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FAIRS Subject Report

Biosecurity Australia - Transitional Arrangements for Import Work Program

2007

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Report Highlights:

This report contains a Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum that provides stakeholders with an overview that summarizes the transition to the new process of Biosecurity Australia's current work program for existing import proposals. To assist in determining priorities and in developing Biosecurity Australia's annual import work program, stakeholders will be asked regularly to advise, or re-confirm, their market access priorities to Biosecurity Australia.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Annual Report
Canberra [AS1]
[AS]

Below is a copy of Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum 2007/20 which provides information on the transitional arrangements for Biosecurity Australia's Import Work Program.

Begin Text:

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/20
TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA'S
IMPORT WORK PROGRAM

Improvements to the import risk analysis (IRA) process announced by the Australian Government in late 2006 were implemented on 5 September 2007 when regulations made under the *Quarantine Act 1908* formally took effect. This implementation is being accompanied by the release of a new IRA Handbook.

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum provides stakeholders with an overview that summarises the transition to the new process of Biosecurity Australia's current work program for existing import proposals.

Biosecurity Australia will in future publish its annual work program on its website. It will also notify the commencement of individual IRAs in accordance with the new, regulated IRA process as these individual IRAs formally commence.

The Australian Government announced improvements to the IRA process on 18 October 2006. These improvements involve the regulation of key elements of the process together with enhanced scientific scrutiny, stakeholder engagement and transparency of the IRA process. These improvements do not change Australia's, science-based approach to quarantine.

The regulations provide for future IRAs to be undertaken using either a standard or an expanded pathway, depending on the complexity of the science and nature of the biosecurity risks. A standard IRA will be completed within 24 months and an expanded IRA within 30 months.

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has established a high-level Import Market Access Advisory Group (IMAAG) to advise Biosecurity Australia on priorities for import proposals to assist Biosecurity Australia in developing its import work program. The IMAAG will also monitor the progress of IRAs undertaken by Biosecurity Australia.

Consistent with its role, IMAAG has provided interim advice to Biosecurity Australia on import proposal priorities during this transitional phase. Biosecurity Australia has considered the advice from IMAAG and its available resources in determining the management of its 2007–08 import work program under the new arrangements.

The Government has previously announced that three major IRAs on import proposals for bananas from the Philippines, chicken meat and prawns which are well underway or nearly complete (together with apples from New Zealand, for which the IRA is now complete), will be finished under the pre-regulated process. These IRAs already involve extensive consultation, scientific analysis and review, including the reissuing of draft reports in some cases.

The transitional arrangements for other import proposals currently on Biosecurity Australia's work program are attached.

Other import proposals have also been identified over time. As these are progressed they will be managed under the new process.

From the 2007–08 financial year, Biosecurity Australia will publish its annual work program. This will appear on Biosecurity Australia's website shortly.

To assist in determining priorities and the developing Biosecurity Australia's annual import work program, stakeholders will be asked regularly to advise, or re-confirm, their market access priorities to Biosecurity Australia. Biosecurity Australia's import work program may be updated from time to time on the website, as work progresses.

Biosecurity Australia's role also includes technical and scientific work that supports opening, maintaining and improving export market access for Australian agricultural products. Information on this work is provided separately on our website.

Biosecurity Australia welcomes comments on its work program. Comments can be forwarded to:

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Attachment A: Transitional arrangements for Biosecurity Australia's import work program

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA'S IMPORT WORK PROGRAM

Transitional Arrangements

(Attachment to Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum 2007/20)

- The new process will apply to all import risk analyses (IRAs) announced by Biosecurity Australia on or after the commencement of the *Quarantine Amendment Regulations 2007 (No.1)* on 5 September 2007.
- IRAs commenced prior to this date that have progressed significantly toward completion will be finalised under the IRA process in place prior to the commencement of the regulations:
 - this includes IRAs currently underway to consider applications to import: bananas from the Philippines; chicken meat; and prawns and prawn products.
- IRAs commenced prior to the new regulations that have not progressed significantly toward completion will be finalised under the new process. However, any comparable steps already undertaken through the current process will not be repeated and the IRA will therefore translate to the next step in the new process.
- In addition to regulated IRAs, Biosecurity Australia also undertakes non-regulated analyses of import proposals where there is existing relevant import policy. This work will continue in the same way after the commencement of the new arrangements.
- The determination of whether an analysis should be undertaken as a regulated or non-regulated analysis will depend on the issues of science underpinning the import proposal and the complexity, sensitivity and currency of any relevant existing policy.
- The commencement of an IRA under the new process will be subject to a formal notification relating to the particular IRA. This will also notify the pathway to be followed and the commencement of the time period during which the IRA must be completed.
- The following tables summarise import proposals that are on Biosecurity Australia's current work program and identify the process to be used to progress a proposal under the new arrangements, where this has been determined (ie as an IRA or non-regulated analysis).
- The abbreviations in the tables are:
 - **IRA** : an import risk analysis using the standard or expanded regulated process
 - **NRA**: a non-regulated analysis that reviews existing import policy using an administrative process
 - **TBD**: the process to be used is yet to be determined

1. Proposals previously announced

Animals and Animal Products

Import Proposal	Country	Transition
Baitfish - VHSV	All countries	TBD
Beef - policy suspended	Brazil	IRA
Chicken meat	All countries	IRA*
Crayfish - freshwater	All countries	IRA
Dairy products	All countries	NRA
Dogs and cats- - babesiosis, rabies, leptospirosis, ehrlichiosis, Brucella canis	All countries	NRA
Eggs - edible and egg products	All countries	IRA
Eggs - preserved eggs of ducks	Taiwan	NRA
Finfish -freshwater	All countries	IRA
Hides and skins	All countries	NRA
Honeybee semen	All countries	IRA
Horses	South Africa	IRA
Horses - returning from 2008 Olympics	Hong Kong	NRA
Molluscs - bivalve	All countries	IRA
Ornamental finfish – Iridovirus	All countries	TBD
Ornamental finfish (Barramundi cod) - Policy suspended	All countries	NRA
Ornamental finfish - Rainbow fish	All countries	NRA
Pig semen	All countries	IRA
Prawn and prawn products	All countries	IRA*
Primates - non-human	All countries	IRA
Psittacine birds	All countries	IRA
Ruminant and camelid fibre	All countries	NRA
Ruminant semen	South Africa	IRA
Snakes	All countries	IRA
Vaccines – TSE risk minimisation	All countries	NRA
Zoo bovidae	North America/EU	IRA
Zoo carnivores	All countries	NRA
Zoo crowned cranes	All countries	NRA
Zoo deer	Philippines	IRA
Zoo flamingo	All countries	NRA
Zoo suids	North America/EU	IRA

Plants and Plant Products

Import Proposal	Country	Transition
Bananas	Philippines	IRA*
Citrus (Florida)	United States of America	IRA
Maize, Sorghum, soybeans (metropolitan processing)	United States of America	NRA
Maize, Soybeans (for metropolitan processing)	Brazil	NRA

Maize, Sunflower, Soybeans, Sorghum, Wheat (metropolitan processing)	Argentina	NRA
Mangoes	India	IRA
Pineapples	Malaysia	IRA
Rye and Wheat (metropolitan processing)	Canada	NRA
Soybean (metropolitan processing)	Paraguay	NRA
Stone fruit (nectarines, peaches, apricots, plums)	United States of America	IRA
Table Grapes (excluding WA)	United States of America	NRA
Taro	All countries	IRA
Timber (coniferous)	Canada	NRA
Unshu Mandarin	Japan	IRA
Unshu Mandarin	Korea	IRA
Wheat (metropolitan processing)	United Kingdom	NRA

2. Proposals expected to be considered in the short to medium term

Animals and Animal Products

Import Proposal	Country	Transition
Bovine embryos	Brazil/Argentina/South Africa	NRA
Contagious equine metritis	All countries	NRA
Elephant semen	North America/EU	NRA
Equine embryo	Approved Countries	NRA
Hatching eggs (ducks)	Approved Countries	NRA
Horses/semen	New Zealand	NRA
Zoo penguins	New Zealand	NRA
Zoo rodents	North America/EU	NRA

Plants and Plant Products

Import Proposal	Country	Transition
Apples	China	IRA
Apples	United States of America	IRA
Avocados	Mexico	IRA
Capsicums	Korea	IRA
Cherries	China	IRA
Ginger	Fiji	IRA
Guava Rust	Americas	NRA
Lychees	Taiwan	IRA
Mangoes	Pakistan	IRA
Mangoes (other areas)	Philippines	NRA

Orchids	Taiwan	NRA
Pineapples (peeled & wrapped)	Thailand	NRA
Pomelos (peeled and sliced)	Thailand	NRA
Summerfruits (peaches, nectarines, plums, apricots)	China	IRA
Sunflowers (pet feed)	All countries	NRA
Sudden Oak Death (timber and nursery stock)	All countries	NRA
Table Grapes	China	IRA
Table Grapes (to Western Australia)	United States of America	NRA

*The Australian Government has determined that these IRAs will be completed under the pre-regulation IRA process.