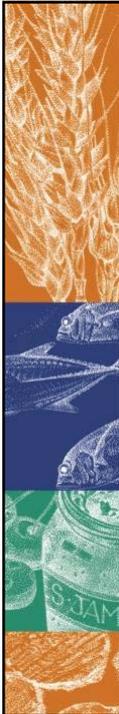


Imported stone fruit and Biosecurity Australia's risk analysis process

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Why import commodities we already have?

- Australia is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The WTO is an international organisation dealing with global rules of trade between nations.



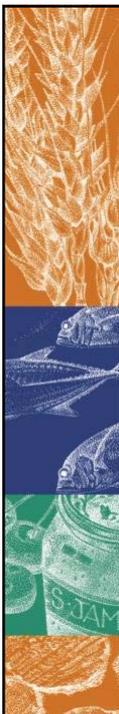


The "SPS Agreement"

- Australia is a signatory to the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures
- This agreement is concerned with the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations such as quarantine.



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SPS Agreement

- The agreement recognises the right to enforce SPS measures but stipulates that they must be either scientifically justified or based on international standards
- Those measures should also be applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life, health or safety.



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Importation of Stone Fruit

Currently permitted from:

- New Zealand - (fresh) apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches & plums (since 1986)
- USA - (fresh) cherries (since 1996)
- Frozen, dried and preserved are also permitted from various countries.



Market access requests

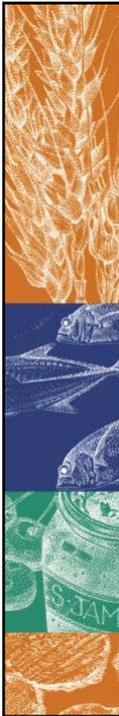
Access requests received from:

- USA, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico & South Africa

BA is currently progressing USA

- Nectarines, peaches & plums from California, Washington, Oregon & Idaho
- First requested in 1994 and again in 2002
- Commenced 6 March 2006.





Risk Analysis

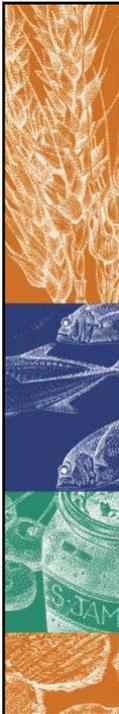
What is it?

- a process to identify and classify potential quarantine pests and develop policies to manage them
- includes risk assessment and consultation.



The Risk Assessment Process

- formal request for access
- provision of technical information from the exporting country (e.g. pests, controls, production methods)
- decision on IRA or alternative process.



Choosing the right approach

Two main options:

- A Full Import Risk Analysis (IRA) - for a new commodity not previously imported
- A Review of Policy - for a commodity already imported but from country/area with similar pest status.

BOTH HAVE THE SAME SCIENTIFIC RIGOUR



Australia already imports stone fruit

- cherries from the United States of America
- apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches & plums from New Zealand
- Biosecurity Australia has almost finalised a review of policy for New Zealand stone fruit into Western Australia.





The preliminary review of pests and diseases in the USA - what did it highlight?

- An overlap of pests of quarantine concern with other risk assessments
- The pests most likely to be considered of quarantine concern have been previously assessed (cherries from USA, stone fruit from New Zealand)



Some pests of quarantine concern

- Oriental fruit moth (WA only)
- Codling moth (WA only)
- Scales
- Leaf rollers
- Mites
- Fruit flies (*Rhagoletis* spp.)





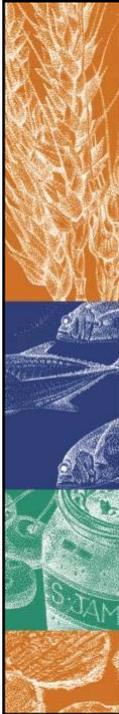
Pathogens

- Preliminary study reveals that sharka (plum pox virus) is not present in the areas of production in the USA (California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington)
- A large number of pathogens have already been considered in previous risk assessments.



Which approach?

- The science indicated that the risk assessment for the importation of stone fruit from the USA (California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington) can be undertaken as review of policy.



Where to from here?

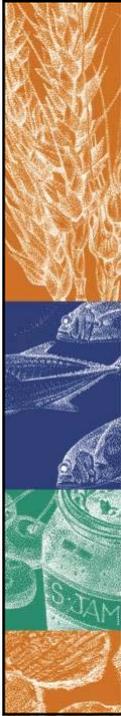
- Comprehensive review of pests and diseases associated with stone fruit in USA.
- Determine quarantine pests
- Assess suitability of existing conditions
- Preparation of the draft document
- Stakeholder consultation period
- Final document



Consultation

- Regular consultation with the Consultative Committee and prior to the release of any documents
- Consultation with technical experts as required
- Release of draft document(s) to registered stakeholders for comment
 - Consultation period usually 30 days but may be varied.





Questions?

www.daff.gov.au/BiosecurityAustralia



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