



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



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PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/5

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS - FRESH TABLE GRAPES FROM CALIFORNIA

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of augmented quarantine import conditions for the entry of table grapes from California. These conditions have been developed to address earlier Australian concerns over the spread of Pierce's disease (PD) and its vector the glassy-winged sharp shooter (GWSS) in California since the IRA was completed.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia (AFFA) completed an import risk analysis (IRA) on imports of table grapes from California, USA in January 2000. The IRA recommended that imports of Californian table grapes be permitted subject to a series of phytosanitary measures to address the risks of introduction of quarantine pests and diseases.

Biosecurity Australia released a supplement to the IRA in June 2000 addressing concerns identified by the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel (IRAAP). Following consideration of the supplement, the IRAAP concluded in July 2000 that the IRA had been completed in accordance with the process outlined in *The AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*.

However, following outbreaks of Pierce's disease (PD) and its vector the glassy-winged sharp shooter (GWSS) in California, the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (the Secretary of AFFA) sought clarification of the developments, including additional scientific information to assist him in arriving at a final policy determination. In September 2000, two scientists from CSIRO visited California and met with US experts to identify relevant scientific/technical information additional to that considered in the IRA.

To address uncertainties about the risk of entry into Australia of PD/ GWSS, the CSIRO scientists recommended that further attention be given to the effectiveness of quarantine risk mitigation measures for the vector GWSS. The CSIRO report was received by AFFA in February 2001. At that time CSIRO recommended additional research as an avenue to address these concerns. Plant Quarantine Policy Memorandum 2001/ 03 detailed the options that could be investigated. Subsequently, and following consultations with the US authorities, an alternative way to resolve the uncertainty remaining about GWSS/ PD was determined, through the consideration of risk management measures in addition to those already specified in the Australian IRA. The revised risk management measures,



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based on a pest risk analysis addressing the changed risk profile for GWSS in California, include:

- Pre-clearance inspection by AQIS in the USA;
- increased methyl bromide (MB) fumigation rate to be carried out pre-shipment in the US, using fumigation chambers that have satisfied stringent testing under AQIS supervision and have been registered for the treatment of shipments for Australia;
- inspection rates increased from 600 bunches per lot to 920 bunches per lot;
- suspension of exports on interception of live GWSS; and
- Review and evaluation of the program after one year of trade.

Technical information on the revised risk management measures has been reviewed by CSIRO, who advise that the revised regime addresses Australian concerns regarding GWSS/PD. In addition, implementation procedures for effective treatments, including gas sampling to verify penetration of fumigation in commercial facilities, have been developed.

The policy determination setting out the import condition for table grapes from California will be available on the web at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantcra>. If you prefer a hard copy to be sent to you please contact Technical and Administrative Services at the address below.

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