you have any queries.

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