



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

8 April 2005

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2005/07

**DRAFT EXTENSION OF EXISTING POLICY FOR PEARS FROM THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the release of a draft extension of existing policy for pears from the People's Republic of China (China).

Biosecurity Australia received the initial request from China in March 2001 to allow the importation of Ya (*Pyrus bretschneideri* Rehd.) and Asian pears (*Pyrus pyrifolia* (Burm.) Nakai)) from Shaanxi Province, Asian pears from Hebei Province, and Fragrant pears (*Pyrus* sp. nr. *communis*) from Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, respectively.

Biosecurity Australia determined that the import requests would be assessed as an extension of the existing policy for Ya pear from Hebei and Shandong Provinces and Asian pears from Shandong Province.

The *Draft Extension of Existing Policy for Pears from China* has now been completed. The executive summary including the proposed phytosanitary measures for the importation of pears for human consumption from China is attached.

The document 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 pears from China should be submitted by 9 May 2005 to the following address:

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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 web at <http://www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>

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Executive Summary

Draft Extension of Existing Policy – Pears from China

This draft extension of existing policy proposes that additional species of fresh pear fruit from Hebei and Shaanxi Provinces and Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in China be allowed entry into Australia subject to phytosanitary measures for quarantine pests. The quarantine pests, proposed risk management measures and operational procedures are similar to the existing policy for fresh Ya pear fruit imported from Hebei and Shandong Provinces and Asian pears from Shandong Province.

The specific risk management measures and operational procedures proposed are:

- Permitted pear species/varieties:
 - Ya pears (*Pyrus bretschneideri*) from Hebei, Shaanxi and Shandong Provinces.
 - Asian pears (*Pyrus pyrifolia*) from Hebei, Shaanxi and Shandong Provinces.
 - Fragrant pears (*Pyrus* sp. nr. *communis*) from Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.
- Fruit must be sourced from AQSIQ registered orchards and packed in packing houses in designated areas.
- Pears for export to Australia from all AQSIQ registered orchards must be subject to pre- and post-harvest treatments and handling and management systems that manage the risk of pests of quarantine concern to Australia. These include orchard control measures (orchard registration, pest surveillance and management programs and removal of alternate hosts and bagging of fruit, where required).
- Pears for export to Australia will be subject to joint pre-harvest and pre-clearance inspection by AQSIQ/CIQ and AQIS unless otherwise agreed by DAFF and AQSIQ on a region by region basis.

These proposed measures and operational procedures aim to provide a high level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection that will reduce the risk to a level below Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP). This extension of existing policy is proposed in response to applications made by the People's Republic of China in March 2001 and 2003 seeking access for additional species of fresh pear fruit:

- Asian pear (*Pyrus pyrifolia* (Burm.) Nakai) from Hebei Province;
- Asian pear and Ya pear (*P. bretschneideri* Redh.) from Shaanxi Province; and
- Fragrant pear (*P.* sp. nr. *communis*) from Xinjiang Uighur Automous Region.

This extension of policy is based on the existing policy and on risk analyses for additional pests that have quarantine status for Australia. The existing policy that was reviewed, allows the importation into Australia of fresh Ya pears from Hebei and Shandong Provinces and Asian pears from Shandong Province.

The pest risk analysis process for pests that may be associated with pear fruit from the proposed regions in China identified 157 pests (119 arthropods, one nematode and 37 pathogens) as associated with pear production in China. Of these 157 pests, 139 had been considered in the previous assessments (AQIS, 1998; AFFA, 2003). Of the 18 additional pests, four (one arthropod and three pathogens) were considered to be associated with the fruit pathway. Of these four pests, three were found to have the potential for entry, establishment or spread within Australia as well as associated potential economic consequences. On this basis, three pests (*Rhynchites heros*, *Alternaria yaliinficiens* sp. nov. and *Gymnosporangium*

sabinae) were categorised as quarantine pests. Closely related species of these three quarantine pests had been assessed in the previous assessment (AQIS, 1998).

This draft extension of existing policy report presents details of proposed risk management measures, operational procedures and draft import conditions.

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 on any other measures that stakeholders consider would provide equivalent risk management.