



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



14 August 2001

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/16

REVIEW OF POST-ENTRY QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS FOR THE IMPORTATION INTO AUSTRALIA OF APPLE (*MALUS*) AND PEAR (*PYRUS*) BUDWOOD

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides information regarding the Review of Post-Entry Quarantine Protocols for the Importation into Australia of Apple (*Malus*) and Pear (*Pyrus*) Budwood

In response to concerns about the length of time taken for introductions of apple (*Malus*) and pear (*Pyrus*) budwood to pass through post-entry quarantine, The Australian Apple & Pear Grower's Association Inc. funded the Victorian Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE) to undertake a review of current testing protocols.

DNRE released their report "Proposed Post-Entry Quarantine Protocols for Pome Fruit" in 1998. This report recommended using the latest *in vitro* diagnostic techniques for pathogen detection to reduce the time for entry of new apple and pear material into Australia from four years to twelve months. Furthermore, the report recommended the list of quarantine pests be modified to include additional bacteria, fungi, phytoplasmas and viroids, and to have certain viruses and graft-transmissible diseases of unknown aetiology deleted.

Biosecurity Australia (BA) has reviewed the pathogen risks associated with the importation of apple and pear introductions, considered the recommendations of the DNRE report and presented future requirements for post entry quarantine (PEQ) and pathogen testing for the quarantine pathogens associated with budwood.

Biosecurity Australia (BA) has now completed a "Draft Review of Post-Entry Quarantine Protocols for the Importation into Australia of Apple (*Malus*) and Pear (*Pyrus*) Budwood" and the draft paper is enclosed.

You are invited to comment on the issues raised in the draft review paper. BA will accept written submissions until the close of business Tuesday 16 October. Submissions should be sent to the following address:

Technical and Administrative Services
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Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
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After the submissions have been received they will be evaluated by Plant Biosecurity and may be incorporated into the final review document.

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to this draft review paper will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared on 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*.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this draft review, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services at the above address.

Information on all reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the AFFA Homepage at:
http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/market_access/biosecurity/plantbiosec.html

I look forward to receiving your comments on the draft review paper.

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

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Enclosure: Draft Review of Post-Entry Quarantine Protocols for the Importation into Australia of Apple (*Malus*) and Pear (*Pyrus*) Budwood.