



BIOSECURITY ADVICE 2014/14

COMMENCEMENT OF A REVIEW OF IMPORT CONDITIONS FOR FRESH GINGER FROM FIJI

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders of the commencement of a review of import conditions for fresh ginger from Fiji.

Stakeholders are invited to make technical submissions relevant to the terms of reference for the review until 19 December 2014.

Stakeholders are also invited to nominate relevant scientific experts who may be called on to assist during the review.

The final Import Risk Analysis (IRA) report for fresh ginger from Fiji was completed on 22 January 2013 and trade commenced on 15 September 2014. The report identified a number of pests of quarantine concern to Australia including a putative intraspecific ginger variant of *Radopholus similis* and specified risk management measures required to reduce the risks associated with the importation of fresh ginger from Fiji to an appropriate level for Australia.

Risk management measures are taken into account in decisions to issue import permits to Australian companies who seek to import fresh ginger from Fiji.

The final IRA report for fresh ginger from Fiji made a commitment to review the import policy after one year of trade, including the quarantine status of *Radopholus similis*.

The management measures implemented in 2014 consider the entire commercial importation pathway including agronomic practice and commercial procedures for planting, growing in-field, harvesting, cleaning, grading, curing, packaging and exporting to Australia. The measures require a combination of procedures in that export system, which contribute to effectively manage the identified biosecurity risks along the export pathway in the exporting country, mandatory treatment with methyl bromide and inspections in Fiji and on arrival in Australia.

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for the review are to:

- Evaluate the efficacy of the measures applied to manage the biosecurity risks associated with fresh ginger from Fiji by:
 - analysing and evaluating pest interceptions from on-arrival inspections, including evaluating the compliance of on-arrival fumigation
 - evaluating information from audits in the exporting country
 - gathering, recording and evaluating any information on additional processes in Fiji to ensure compliance with the import requirements and

- evaluating any other relevant additional scientific information that is available.
- Consider and make recommendations on further actions to confirm the quarantine status of *Radopholus similis*, including additional scientific information relating to this including on the efficacy of methyl bromide as a phytosanitary measure.

Conduct of the review

The review will be conducted under the oversight of the Australian Chief Plant Protection Officer (ACPPO) within the Department of Agriculture. The ACPPO will, if required, engage external expertise in this review. Stakeholders are invited to nominate relevant scientific experts who may be called on to assist during the review.

The review will be evidence-based and focussed on the science but there will be opportunity for the community to input through the consultation process.

Timeline

Stakeholders are invited to make technical submissions relevant to the terms of reference for the review until 19 December 2014.

A draft report is planned for released in April 2015 for a 30 day consultation period during which stakeholders may make submissions.

A final report is planned for release in June 2015, at least one month prior to the expected commencement of trade for the 2015 season.

Further information

The [final IRA report for fresh ginger from Fiji](#) is available on the department's website. Details of the import conditions for fresh ginger can be found on the [Import Conditions database](#) (ICON) also available on the department's website.

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Lodging a submission: There is no specific format for a submission, 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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