



27 July 2018

BIOSECURITY ADVICE 2018/15

IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR BREADED, BATTERED AND CRUMBED PRAWNS IMPORTED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders of the new import conditions for breaded, battered and crumbed (BBC) prawns imported for human consumption. All BBC prawns imported into Australia on or after 28 September 2018 must comply with the new conditions.

The new BBC prawn import conditions are outlined in the attached '*Biosecurity requirements for the importation of prawns and prawn products for human consumption*' ([Attachment A – Sections 2.3](#)).

The new conditions considered stakeholder comments received in response to BA 2018/10. Australia's model health certificate for prawns and prawn meat for human consumption ([Attachment B – 7.3.3](#)) has also been updated following stakeholder feedback, to clarify that the par-cooking step (for example, pre-frying, or baking) is to be applied after the prawns have been coated to solidify and adhere the coating to the prawn.

If competent authorities in the exporting country are unable to attest that BBC prawns have undergone a par-cooking step after application of the coating, the prawn products must meet Australia's import conditions for uncooked prawns which requires pre-export and on-arrival disease testing based on sampling and testing methods recognised by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

Competent authorities and existing permit holders will be contacted by the department regarding implementation of the new conditions.

The new import conditions for BBC prawns are required to manage the risks associated with the increased volume of BBC products imported to Australia. The increased volume also increases the associated risks for product diversion to unintended end-uses such as fishing bait or berley, or feed for aquatic animals. The new BBC prawn import conditions will ensure that imported BBC prawns continue to meet Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

BBC prawns arriving in Australia on or after 28 September 2018 must be certified by the competent authority to have undergone a par-cooking step (for example, pre-frying¹ or baking), after the prawns have been coated, to solidify and adhere the coating to the prawn. BBC prawns will continue to be subject to 100 per cent seals intact inspection on-arrival in Australia. Only those prawns that are verified to have undergone acceptable par-cooking and that meet all other requirements for BBC prawns will be released from biosecurity control.

If countries are unable to attest to a par-cooking step for BBC prawns or importers intend to import BBC prawns that do not comply with the par-cooking requirements then Australia's uncooked prawn

¹ The Codex definition of pre-frying is: "*Frying of breaded and battered fishery products in an oil bath in such a way that the core remains frozen*" (Codex Alimentarius, Code of practice for fish and fishery products, CAC/RCP 52-2003, fao.org/fao-who-codexalimentarius/codex-texts/codes-of-practice/en/).

import conditions will apply. The uncooked prawn import conditions require pre-export and on-arrival testing for white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) and yellow head virus genotype 1 (YHV1).

The current import conditions for prawns and prawn products will remain in place while Australia undertakes the review of the biosecurity risks of, and import conditions for, prawns and prawn products imported for human consumption as announced by Australia's Director of Biosecurity on 16 May 2017 (Biosecurity Advice 2017/07; agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos/ba2017-07).

Australia has issued a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notification to the World Trade Organization (WTO) SPS Committee to inform its trading partners of the new import conditions for BBC prawns.

This Biosecurity Advice is available via the department's website: agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/memos. Please pass this notice to other interested parties.

Further information on importing prawns for human consumption is available on the department's website: agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/

The department's prawn import policy team is the first point of contact and can be contacted as follows:

Email: AquaticAB@agriculture.gov.au

Yours sincerely



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