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Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY –
AUSTRALIA**

16 April 2003

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/10

POLICY REVIEW – OLIVE NURSERY STOCK FROM APPROVED SOURCES IN SPAIN

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum notifies stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia has finalised import conditions for olive nursery stock from approved sources in Spain.

Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) 2003/06 of 4 February 2003 advised stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia had prepared draft import conditions for olive nursery stock from approved sources and sought comments to the technical paper.

Four comments were received in response to PBPM 2003/06. The stakeholder responses have been summarised into 10 key comments (Attachment 1).

The review is now finalised. The only revision since the draft technical paper is to the import conditions relating to the requirements for quarantine houses in Spain. Olive plants that are not of equivalent or high grade of health are not permitted in the quarantine house.

Whilst this review was undertaken with particular reference to Spain, the generic import conditions will form the basis for assessing future import applications of olive nursery stock sourced from other countries. Biosecurity Australia will formally contact the quarantine agencies of Italy and Israel regarding the extension of the generic import conditions for olive nursery stock to nurseries in these countries in place of the existing Specific Commodity Understandings (SCUs). The SCUs will remain in place until such negotiations are finalised.

The review of the import protocol is available from the AFFA website at www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity or copies can be requested from the contact point below.

Biosecurity Australia would like to thank all stakeholders for their involvement in finalising this review. If you have any further queries please contact Technical and Administrative Services.

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Paraphrased summary of the comments and responses to PBPM 2003/06

	Stakeholder comment	BA response
1	Concern over the import of low performing or genetically unstable material.	The import conditions are not for specific varieties and the choice of what variety to import is at the discretion of the importer. Tissue cultures have been removed from the import conditions due to concern over their genetic instability.
2	The Australian industry can adequately meet the domestic demand for olive nursery stock and importation of material from overseas is not required.	The import conditions have been developed to allow the importation of material from Spain (and potentially other countries in the future). The decision on whether to import these plants or not is a commercial one and outside of the role of BA. Commercial considerations such as the availability of nursery stock in Australia was not a consideration of the review and is outside of the role of BA.
3	Australia is free from many serious pests of olives such as olive knot.	Noted. Olive knot is considered a disease of quarantine concern and increased inspection and testing measures pre-export and audit testing during PEQ are included in the protocol to prevent the entry of this disease. Positive detection of olive knot pre-export or during PEQ would result in further imports from that source being suspended and the conditions reviewed. Approval of specific export nurseries is based on an assessment of their production practices and management measures for the pests identified as being of quarantine concern.
4	Queried the sample size for on-arrival inspections by AQIS.	A sample size of 600 units (plants) per consignment is required for the visual inspections.
5	Concern over the importation of large volumes of nursery stock.	The volumes of plants imported will depend on AQIS resources available at the port of arrival and the size of the quarantine-approved premise that is used for the PEQ period.
6	Concern over a reduction in the timeframe.	The time required to import the plants (i.e. the PEQ period) has not been changed from that currently required for plants from Italy or Israel.
7	Concern over negative effects on the organic olive industry	Organic producers will still be free to source their planting material from appropriately certified nurseries.
8	Mother trees should be kept in insect proof houses due to concern over viruses and tested annually.	The viruses are not transmitted by arthropod vectors. Initial testing of all mother trees then 10% annually is considered appropriate unless technical justification for a different sampling level is provided.
9	Concern over the presence of plants of unknown health status in the quarantine houses.	The requirements for quarantine houses in Spain have been amended to require that olive plants that are not of equivalent or high grade of health are not permitted.
10	The existing import requirements for olive nursery stock from Italy and Israel should remain unchanged and be extended to Spain.	The import requirements for Spain have been developed based on the pests known to be associated with olive plants in that country and the production process used at a specific nursery. As is currently the case for Italy and Israel, if problems occur with the import of olive plants from Spain the conditions would be amended (or suspended) as appropriate.