13 January 2016

Biosecurity Advice 2016/02

Draft report for the non-regulated analysis of existing policy for table grapes from Sonora, Mexico

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders of the release of the Draft report for the non-regulated analysis of existing policy for table grapes from Sonora, Mexico.

The draft report identifies pests that require phytosanitary measures to manage the risk to a very low level in order to achieve Australia’s appropriate level of protection.

This draft report is being issued for a 30 day stakeholder consultation period. Written comments and submissions are invited by 12 February 2016.

Biosecurity Advice 2014/08, of 23 June 2014, announced the formal commencement of a non-regulated analysis of existing policy to consider a proposal to import fresh table grapes from Sonora, Mexico.

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders of the release of the Draft report for the non-regulated analysis of existing policy for table grapes from Sonora, Mexico. Stakeholders have until 12 February 2016 to provide written comments on the draft report.

The draft report identifies 20 quarantine pests associated with fresh table grapes from Sonora, Mexico, that require phytosanitary measures. Out of these 20 pests, 18 are arthropods and two are fungal pathogens. In addition, two spiders were identified as requiring sanitary measures.

Regional differences between Australian states and territories were identified for two quarantine pests for Western Australia and one quarantine pest for the Northern Territory. The proposed quarantine measures take account of these regional differences.

The draft report proposes a range of risk management measures, combined with a system of operational procedures to ensure quarantine standards are met. These measures are considered to reduce the risk posed by the 20 quarantine pests and two sanitary pests and achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection.

These proposed measures are consistent with Australia’s existing policy and include:

- visual inspection and, if detected, remedial action for the ladybird, sharpshooters, mealybugs, moth, spider mite and thrips
- area freedom, irradiation or cold treatment for fruit flies
- area freedom, systems approach approved by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, irradiation or combined sulphur dioxide/carbon dioxide fumigation followed by cold treatment for spotted wing drosophila
• area freedom, sulphur pads or combined sulphur dioxide/carbon dioxide fumigation for grapevine phylloxera
• area freedom or systems approach approved by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for black rot and grapevine leaf rust
• systems approach approved by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources or combined sulphur dioxide/carbon dioxide fumigation for spiders
• a supporting operational system to maintain and verify the phytosanitary status of export consignments.

The draft report and information about the risk analysis process are available from the department’s website. Printed copies of the report are available, if required.

Comments on the draft report must be submitted by 12 February 2016.

**Lodging a submission:** There is no specific format for submissions, but they must be in writing, and identify the relevant technical biosecurity issues being raised with supporting evidence. Preferably, submissions should be in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats and lodged electronically via email, but postal submissions are acceptable. Submissions should be received by the department within the stated comment period and addressed to:

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No breach of confidence will occur if the department shares your submission with a third party referred to under ‘Privacy’ in seeking advice in response to your submission.

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