



14 September 2017

(17-4862)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: <u>AUSTRALIA</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2. Agency responsible: Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Cut flowers and foliage
4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5. Title of the notified document: Importing fresh cut flowers and foliage into Australia safely. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 1 http://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/goods/plant-products/cut-flowers-foilage/importing-fresh-cut-flowers-into-aus-safely
6. Description of content: As part of the ongoing systematic review of Australia's import conditions, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (the department) has reviewed the import conditions for cut flower and foliage imports from all countries. The analysis of interception data undertaken as part of the review indicates a high detection rate of invertebrate pests on imported cut flowers and foliage including thrips, aphids and mites. Of particular concern is the high number and frequency of thrips detected as many of these are quarantine pests for Australia. Thrips are the primary vectors of tospoviruses, many of which are also quarantine pests for Australia. The ongoing high number of live pests detected on imported cut flowers poses a level of phytosanitary risk that exceeds Australia's appropriate level of protection. In view of this, the department is amending import conditions for cut flowers and foliage exported to Australia to require that consignments are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate verifying that they are free of live quarantine pests. The amended conditions will also require goods to be shipped in insect-proof packaging and labelled with the scientific name of the plant species. Certain species will require a devitalisation treatment to prevent propagation. The following phytosanitary measures may be applied to ensure absence of quarantine pests to achieve the required phytosanitary status: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Produced and prepared for export under an NPPO-approved systems approach Pre-export fumigation with methyl bromide Alternative pre-shipment disinfestation treatments;- The amended import conditions will be published on the department's Biosecurity Import Conditions system (BICON) following amendment of the <i>Biosecurity (Prohibited and Conditionally Non-prohibited Goods) Determination 2016</i>. We anticipate this amendment will take place during November or December 2017.

7.	Objective and rationale: <input type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8.	<p>Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text):</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number): ISPM 11 section 3.6.1 (Monitoring and review of phytosanitary measures)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
9.	Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:
10.	<p>Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): November or December 2017</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): November or December 2017</p>
11.	<p>Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): November or December 2017</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
12.	<p>Final date for comments: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 12 November 2017</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>The Australian SPS Notification Point GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia Fax: +(61 2) 6272 3678 E-mail: sps.contact@agriculture.gov.au</p>
13.	Text(s) available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body: