



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

4 March 2005

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2005/06

**DRAFT EXTENSION OF EXISTING POLICY FOR SWEET ORANGES
FROM ITALY**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to notify stakeholders of the release of a draft report proposing an extension of existing policy for sweet oranges from Italy.

PBPM 2004/05 of 5 March 2004 notified stakeholders of the cessation of the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for citrus from Italy and of Biosecurity Australia's intention to assess the access request as an extension of existing policy.

The *Draft Extension of Existing Policy for Sweet Oranges from Italy* has now been completed. The executive summary including the proposed phytosanitary measures for the importation of sweet orange fruit for human consumption from Italy is attached.

The full report is available on the Biosecurity Australia website at www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia, under 'Current Topics'. A hard copy of the document can be requested from Technical and Administrative Services.

Comments on the draft extension of existing policy for sweet oranges from Italy should be submitted by Monday 4 April 2005 to the following address:

Technical and Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Plant Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the 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 1982*.

Consultation

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

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the Internet at www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity.

Dr Brian Stynes
General Manager, Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia

Contact: Technical and Administrative Services
Tel: 02 6272 5094
Fax: 02 6272 3307
Email: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Draft Extension of Existing Policy Report – Sweet Oranges from Italy

This draft extension of existing policy proposes that sweet oranges from Italy be allowed entry into Australia subject to phytosanitary measures for Mediterranean fruit fly, citrophilus mealybug, citrus pyralid and citrus flower moth. These pests will require the use of risk management measures in addition to Italy's standard commercial production practices. The proposed risk management measures aim to provide a high level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection that will reduce risk to a level below Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

The risk assessment identified four pests as requiring risk management measures to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. A combination of risk management measures and operational systems is proposed to reduce the risk associated with the importation of sweet oranges from Italy to a level below Australia's ALOP, specifically:

- cold disinfestation, or area freedom for Mediterranean fruit fly;
- inspection and remedial action for citrophilus mealybug, citrus pyralid and citrus flower moth; and
- supporting operational systems to maintain and verify phytosanitary status.

Australia initiated an import risk analysis for the importation of citrus from Italy in November 1998, following a request for market access from the Italian Ministero della Politiche Agricole e Forestali (Ministry of Agricultural and Forestry Policies) (MPAF) in March 1998. In September 2003, MPAF advised that Italy's market access request was specifically for blood oranges originating from the regions of Sicily and Calabria. Blood oranges are cultivars of sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis* (L.) Osbeck).

An assessment by Biosecurity Australia of the pests potentially associated with sweet oranges from Italy indicated that the pests do not pose significantly different quarantine risks, or require significantly different management measures, than those for which policy exists, namely for the pests associated with citrus from Egypt, Israel and Spain. In view of this, Biosecurity Australia determined that the market access request from Italy could be progressed as an extension of existing policy. Accordingly, Biosecurity Australia advised stakeholders on 5 March 2004 (Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum 2004/05) that the access request would be considered as an extension of existing policy.

Although the proposed policy extension was initially for blood oranges from Sicily and Calabria, the technical information supplied by MPAF was sufficiently comprehensive to enable import conditions to be developed for sweet oranges from Italy.

In the pest risk analysis for sweet oranges from Italy into Australia, Biosecurity Australia identified 288 pests (222 arthropods, 3 gastropods and 63 pathogens) as being possibly associated with citrus production in Italy. Of the 288 pests associated with citrus production in Italy, 52 pests (44 arthropods and 8 pathogens) were considered to be associated with the sweet orange fruit pathway. Of the 52 pests associated with the pathway, 14 arthropods and one pathogen were found to either not be in Australia or if in Australia to be under official control, and to have the potential for entry, establishment or spread within Australia as well as associated potential economic consequences. On this basis, 15 pests were categorised as quarantine pests.

Detailed risk assessments were conducted for these quarantine pests to determine an unrestricted risk estimate for each organism. For each pest with an unrestricted risk above Australia's ALOP,

risk management measures were considered. This report presents details of proposed risk management measures, operational procedures and draft import conditions, together with their objectives.

Biosecurity Australia invites comments on the technical and economic feasibility of the proposed risk management measures. In particular, comments are sought on their appropriateness and any other measures that stakeholders consider would provide equivalent risk management.