



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



21 June 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/27

PAPAYA FROM FIJI

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides stakeholders with information regarding the cessation of the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for papaya from Fiji.

The IRA for papaya from Fiji was initiated in August 1998. The IRA was to be conducted under the routine process, as described in *The AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, 1998. In our letter to stakeholders of 18 May 1999 we advised that the draft IRA would be delayed because further information was required for heat disinfestation data. The Fijian Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement (MASLR) has now provided heat tolerance data and efficacy data on pests to Biosecurity Australia.

Papaya was exported to Australia from Fiji until 1995, using an ethylene dibromide (EDB) treatment for control of fruit flies. Following the withdrawal of EDB in 1995, imports of papaya from Fiji were stopped in the absence of an alternative and equivalent fruit fly treatment. In 1996, Fiji requested that Australia accept a High Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) disinfestation treatment of papaya for fruit flies. Fiji MASLR has provided data on the efficacy of the HTFA treatment for the Fiji fruit fly (*Bactrocera passiflora*), the most heat tolerant of the fruit flies of concern to Australia.

In trials on papaya in Fiji, there were no survivors or adult emergence from fruit that were seeded with 72,000 eggs of *B. passiflora* and treated with HTFA. The effectiveness of this treatment is also supported by New Zealand interception data for papaya imports from Fiji for the last three years, where fruit fly control is based on orchard and pack-house measures and HTFA treatment. No fruit flies, either dead or alive, have been detected in papaya consignments from Fiji. In Australia, interstate trade certification regulations for papaya list HTFA treatment as an acceptable treatment of papaya for fruit flies.

Access for papaya from Fiji only ceased as a result of the withdrawal of EDB and the absence of an alternative treatment for control of fruit flies at the time. In view of this, there is no justification to proceed with an IRA given that the access request can be assessed under existing policy. A potential alternative treatment, HTFA, is now available and Plant Biosecurity will assess the acceptability of this treatment. A *Draft review of Quarantine Requirements for Import of Fijian Papaya to Australia* will be developed and distributed to stakeholders for comment.

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

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Further information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>.

We look forward to receiving your response.

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