



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

10 May 2007

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/11

**DRAFT POLICY REVIEW FOR THE IMPORTATION OF PRESERVED DUCK
EGGS FROM TAIWAN**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) is to notify stakeholders of the release of the draft policy review for the importation of preserved duck eggs from Taiwan. The draft review proposes that salt and heat-treated eggs be permitted import and that additional quarantine requirements are needed for alkalised eggs, consistent with Australia's conservative approach to quarantine. Comments would be appreciated by 9 July 2007.

Biosecurity Australia announced the commencement of a policy review of preserved duck eggs from Taiwan in June 2006 (see BAPM 2006/16). The review of the existing biosecurity policy for egg and egg products considers salted and heat-treated eggs and alkalised eggs of ducks from Taiwan.

The Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia has now agreed to the release of a draft policy review for comment by stakeholders. A comment period of 60 days is provided and the deadline for comments is 9 July 2007.

The policy review is based on the latest scientific information, including risk assessments in the recent draft import risk analysis (IRA) report of chicken meat; technical information provided by Taiwan on its animal health status and manufacturing processes; and information gathered during a visit to Taiwan by officers from Biosecurity Australia that included a program of meetings and industry visits. The review includes assessment of potential disease agents that may be introduced to Australia via the importation of preserved duck eggs with risk management options to address particular diseases.

The draft policy review concludes that for salted and heat-treated eggs, the heat treatment addresses the diseases of quarantine concern and no additional risk management measure are proposed. An import permit is required together with an accompanying official health certificate that verifies the eggs were manufactured according to the approved process and that handling practices prevented post-processing contamination.

In terms of alkalised eggs, the alkalising process does not address some diseases of quarantine concern and measures are recommended. The four disease agents of quarantine concern are: notifiable avian influenza viruses, Newcastle disease virus and *Salmonella* Enteritidis and multi-drug resistant *S. Typhimurium*. The proposed risk management measures are treatment to ensure destruction of the disease agent (such as heating) or measures to decrease the likelihood of entry of the disease, such as country or zone freedom, or flock accreditation. Biosecurity Australia will consider equivalent risk management measures, which would be

assessed on a case-by-case basis. A rigorous assessment would be required including an on-ground assessment.

Following consideration of stakeholder comments, Biosecurity Australia will finalise the policy review and make a recommendation for a policy determination to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.

The draft policy review is available from the Biosecurity Australia website at www.biosecurity.gov.au. A hard copy of the document can be requested from the contact officer below.

Consultation

Technical comments, supported by published references where available, on the revised draft policy review should be submitted by 9 July 2007 to the following address:

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An electronic version of submissions would be appreciated. Biosecurity Australia will consider all stakeholder comments as it finalises the policy review.

For further information on the draft policy review please contact the officer below. Information on import risk analyses (IRAs) and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on its website.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to policy memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

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